

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for March 1935.

N.B. Every Section of this Report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents.</u>		<u>Pages</u>
1.	<u>References to the I.L.O.</u> ...	1- 9
2.	<u>Ratifications.</u>	
	(a) India & Draft Convention re Hours of Work in Sheet Glass Works; Non-ratification decided upon by Council of State ...	10
	(b) India and Draft Convention and Recommendation re. Unemployment Insurance; Non-ratification decided upon by Council of State.	11-12
	(c) Prohibition of Night work of women holding Positions of Authority; Views of South Indian Chamber of Commerce.	12-13
3.	<u>National Labour Legislation.</u>	
	(a) Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill, 1935: Select Committee Report.	14-15
	(b) The Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934.	16-17
	(c) The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934.	17-21
	(d) Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt and Attachment of Salaries; Proposed Legislation in Mysore.	22
4.	<u>Conditions of Labour.</u>	
	(a) Conditions of work in the Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department, 1933-34	23-24
	(b) Pension Grievances of the Postal Employees; Government Undertaking in the Legislative Assembly to give Relief.	25-26
	(c) Whitley Commission's Recommendation re. Establishment of an Industrial Council; Council of State Debate.	27-29
	(d) Liability under the workmen's Compensation Act for Injuries arising out of Earthquakes; Government reject Employers' Demand.	29-30
	(e) Conditions of work in Government Printing Presses; Resolution in Council of State.	30-32
	(f) Prohibition of Night work of Children in Summer in Glass Factories in U.P.	32
	(g) Problems of Indian Labour in Burma; Views of Central Labour Board, Rangoon.	33-35

5. Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

- (a) Employers' Federation of India: 2nd Annual General Meeting, New Delhi, 1935. 36-38
- (b) Indian National Committee of International Chamber of Commerce: 6th Annual Meeting, 1935, Delhi. 39-41
- (c) All India Organisation of Industrial Employers: 2nd Annual Meeting, Delhi, 1935. 41-44
- (d) 8th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, 1935. 45-54
- (e) Annual Meeting of Millowners' Association, Bombay, 1934-35. 54-56

Workers' Organisations.

- (a) The First Madras Printers' Labour Conference, 24-2-1935. 57-59
- (b) Associations of Government Employees in Bombay: Rules for Recognition. 59-62
- (c) Ban on Indian Communist Organisations: Government of India Communique. 63-64
- (d) Strengthening Collective Bargaining Capacity of Indian Trade Unions: Proposal for Joint Committee. 64-65

6. Intellectual Workers.

- The Half-Yearly Meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta. 66

7. Economic Conditions.

- (a) Relief to Baroda Agriculturists: Details re. Relief Works Proposed. 67
- (b) Development of Hand-loom Industry: Madras Government's Scheme. 68-69
- (b) Development of Hand-loom Industry: Bengal Government's Scheme. 70-72
- (d) Development of Hand-loom Industry: The U.P. Scheme. 72-73

8. Employment and Unemployment.

- (a) Relief of Unemployment: Resolution in Council of State Defeated. 74-75
- (b) "Unemployed" Day Demonstrations on 4-3-1935. 75
- (c) Relief of Rural Unemployment in Madras: Big programme of Public Works. 76-77

9. Social Conditions.

- (a) The Madras City Beggars Bill, 1935. 78
- (b) Measures to Check Traffic in Women and Children in India: Regional Conferences to tackle problem. 79-80

	<u>Pages</u>
10. <u>Education.</u>	
Progress of Education in India, 1932-33.	81-86
11. <u>Agriculture.</u>	
(a) Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1931-32.	87-89
(b) Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1933-34.	90-94

REFERENCES TO THE I. L. O.

The February 1935 issue of "Advance India", Madras, and Federated India, Madras, dated 13-3-35 publish a communique issued by this Office on 14-1-1935 on the work of the I. L. O. in 1934.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 4 of our January 1935 and page 4 of our February 1935 reports.).

* * *

"Commerce", Calcutta, dated 9-3-35 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "Hours of Work" based on the communique issued by this Office on the work of the I.L.O. during 1934.

* * *

The February 1935 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, and the Railway Herald, Bombay, dated 5-3-35 publish a short notes to the effect that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta left Bombay on 10-1-1935 for Geneva to attend the January 1935 session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. The notes also publish the summary of an interview on his mission to Geneva granted by Mr. Mehta to the United Press of India on the eve of his departure.

* * *

The February 1935 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publishes a Reuter's message from Geneva dated 2-2-34 regarding the decision of the Governing Body on the complaint of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta re. certain irregularities in the application of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways.

(For a list of papers which published the news earlier, vide pages 2-3 of our February 1935 report).

* * *

The Railway Herald, Bombay, dated 5-3-35 publishes the 14th annual Report of the B.B.& C.I. Railway Employees' Union for the year 1933-34 in the course of which a tribute is paid to Mr. Jamnadas Mehta for his able advocacy of the grievances of Indian labour at the 18th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The February 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, and "Advance India", Madras, and the issue dated 20-2-35 of Federated India, Madras, publish a communique issued by this Office on 12-2-35 on the subject of the new ranking of eight countries of ^{chief} industrial importance as decided at the last session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 1 of our February 1935 report).

* * *

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers Federation of India, Bombay, dated 18-3-35 publishes a note on the selection by the Governing Body at its 69th session of the industries to which the Draft Convention for the reduction of hours of work might be applied.

* * *

A press communique was issued by the Government of India on 29-3-35 to the effect that the subject of reduction of hours of work will be considered by the 19th session of the I.L. Conference with special reference to the following industries:-

- (a) Public works undertaken or subsidised by Government;
- (b) Iron and steel;
- (c) Building and contracting;
- (d) Glass bottle manufacture; and
- (e) Coal mines.

The Communique was published in the Hindustan Times and the Statesman of 30-3-1935 and the Times of India dated 1-4-1935

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during January 1935, and the February 1935 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 10-12-1934 announcing the full list of items on the agenda and the date of the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindu dated 25-3-1935
 The Hindustan Times dated 27-3-35 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 28-3-35 publish a news item emanating from the Associated Press of India to the effect that Mr. K.L.Dutt has been nominated an adviser to the Indian employers' delegate to the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Times of India of 16-3-35 and the Leader of 20-3-35 publish an Associated Press of India message to the effect that Begum Shah Nawaz has accepted the invitation of the Government of India to attend the League Advisory Commission for Protection and Welfare of Children and the 19th I.L.Conference as an adviser to the Government delegates.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 17-3-35, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 17-3-35, the Statesman, the Times of India and the Hindu of 18-3-35 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 19-3-35 publish a communique issued by this Office on 13-3-35 on the Grey Report on Holidays with Pay.

* * *

The Indian Social Reformer dated 16-3-35 publishes a long article by Mr. Georges Thelin, Chairman of the International

Christian Press and Information Service, on unemployment among young persons. The article reviews the recent I.L.O. report on the subject.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 10-3-35 publishes a short editorial note under the caption "The 40-Hour Week" on the results of the working of the 40-hour week in Italy. The article is based on a note on the subject published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 11-3-35. After summarising the results obtained in Italy, it directs attention to the fact that, despite the claim advanced by many capitalistic countries to being progressive in respect of social legislation, Italy was the only country to support the idea of a 40-hour week from the very beginning.

~~In an article under the caption "A Letter from"~~

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 3-3-35, publishes a long editorial article on the communique issued by the Government of India on the action taken by the Government on the Whitley Commission's Report (vide pages 17-22 of our February 1935 report for a summary of the Communique). In the course of the article dissatisfaction is expressed at the way the Government has implemented Washington and Geneva Conventions on hours of work on Indian Railways.

* * *

The February 1935 issue of "Advance India", Madras, publishes an article under the caption "The 40-hour week: Its Pros and Cons" contributed by Mr. A.G. Varadachari. The article deals primarily

with the efforts of the International Labour Organisation to tackle the problem of unemployment.

* * *

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 2-3-35, publishes a short editorial note on the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the resolution re. the I.L.O. Convention on Unemployment Insurance. It deploras the inconclusive nature of the debate and expresses the opinion that the Government's reasons for not initiating unemployment insurance schemes are not quite convincing.

* * *

The February 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short note summarising the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. hours of work in glass factories and unemployment insurance.

* * *

The Statesman of 22-3-35 and other papers publish a short summary of the debates in the Council of State on 21-3-35 on the Government resolutions recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. Hours of work in glass works and unemployment insurance adopted by the 18th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Statesman, the Hindu and the Times of India of 4-3-35, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 5-3-35 and the Leader of 6-3-35 publish a Reuter's message from Geneva dated 2-3-35 to the effect that the I.L.O. has issued a report on the "New Deal" in the U.S.A.

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"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 5-3-35 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Social and Economic Reconstruction in the United States".

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 27-2-35 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Industrial Labour in Japan."

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, dated 28-2-35 publishes a long article, the first of a series on current social, economic and religious questions, under the heading "Vital Questions". The article deals with the present unemployment situation and gives statistics regarding world unemployment based on figures published by the I.L.O.

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"Commerce", Calcutta, of 9-3-35 publishes a short summary of a communique issued by this Office on 2-2-35 on "The World Unemployment Situation".

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, of 28-2-35 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "What other Countries do for the Educated Unemployed". The article sets out the various schemes adopted by many countries to solve the unemployment problem. The material for the article is taken from notes on the subject appearing from time to time in "Industrial and Labour Information."

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The February 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the notes regarding the world unemployment situation and

China and Conference decisions published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 14-1-1935.

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In an article under the caption "A Letter from Egypt" contributed by a correspondent to the "Guardian", Madras, dated 21-3-35 references are made to the ~~poss~~ probability of Egypt joining the I.L.O.

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At the 4th U.P. Provincial Trade Union Congress, held at Cawnpore during March 1935, a resolution was passed condemning the apathetic attitude of the Government of India in respect of ratification of I.L. Conventions.

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The Hindustan Times of 14-3-35, the Times of India of 15-3-35 and the National Call of 17-3-35 publish a long summary of an address delivered by the Director of this Office on "India and the I.L.O." at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay on 12-3-35.

The Hindustan Times of 14-3-35 in a short editorial note on the address says that the stabilisation of the horizontal peace for which the League stands ~~has~~ not been attended with much success and observes: "That the I.L.O. has more impressive achievements in the vertical dimension of pacifism cannot be denied. Even in India, where reform generally follows compulsion, a degree of tolerant and voluntary appreciation of the I.L.O.'s effort has been shown by the Government. Whether this is so only because the I.L.O. keeps itself religiously apart from troublesome politics that might lead to problems connected with race and status, or whether the Government

of India has a method of persuasion that Indian politicians have not yet learnt, we do not know".

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The February 1935 issue of the Commercial Review, Alleppey, publishes an article contributed by the Director of this Office under the caption: "The New Economic Revolution: Its Social Implications". The article deals with the new trend in the direction of planned economy. In the course of the article references are made to the interest taken by the I.L.O. in the subject of planned economy.

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The Commerce, Calcutta, of 9-3-35, reproduces the items: "Social Insurance in South America" and "International Regulation of Coal Industry" included in the February 1935 issue of the News Bulletin of the I.L.O.

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The December 1934 and January 1935 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes the full text of the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the General Council of the National Trade Union Federation held at Bombay on 24-12-34. A number of resolutions having reference to the I.L.O. were adopted at this meeting. (For full details of the meeting, vide pages 47-49 of our December 1935 report).

A brief ~~official~~ summary of the proceedings of the above meeting was published in the February 1935 issue of the Indian Review, Madras.

* * *

The Hindu and the Statesman of 28-2-35, the Times of India of 1-3-35 and other papers publish a long summary of the debate in the House of Commons on the Indian Bill on 27-2-35. During the debate reference was made to the future of social and labour legislation in India and in this connection the subject of ratification of I.L.Conventions by India also came up for discussion.

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Federated India, Madras, dated 15-3-35 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 22-1-35 on hours of work in postal, telegraph and telephone undertakings.

* * *

In the presidential address delivered by Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai at the 2nd Annual meeting of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers held at Delhi on 31-3-35 several references were made to India's relationships with the I.L.O., to the need for Indian States, being brought into line with British India in respect of ratification of I.L.Conventions and to the need for sending a full complement of advisers with the Indian delegations to the I.L.Conference. (For fuller details vide *pages 41-44* of this report). The speech has been widely reported in the Indian press.

* * *

The following message having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter was published in the Indian press during March 1935:-

1. A Reuter's message dated 2-3-1935 from Geneva regarding the publication by the I.L.O. of a Report on the "New Deal" in the U.S.A.

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Ratifications.

India and Draft Convention re. Hours of Work in
Sheet Glass Works: Council of State Agrees
to Non-ratification. ✓+

At pages 26-28 of our February 1935 report was given a summary of the debate in the Legislative Assembly ~~debate~~ on 13-2-35 on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Geneva Draft Convention re. Hours of Work in Automatic Sheet -glass Works. A similar resolution recommending non-ratification by India of the Convention was moved in the Council of State on 21-3-1935 by Mr. Mitchell, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department.

Mr. ~~P.N.~~ P.N. Sapro moved an amendment to the effect that the matter be brought forward after the publication of the Tariff Board Report on the glass industry of India. He said that though the report was submitted in 1932, it had not even been published so far with the result that the industry was suffering by Japanese competition.

Mr. Mitchell assured the House that the report was still under the careful consideration of the Government and would be published as soon as possible.

Mr. Sapro withdrew the amendment and Mr. Mitchell's original resolution was adopted.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-3-35)

(For fuller details, vide Council of State Debates of 21-3-35) ←

11

India and Draft Convention and Recommendation re.

Unemployment Insurance: Council of State

Agrees to Non-ratification. ✓

At pages 23-26 of our February 1935 report was given a summary of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-35 and 21-2-35 on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention and Recommendation regarding unemployment insurance and various forms of relief for the unemployed adopted by the 18th I.L.Conference. An identical resolution was moved in the Council of State on 21-3-35 by Mr. Mitchell, Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour.

Mr. ^{P.N.} Saprū moved an amendment urging the Government to take such steps, legislative or otherwise, for the relief of the unemployed, as would lead to the ratification of the Draft Convention and acceptance of the recommendation as soon as practicable. He emphasised that such legislation was long overdue and at least a modest beginning in protected and organised industries could be made by introducing a scheme of unemployment insurance. He urged the House not to tackle the problem from the view-point of pounds, shillings and pence, but from the wider view-point of humanity. He suggested the launching of schemes of slum clearance in urban areas, which would provide employment for a number of years.

Mr. Hossain Imam and Mr. Chari strongly supported Mr. Saprū's motion.

Mr. Mitchell replying contended that conditions at present in India would not justify the ratifying of the Convention. It would be impossible for the Government to create such industrial conditions

as would make it ~~easy~~ for introducing unemployment relief schemes, but if those were created by the industries themselves, then, the Government would consider the possibility of taking suitable action.

Mr. Sapru's amendment was rejected by 26 votes to 8, and Mr. Mitchell's resolution was adopted without a division.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-3-35)

(For fuller details regarding the debate, vide Council of State Debates of 21-3-35). +

Prohibition of Night Work of Women holding
Positions of Supervision and Management: Views of South
Indian Chamber of Commerce. ✓

In view of the interpretation given by the Permanent Court of International Justice that the Washington Convention re. Night rest of women brings under its purview women holding positions of supervision or management or doing confidential work in factories, the Government of India have addressed commercial bodies to ascertain their opinion on the extent to which employers would be affected if women holding positions of supervision or management or doing confidential work in factories are prevented from working during nights.

The Committee of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, in the course of their reply, ^{to the Government on this subject,} state that they do not agree with the Government in thinking that there would be no occasion for employing women in confidential capacities, clerical or otherwise, during

night hours or that there would be no women managers or supervisors in establishments which came or might come under the operation of the Indian Factories Act. There were many such establishments^{such} as coffee-curing works, fish oil factories, etc, where women did occupy positions of responsibility. Seasonal factories, in particular, would have to arrange night shifts and many of them would come under the Act, when the supply of electric power was extended. Women also resented the restrictions that were being imposed on the scope of their employment. In the circumstances, the Committee recommend that women in positions of management or engaged in confidential work should continue to have freedom to work in manufacturing establishments during nights and suggest an amendment of the Factories Act, Sec. 43, to that effect.

(The Hindu, 23-3-35). ↵

National Labour Legislation.

Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill, 1935: Select Committee Report.

At pages 17-23 of our January 1935 report was given the text of the Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill, 1935, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 22-1-1935. On 28-1-1935 the Bill was referred to a Select Committee which presented its report to the Assembly on 5-3-35. The following are the changes introduced in the Bill:-

Regulation of Work for Adolescents.- Following the principle adopted in the Factories Act, new clauses have been inserted introducing provisions designed to ensure that persons between the ages of 15 and 17 are not employed below ground before they are fit for such work.

Record of Accidents.- As regards accidents, the select committee thought it desirable that there should be a record of accidents incapacitating persons, for 48 hours or more (instead of 7 days or more as in the original Bill) and accordingly they have added a section providing for periodical submission to the Chief Inspector of entries in the register.

Rest Periods.- The Committee also considered it desirable that those working above ground should have statutory rest interval of at least one hour, and they have made provision for this in the bill and have increased the spread over accordingly.

Hours of Work for Relays.- The proposed section 22B(3) has been transferred from clause 8 of the original Bill and has been modified. In its original form it would have enabled mines working not more than 11 hours a day to fix different periods for the beginning and ending of work for the persons employed above ground. This might have led to evasion and the clause as now drafted ensures that the hours for beginning and ending work for each set of persons employed on the same work shall coincide.

Reduction of Hours of Work Underground.- Proposals ^{have been} ~~were~~ made for further reduction in the hours of work below ground. The ~~the~~ majority of the committee, however, considered that the reduction proposed in the bill in respect of workers employed by relays was as large as was desirable in the interests both of miners and the industry. The effect of the proposed section 22-C is that the period of nine hours commences at the moment fixed for the first worker of the relay to leave the surface, and all ^{of} other workers of the relay, at whatever time they enter, must be ^{got} out of the mine

within nine hours of that moment. In consequence, for the average worker, the time elapsing between his leaving the surface and his emerging again will be nearer eight hours than nine, and within that period he has to find his way from the surface to the working place, put in his hours of work and reach the surface again. Thus, the hours actually available for work in any large mine are likely to be less than eight, and only a proportion of these hours can be spent in actual work.

The committee have, however, altered the provisions relating to workers not working in relays so as to bring them into line with those working on the system of relays, and have thereby reduced appreciably the average hours for underground workers of the former class. ~~The~~ modification is also made ~~and designed~~ to ensure that notices of changes in the system of work are invariably sent to the Chief Inspector.

Mr.

Minutes of Dissent: (1) By/G. Morgan. - Mr. G. Morgan, in a minute of dissent, considers that the ~~48 hours~~ change made in section 20(2) of the Act ^{is too short a period} as it would entail an amount of work incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

(2) By Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. - Mr. Lalchand Navalrai disagrees with the view that the election of workers' representatives is impracticable. He says: "I would like election, preferably by trade unions where they exist, and at other places by some suitable method." He thinks that the maximum limit for employment for surface work should not exceed 48 hours a week and 9 hours a day, and 48 and 8 hours, respectively for underground work.

(3) By Messrs. N.M.Joshi, N.V.Gadgil, V.V.Giri, N.G.Ranga, Abdul Matin Choudhary and Ram Narain Singh: In a minute of dissent, these six members state: "We hold that the representation of persons employed in mines on mining boards should be by some method of election, preferably by trade unions where they exist. We do not think that election is impracticable. The proposals for the future constitution of India provide for the representation of labour interests in the legislatures by election. We also suggest that section 11 of the Indian Mines Act should similarly be amended to make provision for the election of the miners' representative on the committee to be appointed under that section."

"We hold that the weekly and daily maximum limit for employment for surface work should not exceed 48 hours and 9 hours respectively, and for employment underground 48 hours and ~~xxxx~~ 8 hours respectively. We are not satisfied by the arguments used by the majority against our proposals. We feel that the Government of India should have undertaken a more thorough revision of the Indian Mines Act, especially including a provision for guaranteeing an adequate minimum wage and for the establishment of a welfare fund."

(Summarised from pages 43-45 of Part V of Gazette of India dated 9-3-35).

The Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934.

At pages 18-20 of our August 1934 report was given the text of the Bengal Workmen's Protection Bill, 1934, and at page 10 of our December 1934 report, the report of the Select Committee on the Bill. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was passed at the last session of the Bengal Legislative Council and received the assent of the Governor General on 5-3-35. The text of the Act (Act IV of 1935) is reproduced below:-

Bengal Act IV of 1935.
The Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934.

An Act to prevent recovery of debts from certain classes of workmen by besetting their place of work.

Whereas it is expedient to prevent recovery of debts from certain classes of workmen by besetting their place of work;

And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General has been obtained under sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act to the passing of this Act;

1. It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934.

(2) It shall apply in the first instance only to Calcutta and the districts of 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah.

Explanation.- "Calcutta" means the town of Calcutta as defined in section 3 of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, together with the suburbs of Calcutta as defined by notification under section 1 of the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866, and the port of Calcutta as defined by notification under section 5 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

2. The Local Government may, by notification in the Calcutta Gazette, extend this Act to any area specified in the notification:

Provided that no notification under this section shall be published in respect of any area included in a military cantonment without the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council.

- ing 3. Whoever loiters at or near any -
- 1 pre- (a) mine;
- with a (b) dock, wharf or jetty;
- o recover (c) railway station or yard; or
- (d) premises whereon any manufacturing process is carried on,

in a manner, or in circumstances, indicating that he is so loitering with a view to recover any debt from any workman employed in such mine, dock, wharf, jetty, railway station or yard or premises shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

Explanation.- The expression "manufacturing process" shall have the meaning assigned to it in the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

- 4. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, any offence punishable under this Act (~~Act V of 1898~~) shall be cognizable and bailable.

- 5. No Magistrate other than a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the ~~1~~ first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

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(Page 10 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette, dated 21-3-1935). +

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934 (Act VI of 1935).

At page 7 of our August 1933 report were given the salient features and the text of the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Madras Maternity Benefit Bill, introduced in the Madras Legislative Council on 1-8-1933 by Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar. On 30-1-1934 the Bill was referred to a Select Committee and the Bill, as amended by the Committee, was passed by the Council on 24-10-34. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 24-2-35. The text of the Act is given below:-

Act No. VI of 1935.

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act.

An Act to prevent the employment of women in factories for some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them.

Whereas it is expedient to prevent the employment of women in factories for some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them;

And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

- Short title. 1. This Act may be called the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934.
- Commencement and extent. 2. (1) It shall come into force on the first day of ~~Madras~~ April 1935.
- ~~DEFINITIONS~~ 2. (2) It extends to the whole of the Presidency of Madras.
- Definitions. 3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -
 - XXV of 1934 (a) 'employer' includes 'an occupier of a factory' as defined in the Factories Act, 1934, (~~Act XXV of 1934~~), and the manager of a factory;
 - XXV of 1934 (b) the expressions 'factory', 'Inspector of Factories', 'seasonal factory' and 'worker' shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them by the Factories Act, 1934; and
 - (c) 'maternity benefit' means the amount of money payable under the provisions of this Act to a woman worker in a factory.
- Prohibition of employment of women in factories immediately after confinement. 4. After this Act comes into operation, no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her confinement.
- Right to maternity benefit of women workers in non-seasonal factories. 5. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman worker in a factory not being a seasonal factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of eight annas a day for the actual days of her absence during the period immediately preceding her confinement and for the four weeks immediately following her confinement as mentioned in sub-section (2):

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in the factory of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than nine months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6.

(2) The maximum period for which any woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit shall be seven weeks, that is to say, three weeks up to and including the day of her confinement and four weeks immediately following that day. If a woman dies during this period the maternity benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death.

Notice of claim 6. (a) Any woman worker in a factory entitled of maternity bene- fit and payment thereof. to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act may give notice in writing to her employer stating that her maternity benefit may be paid to her or to such other person as she may nominate in this behalf and that she will not work in any employment during the period for which she receives maternity benefit. If the woman worker has not been confined, such notice shall state that she expects to be confined, ~~such notice shall~~ within one month from the date of the notice; if she has been confined, such notice shall be given within one week of her confinement.

(2) The employer shall on receipt of the notice permit such woman to absent herself from the factory until the expiry of four weeks after the day of her confinement.

(3) The amount of maternity benefit for the period up to and including the day of confinement shall be paid by the employer to the woman within forty-eight hours of the production of such proof as the Local Government may by rule prescribe that the woman has been confined. The amount due for the subsequent period shall be paid punctually each fortnight in arrear.

Payment of mater- nity benefit in case of claimant's death. 7. If a woman worker entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act dies during the period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit, the employer shall pay the amount of maternity benefit due to the nominee mentioned in the notice given under sub-section (1) of section 6 and if there is no such nominee to her legal representative.

Prohibition of notice of dismissal to woman worker in certain cases. 8. (1) When a woman worker absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

(2) (a) No notice of dismissal given without sufficient cause by an employer to a woman worker within a period of three months before her confinement shall have the effect of depriving

20

her of any maternity benefit to which but for such notice she would have been, or would on or before the date of her confinement have become, entitled under this Act.

(b) If any question arises as to whether any notice of dismissal given under clause (a) was or was not given for sufficient cause, it shall be referred to the Inspector of Factories whose decision shall be final.

(c) The provisions of this sub-section shall not apply to notices falling under sub-section (1).

Forfeiture of maternity benefit. 9. If a woman works in any factory after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 6, she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of the maternity benefit to which she is entitled.

Penalty for contravention of Act by employer. 10. If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Act, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.

Jurisdiction of Courts. 11.(1) No prosecution for any offence against this Act or any rules thereunder shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the Inspector of Factories.

(2) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence against this Act or any rules thereunder.

Period of limitation for prosecutions under Act. 12. No Court shall take cognizance of, or convict a person for, any offence against this Act or any rule thereunder unless complaint thereof has been made within six months of the date on which the offence was committed. In computing the period of six months aforesaid, the time, if any, taken for the purpose of obtaining the previous sanction of the Inspector of Factories under sub-section (1) of section 11 shall be excluded.

Rules. 13.(1) The Local Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for -

- (a) the preparation and maintenance of a muster roll and the particulars to be entered in such roll;
- (b) the inspection of factories for the purposes of this Act by Inspectors of Factories;
- (c) the exercise of powers and the performance of duties by Inspectors of Factories for the purposes of this Act; and

(d) the method of payment of maternity benefit in so far as provision has not been made therefor in this Act.

(3) Any such rule may provide that a contravention thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(4) The making of rules under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication.

<p>Copy of Act and rules to be exhibited in factories employing women.</p>	<p>14. A copy of the provisions of this Act and the rules thereunder in the local vernacular shall be exhibited in a conspicuous place by the employer in every factory in which women are employed.</p>
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(Pages 47-51 of Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 19-3-35). +

Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt and Attachment
of Salaries: Proposed Legislation in Mysore. +

With the object of doing away with the existing practice of arrest and imprisonment for debt and saving insurance amounts from attachment in execution of decrees, Mr. K.T. Bashyam Iyengar, Member, Mysore Legislative Council, has given notice of his intention to move a bill at the forthcoming session of the Legislative Council for the necessary amendment of the Civil Procedure Code. Mr. Bashyam observes that there is a growing feeling among the people that it is unjust and undesirable to arrest and put into jail any person merely because of his inability to pay a debt. The amendment he proposes provides that no person, male or female, shall be arrested or imprisoned in execution of a decree for payment of money.

Insurance amount, Mr. Bashyam points out, is meant to be a protection against poverty and privation. Its object is defeated if creditors attach and distribute the amount among themselves. The amendment proposed by him provides that it shall not be attached.

Mr. Bashyam has also suggested another amendment to the Civil Procedure Code to bring the law in Mysore in conformity with that of British India in the matter of exemption from attachment of salaries of Government servants.

(The Hindu, 14-3-35). +

23

Conditions of Labour.

Conditions of Work in the Indian Posts and
Telegraphs Department, 1933-34.* ✓ +

Financial Working.— The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of the following four branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Radio and Telephones. The financial results of the working of the Department for the year 1933-34 are summarised below:—

Post Offices	Telegraphs.	Radio	Telephones.	Total
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs -
73,306,946	26,461,155	744,721	6,749,042	107,261,864
74,475,537	30,357,655	1,146,460	6,475,806	1,124 112,455,458
^F -1,168,591	-3,896,500	-401,739	+273,236	-5,193,594

The net results of 1933-34 show a total loss of Rs.5,193,594 as against Rs.4,189,256 in 1932-33.

Effect of Retrenchment.— Up to the year 1929-30 both revenue and expenditure were rising steadily but the expenditure was increasing more rapidly than the revenue. In the year 1930-31, revenue suffered a serious set-back and showed a decrease of nearly Rs. 5.2 millions compared with the preceding year while expenditure still showed an increase of nearly Rs. 1.95 millions. Due to the economic depression during 1931-32 special measures were adopted to improve the financial situation of the department. On the one hand the scale of charges for various postal and telegraph services was increased; on the other, Government imposed an emergency deduction from the pay of their employees, and the department undertook a vigorous economy and retrenchment campaign. The enhancement of the tariff led to a serious decrease in the total volume of traffic but this fall enabled the department to carry out economies which might not all have been possible otherwise. In any case the enhancement of the charges succeeded in retarding the drop in the revenues of the department. The results of the economy campaign are reflected in the figures for expenditure. The total saving was Rs. 11.4 millions of which Rs. 6.0 millions was realised from the emergency deductions in pay. The savings from economies and retrenchments obtained in 1932-33 as compared with 1930-31 thus amounted to Rs.5.4 millions. During the year 1933-34 the economy campaign was continued. The emergency deduction from pay, was reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent with effect from 1st April 1933 with the result that expenditure increased by Rs.

* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department - Annual Report for the year 1933-34. - New Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press: 1935. Price Rs. 2-4 or 4s. - pp.101

Rs. 2,742 millions. In this department the pay of the personnel is the largest single item of expenditure and as a natural consequence the largest economies have been secured from the pay of the staff.

Strength of Staff. - On 31-3-1934 the total number of persons employed by the department was 122,163 as compared with 124,969 (revised figures) at the close of 1932-33. The figure includes 19,786 extra-departmental postmasters, stamp vendors, and others ~~of the status described in paragraph 13~~ who are not Government servants in the strict sense of the term, and 2,464 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Out of the remaining 99,913 employees, 490 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, which includes 151 divisional and other superintendents, 48 post-masters and 71 telegraph traffic officers most of whom are in executive charge of the larger post and telegraph offices or of postal and railway mail service divisions; and 113 assistant and deputy assistant engineers most of whom are in executive charge of engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 107 officers are actually holding higher charges such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department.

Magnitude of Postal Business.- At the end of the year there existed 167,000 miles of lines over which mails were conveyed by different agencies. Sixty new motor lines were opened during the year, 43 of these being in the Bombay, Madras, and Punjab and N.W.F. Circles. The following figures give some idea of the volume of postal business transacted during the year:-

Total estimated number of articles handled.	1,099,705,000
Total number of registered articles posted.	41,187,000
Total number of insured articles posted.	3,498,000
Value of insured articles posted.	Rs.1,030,900,000
Postage charges realised.	Rs. 62,500,000
Number of money orders issued.	37,567,000
Value of money orders issued.	Rs.753,900,000
Value payable post collections.	Rs.185,600,000

Miscellaneous Operations.- Among the miscellaneous operations of the department may be mentioned the realization, for the Customs Department, of import duties amounting to about Rs.7,900,000; the payment of pensions amounting to about Rs. 16,700,000 to Indian military pensioners and the sale to the public of over 17,000 pounds of quinine. On the 31st March 1934 there were over 3,000,000 current Savings Bank accounts with a total balance of Rs.522,300,000, and over 87,000 Postal Life Insurance policies covering an aggregate assurance of over Rs. 165,200,000.

There were open 23,700 post offices and combined post and telegraph offices at the end of the year; and there were over 59,300 letter-boxes in use.

(Conditions of work in the Indian P. & T. Department during the year 1932-33 were reviewed at pages 19-21 of our May 1934 report).

Pension Grievances of the Postal Employees:

Government Undertaking in the Legislative Assembly to give Relief.

On 9-3-1935 Mr. N.M.Joshi moved a cut of Rs.100 in the budget demand for the Postal and Telegraph Department in order to discuss the "miserable condition of the members of the Department after retirement owing to inadequate pensions".

In moving the cut Mr. Joshi said that the pensions of the inferior services were far too inadequate. The pension rule was made in 1860 when salaries were low. Rs. 4 ~~x~~ per month was the sum fixed for postal peons at that time and it was still the current rate. He knew the Government had been considering the question for the last 14 years, but every time it had been postponed on the ground of want of money.

Mr. V.V.Giri.- Mr. Giri urged that no ~~post~~ worker should be retrenched and that the department should absorb the retrenched workers. He also suggested a half-yearly meeting between the representatives of the workers and the Government as in the case of railwaymen.

Sir Henry Gidney.- Sir Henry Gidney referred to the new recruitment rules, the competitive house ~~allowance~~ allowance and other matters as grievances requiring attention. He wanted the supervision on personnel to be increased and suggested the abolition of the post of Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs.

Sir Frank Noyce.- Sir Frank Noyce dealt with certain general grievances leaving the specific grievances to be dealt with by the Director-General. He said that the general impression he had gathered was that the grievances of the Posts and Telegraphs employees were neither deep-seated nor numerous. The Government would examine the subject to find out how much the ^{various} demands would cost and there was no question of the cost being met from the general revenues. It must be met by the Posts and Telegraphs Department without any increase in the rates. The Budget position, however, was not satisfactory, but he hoped that the position would sufficiently improve next year to enable this extra charge to be carried.

Mr. Bewoor.- Mr. Bewoor, Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, replied to the debate. He acknowledged the very friendly criticism of the Assembly and showed how the representations or grievances of employees were thoroughly examined. Mr. Bewoor did not deny the existence of grievances, but the Government could redress them only if the basic principle of the department was not affected, namely, that the department, even if it was not a source of revenue, must at least be able to pay its way. Sir H.Gidney had referred to the increase in expenditure on the account and audit side of the department. But there were

22,000 offices and departmental work as a whole had increased enormously because of the increase in savings bank and cash certificate transactions. Mr. Lahiri Choudhry had complained of excessive retrenchment in the lower paid staff. Mr. Bewoor gave figures to show that the retrenchment ^{affected} was over 14 per cent in the case of gazetted staff, 11 per cent in the case of non-gazetted staff and ¹⁰ 10 per cent in the case of inferior staff. He also referred to the magnitude of the business ^{handled by his department} and said that the number of high officers who controlled the business of the department was only 107. The number of employees was 100,000 scattered over the whole of India and Burma. Rs. 750 millions worth of money orders had been issued and Rs. 520 millions in savings bank accounts were handled. Considering all these responsibilities, the staff could not be considered large. Moreover, Mr. Bewoor ~~it~~ said, the department was expanding its business every year. The telephone branch was fast expanding with trunk telephones from one end of India to the other and there was a further capital programme next year.

Motion Withdrawn.— Mr. Joshi withdrew his motion in view of Mr. Bewoor's sympathetic reply, hoping that the pension rules for the inferior service would be revised promptly and adequately.

(The Statesman, 10-3-1935) +

Whitley Commission's Recommendation re.Establishment of an Industrial Council: Council of State Debates. ✓

At the meeting of the Council of State on 7-3-1935, Mr. P.N. Saprā moved a resolution arguing the establishment of an industrial council on the lines suggested by the Whitley Commission on Labour. He said that India was becoming slowly industrialized and labour problems were becoming more acute all over the world. The importance of labour was increasingly felt and, therefore, it was essential that labour legislation was speeded up. The advisory and consultative machinery as foreshadowed by the creation of an advisory council would help labour, industries and the Government in co-ordinating each other's views in matters of labour legislation. ~~That~~ The Whitley Commission itself foresaw that such a council would be able to focus and secure in a permanent manner the various economic forces of the country in the evolution of wise, practical and beneficent measures for labour. The organisation should be composed of the representative of employers, labour, Government and various interests, including those from Indian States. The council should meet annually, its venue should be changed every year to different industrial centres, there should be a permanent secretary-general and the president should be elected every year. Legislative proposals would be referred to the Government for initiation or, if necessary, would be initiated by the council itself. Mr. Saprā emphasised that when provincial autonomy was established greater co-ordination and unanimity would be needed. ^{The Council} ~~which~~ would preserve that unity of purpose which would go a long way in the industrial progress and peace of the country. Incidentally

he pointed out that under the new constitution second chambers in the provinces and the centre would have no labour representation. Hence, ^a~~the~~ central organisation such as an industrial council was necessary. Apart from labour legislation, another function of the council would be to advise on Draft Conventions of the I.L.Conference. Concluding Mr. Saptu appealed to the House to accept the resolution. The whole future was now in ~~a~~^{the} melting pot and, therefore, ~~the~~ time was suitable for ensuring the position of labour under the new constitution.

Mr. P.C.D.Chari.— Mr. P.C.D.Chari heartily supported the resolution and said that the formation of the council would enable the Government to ascertain at first hand the ~~new~~ views of labour and for the formulation of a really national labour policy in India. Mr. Chari also expressed the opinion that an industrial council would serve a great purpose if the problem of Indian labour overseas was also entrusted to its care.

Mr. Husain Imam.— Mr. Husain Imam ~~further~~ stressed the necessity for urgent co-ordination of the view-points of labour and employers for the amelioration of the lot of workers. The Government no ~~doubt~~ brought forward measures for the wellbeing of labour, but they were not completely in accord with the expressed non-official opinion of the country.

Mr. D.G.Mitchell.— Mr. D.G.Mitchell, on behalf of the Government, expressed his sympathy with the resolution. He did not deny that the creation of such an industrial council would be of very great value, but ~~that~~ there was no great hurry for it. Though the ~~Commission~~ saw the possibility of the establishment of an industrial council before the introduction of the new constitution, they were not for its immediate establishment. The situation had considerably changed since their recommendation was made and there was a possibility under the new constitution that labour would be decentralised. In that case there was danger that legislation made under the autonomous provinces would come in conflict with the centre. As regards labour legislation Mr. Mitchell quoted the procedure proposed in the Government of India Bill and the creation of such a council at this stage, he said, was not desirable. Mr. Mitchell stressed that since the Whitley Commission reported, the Government had been doing everything possible in giving effect to those recommendations and already there were several more important questions under examination. Therefore, the creation of an industrial council might be postponed till these had been done. Again, they were uncertain as to the success of the council as it would entirely depend on the provincial Governments in whose hands the working of any legislation enacted would be placed.

27

In view of the practical difficulties explained by him, he hoped that the mover would not press the resolution.

Mr. P.N.Sapru.- Mr. Sapru, replying, said that the new constitution, as proposed, would be very conservative and he was not sure that it would be possible that the question would be satisfactorily tackled by the new Government. He recommended the creation of an industrial council at this stage because it would at least preserve what had already been done.

Resolution Lost.- The resolution was negatived by 22 against seven votes. Those who voted against it included only one elected member.

(The Leader, 10-3-35)

(For fuller details, vide the Council of State Debates of 7-3-35). +

Liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act
for Injuries arising out of Earth Quakes'
Government Reject Employers' Demand. ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 32-33 of our January 1935 report to the representations made by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India on 20-10-34 to the Government of India urging the necessity for early legislation to make it clear that accidents caused by or arising out of earth-quake, or other convulsions or forces of nature, unless it can be proved that the nature of the employment itself involved some special exposure to such risks and that the accident arose out of such special exposure, are definitely excluded from the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is now understood that in January 1935 the Government of India

informed the Associated Chambers that they had examined the suggestion with care but did not consider that there was sufficient cause for modification of the central criterion of the Indian and of many other Workmen's Compensation Acts, viz., the ordinary doctrine of special risks which involved the grant of compensation where the accident was connected with or was attributable to a special risk which the workman had to face by reason of the environment in which he had to work. On the contrary, the Government of India believed that the attempt to modify this criterion in the manner suggested by the Associated Chambers would be productive only of hardship and confusion.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during January 1935).+

Conditions of Work in Government Printing Presses.

Resolution in Council of State. ✓

On 25-2-35, Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy moved in the Council of State a resolution recommending that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to inquire into the working of the Government of India presses and State railway presses with special reference to (1) the amount and nature of the work done, (2) the working conditions prevailing in these presses, (3) leave, holidays, pay and pensions granted to workers, and (4) how far the printing machinery introduced in the presses during the last 15 years affected workers in regard to the number of employed and their earnings.

The mover said that last year, when a similar subject came under discussion, the Railway Member agreed to inquire into the grievances of the workers of State railway presses and an official inquiry was set up. But only certain representatives of their own choice made representations to the committee. When Mr. S.C. Mitra, an ex-M.L.A., took up their case in the Assembly, and when a representative approached the committee to express his grievance he was denied the privilege. Turning to the Government of India presses, which numbered five with 2,200 workers, Mr. Suhrawardy pointed out that there were invidious distinctions between salaried hands and piece workers regarding leave and holidays. Certain privileges which salaried hands derived were denied to the piece workers. The mover complained that in the Calcutta press there were workers with more than 30 years' service who were still temporary.

Mr. Padshah, supporting the resolution, contended that the conditions of work in Government as well as railway presses did not conduce to economy or efficiency. The scope of the inquiry instituted into the working of the railway presses was limited, and most of the recommendations of the inquiry had been so modified that they proved useless.

Mr. Mitchell, Secretary to the Government of India in the Industries and Labour Department, winding up the debate, said that the conditions of workers in presses were not so bad as to require the appointment of a special committee, and, even if grievances existed, there was no reason to prevent workers representing their case direct to their departmental superiors. If the matter were

brought to the Government of India's attention, Mr. Clow, whose sympathy towards labour was so ready, would examine it. Mr. Mitchell strongly denied the charge that a representative of the workers in the E.I. Railway press was not allowed to represent grievances before the committee instituted last year, and said that Mr. Mitra, M.L.A., approached the committee many months after it had finished its work. Workers in the presses were Government servants, and they had a right to form a group and discuss their grievances with their officers. Government were also prepared to hear grievances through trade unions provided they consisted purely of Government servants and not outsiders. Mr. Mitchell added that the report of the committee which inquired into the working of railway presses was receiving the consideration of the Railway Board.

Motion Withdrawn.— Mr. Suhrawardy withdrew the motion in view of Mr. Mitchell's assurance.

(The Times of India, 27-2-35)

(For further details, vide Council of State Debates of 25-2-35).+

Prohibition of Night Work of Children in Summer
in Glass Factories in U.P. ✓ +

The Industries Department, United Provinces, in the course of a communique states that the Governor-in-Council is pleased to direct that during the summer months—April to October—in each year, no child shall be allowed to work in a glass factory in the United Provinces except between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-3-35).+

Problems of Indian Labour in Burma:

Views of Central Labour Board, Rangoon.

At pages 59-61 of the report of this Office for January 1935 ~~were~~ given a brief account of the 1st session of the Burma Provincial Indian Labour Conference held under the auspices of the Central Labour Board, Rangoon, on 12 to 14-1-1935 at Rangoon with Mr. N.M. Joshi as president and of the resolutions adopted by the Conference. Since the holding of the Conference the Central Labour Board, ~~are~~ organisation of the representatives of Indian labour associations in Rangoon, has issued two documents on the subject of Indian labour in Burma, the first a circular letter dated 30-1-35 amplifying the resolutions adopted at the Conference, and, the second, a Memorandum covering practically the same ground. (A copy each of the circular letter and of the Memorandum were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/719 /35 dated 28-3-35). The following is a brief summary of the main points brought out in the two documents:-

Franchise.- In their memorandum, the Government of Burma have recommended the reduction of the rental qualification of the voter to Rs. 48 per annum but increased the residential qualification ~~of the~~ to a period of three years. The Board is of opinion that the existing residential qualification should be enough to give a labourer his franchise, in a general constituency. As regards special labour constituencies, the Board is of opinion that a minimum age of 21 and ~~a~~ continuous employment in any industrial establishment of not less than 10 persons, accompanied by a period of not less than three months' residence in that constituency, at the time of preparing or revising the electoral roll, would place the labour franchise on a democratic basis. In any case, the voter must be a wage earning manual labourer who is entirely dependent on the employer and from whom he receives his wages. It has advisedly placed the monthly earnings at not exceeding Rs.100 so as to include the skilled workers also.

Representation.- Indian labourers occupy a unique position in the industrial life of Burma. However, only two seats are assigned to them in the new legislature. This is certainly very meagre when compared with the nine seats assigned to commerce and trade. The report of the Royal commission on Labour in India says that labour has not less claim to representation than employers. The Board therefore urges upon the Government to allot at least four seats to Indian Labour in view of its importance and numerical strength. The Board is of opinion that employers of labour, maistries and others standing in a similar relation to workers, should not be eligible to stand as candidates for Labour Constituencies.

Constituencies.- According to the Secretary of State for India, it is proposed to create four constituencies - two in the Oil fields and two in Rangoon or in Rangoon combined with Syriam. The Board suggests two seats for Rangoon and Syriam, one seat for Oil-fields and mines, and one for agricultural labour. Though agricultural interests are protected by the vote in rural constituencies, the Board urges that Indian agricultural labourers have their own problems and difficulties and that a seat may very reasonably be assigned to them.

No Competition with Burmese Labour. - The Joint Select Committee's Report, referring to Indian labour, observes that "the influx of cheap labour" is a menace by creating "competition with the indigenous source of supply," and that Indian labour "by accepting smaller wages tend to oust the indigenous labourer and to lower his standard of living." The Board points out that there is a large volume of authenticated opinion to show that Indian Labour does not compete with indigenous labour. As regards accepting smaller wages and ousting the indigenous labourer, the Board points out that each racial group of the Indian community has taken to some definite and specialised kind of work. Wages are fixed according to the customary standard; and it is very rarely that Indian and Burman labourers work together in the same industry. If it is contended that competition exists between the Indian and the Burman, then the Board urges that the Government of Burma should provide by legislation that all wage-earners employed either in agriculture or any other industry be given an adequate minimum standard of conditions of life and work so that exploitation of labour may be eliminated.

Immigration.- The Board urges that before the Burma Legislature seeks to introduce any legislation for regulating the entry of Indian labour into Burma, through investigation should be made about the demand for Indian Labour in Burma, and, if regulation was necessary, about the method by which it could be attained.

Plea for Abolition of Contract Labour.- The Board points out that the crux of the Indian labour problem in Burma is the Contract

system. It is the Board's confirmed opinion that so long as the existing system of Contract labour in which the maistry recruits, engages, dismisses and pays labour lasts, so long there will be little or no scope for improving the labour conditions or ameliorating the miserable lot of the immigrant. It therefore urges upon the Governments of India and Burma to abolish the ~~maistry~~ maistry system in which gross irregularities such as abnormal delay in the payment and accumulation of wages, cuts in wages, under employment and unemployment, free services and long hours of work etc. exist, and to replace it by a system in which the employer would deal directly with the labourer and assume a greater measure of responsibility for his well-being and contentment. L

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Federation of India: 2nd Annual General Meeting -

New Delhi, 1935. +

The second annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at New Delhi under the presidentship of Mr. H.P. Mody. The following organisations were represented: The Indian Tea Association, the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Millowners' Association, Bombay, the United Planters' Association of Southern India, the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Engineering Association, the Employers' Federation of Southern India, the Indian Metallurgical Association, the Upper Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Sugar Producers' Association, the Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association, the Bengal Industries Association, the Burma-Shell Oil Storage and Distribution Company of India, and the Titaghur Paper Mills Company.

The following is a summary of the presidential address delivered by Mr. Mody:-

Federation and Labour Legislation.- Referring to labour legislation, Mr. Mody said: "we are passing through a period of intensive labour legislation calculated to effect far-reaching changes in the conditions of labour. Measures have been passed or are under consideration for the purpose of regulating the recruitment of labourers to tea gardens, increasing the scales of compensation payable in case of accidents, regulating the working conditions in the docks, securing better housing for workers and greater amenities for them and their families, enforcing the prompt payment of wages, giving security in some matters to trade union workers, and the most important of all, controlling working conditions in plantations, mines and factories and reducing the hours of work in them. The result aimed at has been to give better facilities to workers to develop what may be termed the human side of existence and to attain a higher degree of efficiency and a better standard of life. Our Federation has adopted a helpful attitude towards these measures, but we hope that with the improvement in the standard of life of workers their efficiency would be increased and the burden imposed on industry would be substantially reduced.

Labour Conditions in Indian States.- Dealing with the question of industrial competition from Indian States, he said: "In my address to you last year, I pointed out how industries in British India were bound to suffer because the same advanced standards of legislation were not enforceable in the Indian States. Some of these States promote their industries by various methods, including tariffs against British Indian manufactures, contribution of capital and advances of loans, freedom from income tax and the like. The disadvantage became most marked in respect of the Factories Act with its provision for a 54-hour week. The Federation's contentions in this matter have been accepted by Government and we hope for speedy and definite action."

Legislative Handicaps under Reforms.- Mr. Mody was of opinion that under the Reforms, industrialists would be put under more serious difficulties. Elaborating this point he said: "A wider question has now to be raised on account of the proposals in the Bill before Parliament with regard to the enactment and administration of labour legislation. These would appear to make possible even worse disparities than now exist, as not only will the States be free to retain their present freedom from Central legislation, but even the Provinces will be freed in a great measure from the control which is now exercised over their labour legislation and its administration. Under these proposals, industrial legislation consisting mainly of the regulation of mines, factories, employers' liability, workmen's compensation, trade unions, welfare of labour, industrial disputes, and the like has been placed in the "concurrent" list, that is to say, both the Federal as also the Provincial Legislatures and the States will have the right of legislation in most matters concerning industries and labour. As between the Central Government and the Provinces, it is proposed that Federal legislation should supersede Provincial ^{legislation} in matters coming under the "concurrent" list, unless the particular Provincial measure has been reserved for, or has received the assent of the Governor-General."

Immunity of Indian States.- "So far as the States are concerned, the effect of the proposals is that while an Act of the Federal Legislature regulating any subject which has been accepted by a ~~State~~ ^{Province}, yet this jurisdiction of the Federal Legislature in the States will not be exclusive. It is competent for the States to exercise their existing powers of legislation in relation to such a subject, with a proviso that in case of conflict between a State law and a Federal law on the subject accepted by the State as Federal, the latter will prevail. It is open, however, to the States not to accept industrial or labour legislation as Federal subjects, or to accept them subject to reservations."

Possible Provincial Disparities.- "It is to be feared, therefore, that as a result of these proposals, not only will the States be able to enjoy their present immunity from any legislation that is made applicable to British India, but the Provinces also will be left free to a large extent to enact their own legislation, so that it will be possible for industries in one province to be subjected to legislative handicaps which do not exist in other provinces. ~~in addition to the prevailing inequalities between~~

~~British India and the various States.~~ As an instance, certain Provinces have passed legislation to grant maternity benefits - Bombay and the Central Provinces and lately Madras - while other Provinces and the States generally have made no such provision. Moreover, under the reform proposals, the development of industries is not a Federal subject, unless any particular industry is so declared."

Administration of Labour Legislation.- "As regards administration of labour legislation, it is proposed that it should be the function of the States and Provinces. In the case of the Provinces, in addition to the moral obligation on them to ensure the proper enforcement of Federal laws in the "concurrent" field, it is provided that the Governor-General should have powers in the last resort to issue instructions for this purpose, or Federal officers may enforce laws in so far as those laws themselves require it. But in the case of the States, even where they accept the subject as Federal, there would be only a moral obligation, and the Governor-General may issue general directions for enforcement by the States, or Federal officers may act under the Federal law, but subject to the limitations imposed by the Rulers' Instrument of Accession."

Future Difficulties.- "The difficulties and anomalies enumerated here are inherent in any scheme which vests concurrent powers in different authorities. The matter has become very important on account of the probable course of development of labour and industrial legislation in India for the next few years. It is easy to foresee that enthusiastic social reformers in the Provinces will be eager to introduce measures intended to ameliorate the conditions of the workers, but which in practice might heavily penalise industries, particularly in those parts of the country where industrialists might not be having sufficient influence over the trend of legislation, whereas a wholly different set of conditions might prevail in other parts of the country. It is also possible that some provinces in their anxiety for rapid industrialisation might deliberately retard the pace of industrial legislation. As a result of these forces, considerable inequalities might come to exist as between one unit of the Indian Federation and another."

Conference Advocated.- Stressing the need for ^a co-ordinated all-India labour policy, Mr. Mody said: "I would, therefore, urge Government and industrialists to explore at an early stage the possibilities of some form of co-ordination. The Whitley Commission had proposed an Industrial Council, but this proposal is open to certain objections and must be ruled out as an immediate solution of the problem. The question requires reconsideration in the light of what has happened since the Report of the Commission was published and the Government of India will do well to convene a conference in advance of the inauguration of the Federation."

(The National Call, 23-3-35).+

Indian National Committee of International Chamber of

Commerce: 6th Annual Meeting, 1935, Delhi. +

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 30-3-1935, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Laljee presiding. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

Intensified Economic Nationalism.- Referring to the resurgence of economic nationalism in an intensified form, Mr. Laljee said; "One direct and important result of the failure of the World Economic Conference and the other efforts at international collaboration in economic affairs is the intensification of economic nationalism. The Government of the U.S.A. presents the extreme example of planned economy. Various countries have resorted to measures like depreciation of currency, import quotas and prohibitions, exchange restrictions, programmes of public work and state-regulated plans for industrial recovery".

Apathetic Attitude of Government of India to Industrialisation: In India, however, nothing has been done in these directions. The people of the country have urged upon the Government of India the need for similar planning in this country; unfortunately, the system of Government obtaining here enables the authorities to give a deaf ear to such popular demands. India is primarily an agricultural country. More than 75 per cent. of the population are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. During the last few years, however, the prices of agricultural products have fallen considerably. Even otherwise, agriculture cannot continue to support the increasing population of the country. It is, therefore, necessary that in order to relieve the pressure on agricultural occupations ~~xxxxxx~~ and to divert energies to remunerative and useful occupations, an era of intensified industrial activities should be ushered in the country. Such a condition of affairs can be secured only by the State coming in with a well regulated plan for industrial development.

Futile Plea of Conserving Consumers' Interests: Condemning the Government of India's refusal to adopt a protectionist policy on the ground of safeguarding interests of consumers, Mr. Laljee said; "We are familiar with this argument about consumers. The producer also is a consumer, and the potentialities of the citizen as a consumer will depend on the economic condition of the body politic. If the economic fabric has deteriorated even with cheapness and plenty, the consumer will not consume and the paradox of poverty in plenty will continue. At the time of the ratio controversy also the bogey of consumers' interests was trotted out and it was argued that the ~~high~~ higher ratio would benefit them. The citizen can be a Consumer only

when he has the wherewithal to purchase his requirements of life. When the vast majority of the population are living on the verge of starvation and there is heavy unemployment, any talk of assisting consumption is to ignore the realities of the situation. The persistence, therefore, of the State to continue its present policy cannot but raise apprehensions in the public mind in regard to the real intentions of the Government towards industrial development in the country."

Unjust International Trade Agreements: Mr. Laljee then proceeded to contrast the international trade agreements based on strict reciprocity and the mutual interests of the contracting countries recently entered into by many countries with the injurious and unwise agreements concluded on behalf of India by its Government and said: "The most important of them are the Ottawa Agreement, supplemented by the Indo-British Trade Agreement and followed by the Indo-Japanese Agreement. Enough has been said on the Ottawa Agreement. But the supplementary agreement, viz., the Indo-British Trade Agreement goes a step further. There is no reciprocity in the Agreement. The power given under clause 4 of the same, to secure interim reviews of the appropriateness of protective duties levied against British imports introduces a vicious principle in the tariff policy of the country. India has a large exportable surplus of raw materials, and with the diversion in our import trade consequent upon such agreements, difficulties are experienced in maintaining our export trade with other countries. It is, therefore, necessary that in the matter of such trade agreements in future greater consideration should be given to the consequent displacement in our export trade with other countries. Unfortunately, the authorities are not in the habit of taking the commercial community or the legislature into confidence at the time of the negotiations of such agreements."

Indian Nationals in Overseas Countries: Referring to this subject, Mr. Laljee said: "In future India's commercial treaties should not be confined to mere agreements in regard to the exchange of commodities. They should include provisions in regard to the treatment of nationals of this country in the contracting countries. Such provisions are a normal feature of commercial agreements between European countries. Stipulations relating to the rights of Indians in respect of entry, travel, commerce, taxation, navigation, should all be included in future trade treaties. The question of treatment of Indians overseas is a matter on which Indian public opinion has felt very strongly and it is but natural that in countries which want commercial agreements with India, Indians should be free from all such humiliation."

Trade Restrictions and Political Barriers: Need for Conjoint Action: Referring to the inquiry that is being conducted by the International Chamber regarding the status of foreign companies in various countries, Mr. Laljee pointed out that the intention is to take steps to get the restrictions and handicaps placed in various countries on non-national companies and corporations removed. He, however, emphasised that any such efforts must be preceded by attempts to remove the restrictions on individuals as foreigners. It is notorious that in several countries non-nationals are subjected to various forms of humiliations and restrictions based sometimes

41

on colour or creed. The removal of such restrictions is prerequisite to any attempt at the removal of restrictions on trade. If ~~any~~ non-nationals, the very movements or residence of Indians are to be objected to, there is no question of Indians acquiring any trade rights or carrying on business activities. Some good work in this connection was attempted by the International Conference on the ~~the~~ Treatment of Foreigners in 1929. But, unfortunately, the Conference has not met after that. The International Chamber, therefore, if it wishes to tackle the subject should concentrate on the larger question first. If such political barriers are removed, the trade barriers will get removed ipso facto. As a corollary, on the other hand, the continued presence of political barriers will prevent ~~for~~ ~~even~~ the solution of the question of trade restrictions.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-3-1935) +

All India Organisation of Industrial Employers: 2nd Annual Meeting, Delhi, 1935. +

The second Annual Meeting of the All India ~~Organization of Industrial Employers~~ Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 31-3-1935 under the presidentship of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the President of the Organisation. The following is a summary of the presidential address. (A copy of the speech has been ~~forwarded~~ forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/744 /35 dated 4-4-35) ~~delivered by Mr. Lalbhai:-~~

Co-operation between the State, Capital & Labour: In order that Indian industries be established on sound lines and they contribute their quota towards the creation of greater national wealth, ~~in~~ the co-operation of the State, the industrialist and labour is essential. Unless there is an assurance from the Government that a particular industry having justified its claim for protection will be safeguarded for a sufficiently long period, capital will not be forthcoming for its expansion. Granted such protection, the industrialist will have to see that progress in the technique and the organisation of that industry is satisfactory and leaders of labour, while safeguarding the working conditions and wages of workmen, will have to co-operate in schemes of rationalisation. Working classes have as much stake in the industry as employers. Unfortunately, ~~Handicaps of Industry in India Working Conditions~~ in India, labour is not fully organised and is unable to appreciate the difficulties and the handicaps which industry in India has to face in the absence of any well-defined policy of industrialisation.

Need for Enquiry into Working Conditions: There are bound to be occasions when conflicts will arise about rights and privileges between working classes and employers. They can best be avoided if definite facts regarding working conditions, wages paid and welfare work done by different concerns are placed before the public by a proper and thorough enquiry by the Government. In the case of the textile industry, such an enquiry was undertaken in the Bombay Presidency to find out what was being done in the different classes of workers and the amount of work done by each individual worker. The enquiry was a great eye-opener to industrialists as well as to leaders of the labour movement. A proposal that a similar enquiry be instituted in different parts of the country could not be taken in hand as the Government of India did not bring sufficient influence to bear on the provincial Governments in this matter.

Co-ordinated All-India Policy - a Necessity: The difficulties that are likely to arise under the circumstances are that, while the Government of India are responsible for deciding the claim of a particular industry for protection, the provincial Governments are left free to adopt or not measures for the advancement of the industry or its working conditions. Unless there is proper co-ordination between the Government of India and the provinces whereby in important matters uniformity of action is ensured simultaneously in all the provinces, the difficulties in pressing forward the claims of a particular industry will be considerably increased. It may be pointed out in this connection that while the standard of wages and the conditions of employment cannot be uniform in all the provinces nor in all the industries, still, taking into account the different factors that will have a bearing on it, they could be so adjusted that there will not be a radical difference in these matters. Because of these conditions, it is necessary for a fact-finding committee or commission to record correctly the state of affairs relating to a particular industry all over the country.

Plea for Conciliation Machinery: Industrial labour in this country is trying to follow the trade union movement in western countries, forgetting that Indian conditions in this sphere are very different from European conditions. In countries like the United Kingdom, the trade union movement came into existence only after its industries had secured a strong foothold over the markets of the world and thus were capable of standing the strain of internal differences. In India, industries are still nascent and have to fight for their very existence against foreign competition. If nothing else, this fact alone should evoke a greater consideration and should leave small scope for weapons like strikes and lock-outs. It should not be forgotten that above the interests of both there are the greater interests of the body politic. In countries like Italy and Germany it has been recognised that cessation of work under strikes and lock-outs are far more harmful to the country at large than to the parties themselves, and India can well take a lesson from these States. A commendable example in this direction has already been set in Ahmedabad where under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi during the last 15 years, labour and capital have worked hand in hand and evolved machinery by which industrial disputes are peacefully settled. In the event of any differences between labour and capital, the case is first submitted to a ~~San-~~

Conciliatory Board, then to arbitrators and finally to an Umpire whose decision in the matter is binding on both the parties. The course of industrial disputes in Ahmedabad will show that this method has proved fairly successful in practice. Unless a basic principle like this is adopted in all the industrial centres, the country will be very greatly handicapped in attaining a high level of industrialisation.

India and the I.L.O.: Referring to this subject Mr. Lalbhai said: "India, as one of the eight industrially advanced nations of the world, occupies a very important position at the International Labour Organisation at Geneva. I had the honour to represent you as Indian Employers' Delegate on two occasions in 1929 and 1934 at the 12th and 18th Sessions of the International Labour Conference. My impression was that the I.L.O. did not exercise that influence which an Organisation of its nature and position would have been rightly expected to possess on account of the fact that many of the industrially advanced countries which were a party to the passing of the conventions, did not either ratify them or give legislative effect to them. This did not mean that the moral influence of the conventions passed at these Conferences was any the less for this feeling. Though British India has not lagged behind in adopting many of the conventions, it is difficult to see this to continue unless the Indian States can be brought in line with British India in this respect. The I.L.O. Director's Report drew pointed attention to the far-reaching changes that had taken place regarding industrial production and the treatment of labour during the last few years in countries like Russia, Italy and the U.S.A. It also surveyed the steps that were being taken in various countries to introduce a regime of "planned economy". I could state from my experience in the working of the Labour Conferences at Geneva that it would be highly detrimental to the interests of Indian industrialists if they are to remain indifferent about the deliberations of this international body. Important industrial countries, such as Great Britain, France, Italy send out as many as four to six Advisers with each Delegate, while Japan and South Africa send out at least two to three. I, therefore submit that the Government of India should nominate a sufficient number of advisers with a view to enable the non-official Delegate to properly discharge his duties at Geneva. Besides, to preserve continuity of delegations is very essential if India is to exercise any influence at these Conferences.

Unequal Competition from States: It is highly unfair to an industrialist in British India that his markets should be assailed by a rival in an Indian State who can afford to compete with him not because of his superiority in efficiency or ~~technical~~ technique but on account of the numerous administrative concessions that he is able to enjoy. By way of specific instances, it may be mentioned that while the 54 hour week has been adopted in British India, only a few miles away in Indian States factories are working 60 to 65 hours a week. Similarly, there is no liability for the Workmen's Compensation Act in most of the Indian States. Both labour and factory legislation has moved apace in British India, without imposing a corresponding responsibility on the States and this aspect

is daily assuming a serious form with the ratification of International Labour Conventions by the Indian Legislature. Besides, there is no income-tax in many States and, in some cases where there is one, industrial concerns are sometimes exempted either for a period or permanently. Other concessions are often granted, ~~as~~ such as cheap finance, free gifts of land and lower railway freights. One State is known to be maintaining a huge fund for the establishment and development of industries within its area. The result is that today there are two rival economic areas, each with an independent set of rules and practices, but competing for the same market. In the circumstances, it is natural that there should be a drift of capital towards the Indian States. It may be pointed out that the cotton textile industry in the States has advanced by 141 per cent since 1913, while the increase in British India during the same period is only 31 per cent. This experience is being repeated in the case of sugar, cement and other industries. When the scheme of the restriction of the output of coal was under consideration, it was pointed out that it would be upset by increasing the production of mines in one of the Indian States. With ~~the~~ advance in mining legislation, these inequalities are bound to assume greater proportions. The opportunity of the impending constitutional reforms should be used to remove such inequalities and establish uniform industrial and labour legislation for British India and Indian States.

a copy of
 (Summarised from the Presidential Address sent to this
 Office by the Secretary of the Organisation.)

Mr. Padampat Sanghania was elected President of the Organisation for 1935-36. †

8th Annual Meeting of Federation of
Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Delhi - 1935. +

The eighth annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 30- & 31-3-35 under the presidentship of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, President of the Federation. The Conference was well attended by representatives from all parts of the country and in addition by many members of the Central Legislature. No Government member was, however, present. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address. (A copy of the Address has been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/744/35 dated 4-4-1935).

Changes in the Constitution of the Federation. - The President referring to the desire of the General Body to revise the constitution of the Federation in the light of the experience gained in its working for the last seven years, said that the question was first referred to a committee and then to the member-bodies. The committee have now entrusted it to the President and the Vice-President with a view to secure a greater measure of agreement on several of the suggestions made by the Member-bodies. Another important domestic question is the appointment of an Officer at the headquarters of the Government of India, which was decided upon by the committee with a view to create a link between the representatives of the public on the Central Legislature and the Federation. He will also act as a liason officer between the Government of India and the Federation. Such an officer has not yet been appointed.

Government of India Bill.- Referring to the impending constitutional changes in India, Mr. Lalbhai said: "Amongst the many momentous questions before the country, the economic regeneration of the masses has become a question of paramount necessity and the country is showing ~~ix~~ a remarkable sense of unity to attain that objective. This solidarity is essential at the present juncture, as the country is face to face with grave constitutional issues. It is perhaps needless to say at this stage anything at length against the scheme of political advance envisaged under the Government of India Bill. But it must be emphatically stated that the proposals underlying the Bill on which the Reforms are based, appear to be deliberately framed with a view to cripple the political and economic progress of the country. While there has been an advance in the matter of provincial autonomy, the Reforms have not conceded any substantial political power at the Centre. The system has been so devised that we will have no control over the services, the military and practically 80 per cent of the total

expenditure out of the taxable revenue, and its provisions of checks will lead to a continual wrangle amongst the responsible Federal Ministers. On the other hand, for this meagre political gain, the country is being permanently saddled with communal representation, indirect elections and safeguards unknown in the constitution of any other country."

Economic Subservience.- " In the economic sphere, the Bill has introduced new principles which will have the effect of perpetuating the economic drain of the country. ^{interests} To safeguard British interests, the Indian Legislature has not only been deprived of the right of undertaking any measures, which will have the appearance of discriminating against them either directly or indirectly, howsoever necessary those measures may be, in the best economic interests of India, but also the Governor-General has been empowered to negative any executive action, which, in his opinion, savours of such discrimination. It has also been provided that no discrimination should be made in granting subsidies between Indian concerns and British concerns established in India. Taken together with the special provisions relating to Shipping, in the absence of an absolute right to the enjoyment of the Coastal Trade, India can never hope to build up her Mercantile Marine. In short, all these provisions relating to safeguards, commercial discrimination and shipping, render completely ineffective the inherent powers of a country's legislature to adopt any fiscal policy or measures best suited to the economic interests of the country."

Trade Conditions.- The President giving a brief survey of the economic conditions of India during 1934 said that it has changed a little for the better. During the year, the general index of prices remained practically constant at 90, and the index of export commodities which are mainly agricultural, continued to move at a lower level from 69 to 72, thus indicating that, so far as the bulk of the people were concerned, their real income did not show any material improvement. ~~This increase is in line with the increase in the price of gold from the figure of 100 to 105.~~ Both the Coastal Trade and the Rail-borne Trade showed slight improvement. Though it might be admitted that recovery in other countries has influenced the foreign trade to a certain extent, there are hardly any signs of a recovery of a permanent nature and but for the export of gold, it would have been difficult to maintain the exchange at sh.1/6d. The improvement noticeable in some of the industries compares favourably with either the state of agriculture or the foreign trade. As a reflection of this improvement, the value of Industrial Securities has been rising during the year, but in many cases this rise has been more ~~due~~ due to the abundance of funds seeking investment rather than to any significant changes in the material conditions of the industry. Neither the yield on those securities nor the indices of production justify these increases except perhaps as precursors of better times to come.

Injurious Effects of Ottawa Pact.- The United Kingdom being the only supplier of manufactured articles within the Empire, the advantages conferred on India under the Ottawa Scheme outweighed the

the benefits which India shared along with the Dominions as suppliers of raw materials. The workings of the scheme, even according to the Government of India's report for the period ending March 1934, does not indicate any material benefit to the export of agricultural produce of India. On the other hand, the repercussions of such a policy has already begun to be felt in the measures taken or contemplated by countries like France, Italy, Roumania and Belgium. This policy has been deprecated even by Germany. The direct effect of this Scheme has been to impede the creation of direct markets with foreign countries in a number of articles and to encourage entrepot trade in London markets. It has to some extent checked the growth of internationalism in trade relations between India and the other countries of the world and even provoked foreign countries with colonial possessions to create close preserves on lines similar to those created by the United Kingdom. It has been argued that the Empire market is the only stable market and that it would be in India's interest to develop it. But India, as a substantial producer of raw materials, cannot, in the long run, afford to depend upon one single market - however stable - at the risk of losing her place in the other important foreign markets of the world. Even the United Kingdom which initiated the move of preserving Empire market for Empire countries, has all along during this period been concluding trade treaties with a number of foreign countries and it would be to India's advantage if she is to follow suit by negotiating independent trade treaties with her best foreign customers.

Statutory Railway Board.- Referring to the working of the Indian railways and the proposed Statutory Railway Board, Mr. Lalbhai said that it has been increasingly felt during the year under review that there should be a radical revision in the relations that the Railways bear to industries. The Railway authorities have still to realise that the Railways exist for a cheap and efficient service of the public and not for securing a particular percentage of return on the capital invested. To do the latter, is a comparatively easy matter in India, as most of the Railways are concerns of state monopoly. But to run them efficiently and cheaply, so that the freights do not weigh too heavily on the traffic, requires ability and breadth of vision, which the management sadly lacks. The existing rate structure is thoroughly out of date and needs a complete revision in its outlook and practice. This has to be undertaken at an early date, with active participation of commercial and industrial interests. The serious losses of the coal are largely due to this policy of the Railways, and Indian export trade in oil-seeds, particularly in groundnuts, is being captured by other countries on that account. Hopes of such an unsatisfactory situation being remedied in near future under the Federal Government have been shaken by the very objectionable proposals specifically laid down in the Government of India Bill for the constitution of the Federal Railway Authority. These proposals are in contravention of the promises so far given at the Round Table Conferences that the Indian Legislature will be given free hand in constituting the Federal Railway Authority. An emphatic protest should be lodged against these proposals in the Government of India Bill which will make the Federal Government and its Ministers helpless in the administration of railways in as much as all important powers have been vested in the Governor-General. Unless the Railway authority

is made responsible to the Federal Legislature through its Ministers, the trade and industry of the country will not derive the fullest advantage of transport facilities as in other highly developed industrialised countries of the world.

Indo-British Trade Agreement.— Mr. Lalbhai in dealing with the recent Indo-British trade agreement expressed the opinion that in matters industrial, notwithstanding the growing ideals of economic self-sufficiency in other countries not excluding the United Kingdom the policy of rapid industrialisation has not been undertaken. But the new orientation which is being given to the Tariff Policy, though Trade Agreements, and which will leave the country with a shadow of protection is a matter of grave and more immediate concern. Those who argue that the Indo-British Trade Agreement is to be short-lived, or those who say that it gives Lancashire no more than what it already enjoyed, ignore the real point at issue. It is not so much the concessions themselves, which are to be deprecated, but the fact that attempts are being made to convert these concessions into the basic principles of the Tariff Policy. A reference to the Report of the Fiscal Commission, however, will show that the Commission never contemplated the principles of the price differentials as an integral part of the scheme of protection. Therefore, enunciating new principles of such far-reaching importance, in negotiating a trade agreement, without giving the country a chance to express its opinions on the same, cannot be justified on any grounds. Another harmful innovation introduced is that the margin of protection between the United Kingdom goods and the foreign goods shall not be altered, so as to be detrimental to the interests of the United Kingdom goods. The most objectionable feature of the Agreement is that the United Kingdom industrialists can object to the continuance of protection to any of our industries at any particular level at any time. Unless there is a reasonable guarantee that the protection granted will be continued for a sufficiently long period, no industry will be able to undertake a programme of capital investment, with a view to increase its productive equipment, and the country will be no better off for all its sacrifices. No Government has been known to have surrendered such valuable principles unmindful of its own requirements.

Trade Agreements. - These Agreements, — the Ottawa, the Indo-Japanese and the Indo-British— will terminate shortly. At that time instead of the negotiations being rushed through, sufficient material should be made available to the public to gauge their effects on trade and the industry of the country. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the practice of securing greater trade privileges by means of separate agreements, is increasing and it will be found necessary to enter into many such agreements in future. In concluding them, care will have to be exercised that the concession granted in one market, does not adversely affect another and our losses in one do not outweigh our gains in another. The Indo-Burma Agreement is already under consideration. It is the direct outcome of the political separation forced on Burma, and the preservation and continuance of the economic status quo can be its

only justification. It is, therefore, stressed that any understanding arrived at between the two countries should grant to Indian business, labour and capital, the same freedom and privileges that they have been enjoying so far. It should also be provided that Indian goods entering Burma will continue to receive the same treatment as hithertofore.

Economic Planning. Mr. Lalbhai declared in conclusion: "Perhaps, the only relieving feature of the year is the growing consciousness in the country that all is not well with our economic system as it should be. It is being increasingly realised that, though India is potentially one of the richest countries, the development of her resources is insignificant as compared with the progress achieved by countries, like Japan and Russia. The necessity for planning has been realised acutely, and in many directions that feeling has taken a more concrete form. No progress can be achieved, however, unless these attempts are properly co-ordinated with a definite goal to be reached. If the economic resources are to be used to the best advantage and if any conflict of interest is to be avoided, there should be a clear conception of such an ideal towards which the society is expected to evolve. The misdirected attempts at crop restrictions show what can happen in the absence of such an ideal, when the real issue is to raise the income of the people. Equally misplaced are the efforts undertaken in several provinces either to drive out the moneylender or to substitute him by an agriculturist money-lender. Whatever his fault may be, it has been universally recognised that he has rendered a very useful service to the rural economy, which is difficult to be replaced by any other agency for some time to come. Yet, to single him out as the only cause of the hardships of the agriculturists, is not only unwise at present, but also unjust, seeing that in effect, he is being deprived of his property. In a co-ordinated society, he can be transformed into a beneficent institution. The main objective in our case is to increase the purchasing power of the agriculturist, and any scheme of reorganisation that we undertake, must have this as the real and ultimate goal. It will mean on the one hand an increase in the productivity of the soil, through a reform in our methods of cultivation, and on the other, several re-arrangements which will enable him to use the existing purchasing power to better economic ends. The first ideal is certainly more ambitious, but it is so closely bound up with other questions that one feels, it would be better for the present to concentrate on the second, and allow it ultimately to lead to the first. The institution of Land Mortgage Banks and the Co-operative Credit Societies will be helpful in this direction, but their progress will have to be far more rapid, and the funds at their disposal far larger, if they are to be of any service to the agriculturist. The entire credit structure should be so linked up with the Reserve Bank and the commercial Banks that it will put much larger funds at the disposal of the agriculturist. However, much the largest burden is the top-heavy structure of our administration, which weighs him down by taking away a large part of his income through direct and indirect taxes. In no country, such a huge share of a small income is devoted for the up-keep of the state. The primary necessity of the hour is,

therefore, a reduction of this expenditure and its proper distribution directly over services which will benefit the agriculturist. Without it, all schemes of reorganisation will result in nothing. Even these improvements will leave a larger number of people on land than what it could support; and a larger time than what they can gainfully occupy. No doubt, a part of this surplus population will be absorbed in the major industries as they develop, but what it really wanted, is a greater decentralisation of some of our industries, and the development of our Cottage Industries."

The following are the more important of the resolutions passed at the meeting:-

1. Government of India Bill.- "The Federation most emphatically disapproves of the Government of India Bill based upon the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The constitution laid down in the Government of India Bill does not in any way conform or approach to the promises and pledges held out to India from time to time, and is more reactionary than the White Paper Scheme. The Scheme proposed is based upon complete distrust in the sense of fairplay of Indian Nationals and their ability to govern their own country and postulates a numerous safeguards in the interests of British trade and industry which cut at the very root of fiscal autonomy and are a direct impediment in the way of national trade and indigenous industries, apart from their degrading character which no self-respecting nation can accept."

2. Statutory Railway Authority.- "The Federation emphatically protests against the decision of His Majesty's Government to specifically lay down the constitution of the Federal Railway Authority in the Government of India Bill which makes departure from the promises given at the Round Table Conferences that the Federal Railway Authority would be constituted under an Act of the Indian Legislature

The Federation condemns the proposals for the constitution of the Federal Railway Authority as laid down in Part VIII of the Government of India Bill, all the clauses whereof make the Federal Government and its Ministers helpless in regard to Railway administration inasmuch as all the important powers have been vested in the Governor-General. Unless these proposals are radically revised and the Board made responsible to the Federal Legislature through the Ministers, it is apprehended that the interests of Indian trade and industries will be jeopardised and Indianisation of services will suffer indefinitely."

3. Safeguards and Commercial Discrimination.- "The Federation considers the 'safeguards' provided for in the Government of India Bill as being unduly rigid and the provisions against discrimination as being of such a comprehensive and sweeping character as are likely to cause abuse of power to the serious detriment of the country's industrial and commercial development.

In the opinion of the Committee, the proposals regarding Shipping are particularly retrograde and are calculated to bar

for ever the development of an Indian Mercantile Marine."

4. Indians and Burma Separation.- "This Federation is of opinion:-

(i) That the Joint Parliamentary Committee's findings and aspersions on Indians in Burma and the provisions made in the Government of India Bill for the promulgation of orders restricting immigration of Indians are unjust and unwarranted in view of the long association of Indians with Burma and their substantial contribution to the development of Burma;

(ii) That the provision in the Government of India Bill vesting in the future legislature of Burma the power to restrict the free entry of Indians into Burma or to impose conditions on immigrants makes it particularly invidious that British subjects domiciled in the United Kingdom are exempted from such restrictions;

(iii) That paragraph 2 in Clause 435 of the Government of India Bill whereby statutory recognition and approval are given to such laws as to prohibit or restrict sale of agricultural land is, in view of special circumstances, in practice bound to become of a discriminatory and expropriatory character;

(iv) That with regard to the franchise applicable to the Indians, no variation should be made which will place them at a disadvantage compared with the franchise applicable to them at present;

(v) That as there are a large number of persons in Burma who are not Indian subjects of His Majesty domiciled in British India but are subjects of Indian States, the sections applicable to Indian subjects of His Majesty domiciled in British India should be made applicable to these persons also as they are carrying on business or professions in Burma and thus have large interests;

and resolves to urge upon the Government of India and the Secretary of State that when Burma is separated from India, there should be adequate statutory protection for Indians in all matters and in particular provision should be made with regard to:

- (i) unrestricted right of entry,
- (ii) carrying on of any occupation, trade, business, or profession,
- (iii) holding of property and public office,
- (iv) the right to reside and travel, and
- (v) right to alienate land and other properties without any restriction."

5. Indians Abroad.- "The Federation views with grave concern the persistent anti-Indian policy of the Colonial Office which, if unchecked, will ultimately cause the ruination of Indian settlers in several parts of the British Empire.

In view of the sudden adoption, some months ago, by the Government of Zanzibar of several Decrees which have the cumulative effect of perpetually restricting the right of the Indian community to trade in a land where it has established itself for a long time

52

prior to the British Protectorate, the Federation urges upon the Government of India to press for the early adoption of Mr. K.P.S. Menon's recommendations.

The Federation enters its protest against the recommendations of the Morris Carter Commission on land in Kenya, which if adopted, will impose a definite legal ban on Indians to buy land in the Highlands.

With reference to the Report of the Colonisation Enquiry Committee regarding the position of Indians in South Africa, the Federation urges the Government of India to bring pressure to bear upon the Government of the Union of South Africa to carry out the Cape Town Agreement of 1927 under which South Africa has undertaken to treat the Indian population as an integral part of that Dominion and to assist them to advance to the level of the European population.

The Federation is emphatically of opinion that the Trade Convention of 1815 between Great Britain and the United States of America under which American merchants in India enjoy complete freedom of trade in India, whereas Indian merchants in America are subjected to various restrictions unfair as well as out of date, should be amended on the acceptance of the general principles of reciprocity now governing international relations in respect to trade and commerce.

The Federation, while being emphatically opposed to the proposed transfer of the civil administration of Aden from India to the Colonial office, urges that in any event, the rights of Indians in Aden as regards trade, industry, profession or calling, should be in every respect protected and that the trade between Aden and India, in so far as industry run by Indian capital and personnel in Aden is concerned, should continue to enjoy the same protection and facilities as in India till now."

6. Rural Indebtedness.- (a) "This Federation places on record its unequivocal disapproval of the legislative measures adopted in certain provinces with the avowed object of relieving agricultural indebtedness but the scope of the provisions of which has been so extended as to enable the bigger land-holding interests to evade their lawfully contracted debt obligations to the serious prejudice of the interest of indigenous bankers.

(b) The Federation further urges on the Government of India that fundamental principles of legislation on the subject of rural indebtedness should be uniform in all provinces and should not be determined without previous consultation with the Reserve Bank, one of whose main functions will be the maintenance of adequate credit conditions in the rural areas".

7. Indo-British Trade Agreement.- "The Federation offers its felicitations to those Members of the Assembly and the parties that lent their support to the stand taken up by the Federation in

recording their decisive verdict against the Indo-British Trade Agreement and strongly protests against the Government of India in not acting up to the verdict of the Assembly; the Federation further warns the British commercial and industrial interests that any agreement arrived at over the head of the Indian commercial community is likely to do them greater harm than good".

8. Coastal Trade. - (a) "In order to develop Indian shipping and in order to enable India in future to take her legitimate place in the ocean traffic of the world, this Federation urges upon the Government of India the necessity of taking steps to reserve the coastal traffic of India to Indian ships by legislation.

(b) "In view of the repeated declaration of policy by the Government of India for providing for an adequate participation of Indian shipping in the coastal and overseas trade of India and their undertaking to facilitate the growth and the expansion of the coastal trade of India in so far as that coastal trade is operated by Indian agencies and through the instrumentality of Indian capital, this Federation urges upon the Government that -

- (i) the share of Indian-owned and managed tonnage should be increased from 23.7% as at present to 51% of the total tonnage engaged in the coastal trade during the next five years and that the liftings of cargo of the coast by Indian shipping should be similarly increased from about 25% as at present to 51% on the whole coast during the next five years.
- (ii) that as regards overseas trade Indian-owned and managed shipping should as a first step be enabled to have 50% of the services between Madras and the Straits and between Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports during the next five years and that for this purpose a subsidy or bounty not exceeding 1 million rupees a year should be given to Indian-owned and managed vessels."

9. Coal Industry. - "The Federation records its condemnation of the policy of the Government of India in not affording any relief to the coal industry which is in a very depressed state for a long time by doing away with the surcharge on railway freight on coal and further urges upon the Government to undertake, in consultation with the trade concerned, suitable measures to give adequate relief to it."

(Summarised from the Presidential Address and Text of Resolutions sent to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).

Office Bearers for 1935-36. - The following have been elected office -bearers for 1935-36:

Mr. Padampat Sanghania, President; Mr. D.P.Khaitan, Vice-President; Mr. G.D.Birla, Sir Furshottamdas Thakurdas, Mr. Manu/subedar, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. N.R. Sircar, Mr. Chunilal, B. Benta, Mr. W.L.Dahukar, Mr. Ramjidas Vaish, and Mr. P.S.Sodhbans, members of the Executive Committee.

(A review of the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held in 1934 was given at pages 38-45 of April 1934 report). +

Annual Meeting of Millowners'

Association, Bombay, 1934 - 35. +

The annual meeting for 1934-35 of the Bombay Millowners' Association was held at Bombay on 15-3-35. Mr. H.P.Mody, Chairman of the Association, in his speech made a general review of conditions in the cotton textile industry during the year. The following is a brief summary of the speech:-

General.- Though ~~x~~ there was no substantial improvement in world conditions, the textile industry was in a somewhat different position. While the United States and some other countries showed a decline in production, output in Japan continued to increase, and it was expected that by the middle of 1936, her spindleage would reach 10 millions as against a little over 2 millions in 1913. Indian production went up also, and when the complete figures were available, they would show a substantial increase over those of the previous year. This result was largely due to the increased activity in Bombay.

Optimism about Industry's future.- In the latter half of 1933, a number of mills had to be closed down or were forced into liquidation, and over 40 per cent of the productive machinery had to remain idle. A healthier outlook set in, however, during the year under review, and some of the mills were re-started under new management, with the result that the proportion of idle machinery was reduced to 20 per cent at the end of 1934. There was a future for the industry in Bombay, perhaps not as bright as in the past, provided production was not allowed to go beyond a certain level and Bombay utilised to the full the natural advantages she had in the manufacture of finer goods. The increase in the extent of double shift working which took place also reflected the change in the view point. At the end of 1933, only 11 per cent of the looms were working night shift. Within 12 months, this percentage had increased to 30.

Need for Restriction of Output.- But when all over the country mills begin to turn out more and more cloth, the problem assumes an aspect, which compels serious consideration. There was a definite limit to India's present capacity to consume cloth, and in one way or another, the supply must be regulated to the demand. It must not be forgotten that Japan enjoyed in Indian market a quota which was capable of going up as high as 400 million yards. The needs of the agricultural population have been largely responsible for India's submission to this quota. It follows that we cannot assume that every increase in Indian production will automatically mean the displacement to the same extent of the imported article. An organised and well regulated control of output is therefore necessary in the interests of the industry. The alternative is an indiscriminate resort to double shift working resulting in sudden spurts in production, followed by an equally erratic abandonment of that process as soon as the inexorable laws of demand and supply assert themselves. With these considerations in mind, the Committee of the Millowners' Association, approached mills all over India with a view to exploring the possibility of organised control of double shift working. While a large measure of agreement with the view-point of the Committee was forthcoming, there was not that unanimity which alone could ensure results. An organised effort must be made once again if the conditions which prevailed towards the end of last year are not to reproduce themselves.

Indo-Japanese Pact. - Reviewing the working of the pact, Mr. Mody said, the Association was of opinion that the permissible maximum of Japanese textile imports is excessive and detrimental to Indian interests, more particularly owing to the exclusion of artificial silk piecegoods from the quota. Fents also are outside its scope, and owing to the duty on them having been fixed at 35 per cent attempts have been made to pass off what are really cotton piecegoods as fents. The quota figures for 1934 have just been published, and they show that during the year the gross imports of cotton piecegoods from Japan were 344 million yards, out of which 58 million yards were re-exported.

The Wages Question.- Regarding this subject Mr. Mody said that while the strike was going on last year, the Committee of the Association undertook the task of ~~xxx~~ bringing about some sort of uniformity in the wages paid to the various classes of operatives and did away with a great many anomalies. The future is largely in the hands of the workpeople. They can raise their earnings and their standard of life by the attainment of a greater degree of efficiency, and to the extent to which they contribute in this fashion to economy in production, they will be ensuring the continuity of their employment and raising their economic status.

The Indo-Lancashire Agreement.- Lancashire was seeking to implement the undertaking given to use more Indian cotton, and it is a matter of great gratification to find that her takings reached

the record figure of 360,000 bales in the last Cotton Year. If the goodwill which the Agreement did so much to foster subsists, Great Britain will be one of the best customers of India in respect of the cotton crop whose value to the agriculturist cannot be over-estimated.

The Task Ahead.- Mr. Mody concluded with a discussion of the future of the industry and said that the most urgent steps for rehabilitating it were restriction and control of output, scrapping of old plant and installation of new and up-to-date machinery, and concentration on production of finer types of goods, coupled with efforts to enhance the purchasing power of the masses and improve their standards of living.

Sir Joseph Kay was elected Chairman of the Association in succession to Mr. H.P.Mody.

(The Times of India, 16-3-35)

57

Workers' Organisations.

The 1st Madras Printers' Labour Conference, 24-2-1935.

The first Madras Printers' Labour Conference was held at Royapettah, Madras, on 24-2-35 under the presidentship of Mr. C.R. Srinivasan, Editor of "Swadeshamitran". A large number of workers and visitors were present at the Conference which was formally declared open by Mr. V.T. Arasu, M.L.C. Mr. Arasu in opening the Conference stressed the necessity for workers in printing establishments organising themselves into a strong union to safeguard their interests.

Conditions of Service of Press Workers. - Mr. R. ^{sabhapati} ~~Sabapati~~,

Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the members ~~devoted~~ ^{dwelt} on the serious problem of unemployment among press workers. Besides unemployment there were other problems which affected the workers in printing concerns. Their terms of service ~~was~~ were very hard. For instance, ~~generally~~ there was no ^{general} provision for sick leave, casual leave, provident fund or bonus. Sufficient attention was not always paid to the sanitary and hygienic needs of workers in the printing presses. There was no uniformity in the matter of bonus and in some cases even boys of tender age were worked for twelve hours at a stretch. The workers were also not well led. There were ~~x~~ some individuals, who, he said, for their own selfish ends were trying to pose as leaders of labourers, though they had no more following than a few workers. He warned the workers against such leaders. He also stressed the necessity of labour being well represented on all public bodies and in this connection condemned the proposals on the subject in the Report of the Joint

Parliamentary Committee. Mr. Sabhapati also advised the workers to actively support the Village Industries Association sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi.

Presidential Address.- Mr. Srinivasan, in the course of his presidential address, stressed the great importance of labourers organising themselves. He declared that the interests of labour and capital were not conflicting ones. He said that trade unions had a double duty to perform - a duty to safeguard the legitimate interests of the worker and a duty to save the labourer from himself i.e. to ~~train~~ inculcate in him the value of thrift, education and loyalty and to equip and energise him in the pursuit of a higher ideal in life. The responsibility of Trade Unions in a subject country is really greater than in a free country; they have to study not merely immediate interests but also ultimate interests, for on the latter rests the emergence of permanent safeguards for labour, and enlightened labour leaders would do well to think ahead of time, and educate their following to a clear and correct grasp of factors and forces implicit in the situation. Labour cannot avoid politics. In conclusion he advised workers to organise themselves and to work in concert with the Indian National Congress in order to achieve Swaraj.

Resolutions.- A number of resolutions were passed at the Conference, the following being some of the more important of them:

1. Support of Village Industries Association.- A resolution moved from the chair accorded support to the Village Industries Association started by Mahatma Gandhi.

2. Leave with Pay.- The Conference recommended to employers in the printing industry to grant to the workers a month's privilege leave with full pay for every completed eleven months' service.

~~SECRET~~.

3. Removal of Salary Cuts and Grant of Increments.- A third resolution urged the removal of the salary cuts imposed during the period of depression, and asked for the grant of regular increments to the workers.

4. Living Wage. ■ The Conference urged that workers should be assured ~~of~~ a decent living wage.

5. Rejection of J.P.C.Report.- The Conference passed a resolution rejecting the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report, as it did not contain sufficient safeguards to protect labour interests.

6. Workers' Delegate to 19th I.L.Conference.- The Conference recommended to the authorities to nominate Mr. D.Krishnaswami Pillai as a delegate to represent Indian labour at the forthcoming International Labour Conference at Geneva, and disapproved of the proposal to nominate Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar for the position.

7. Standard Scale of Pay.- Yet another resolution was passed requesting the employers in the printing industry in the city to fix a standard scale of pay for the employees and to reduce the working hours to seven hours a day and asking for the abolition of the piece-work system.

(The Hindu, 25-2-1935). †

Associations of Government Employees in Bombay:

Rules for Recognition. ✓ †

(1) Government Industrial Employees' Association.- The Government of Bombay have issued the following rules for the recognition of associations of their industrial employees:-

1. Government is prepared to accord official recognition to associations of its industrial employees. The grant and continuance of recognition rests in the discretion of Government, but recognition when granted will not be withdrawn without due cause and without giving an opportunity to the association to show cause against such withdrawal.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the rules relating to the submission of petitions and memorials by Government servants, representations from recognised associations whether made orally by deputation, or presented in writing, may be received by Govern-
-ment

officers, subject to the observance of rule 6 and to such further restrictions as may be imposed by Government in respect of representations which raise no question of common interest to the class represented by the association.

3. Recognition will not ordinarily be granted or continued to any association unless it complies with the following conditions:-

- (i) it must consist of a distinct class of Government employees;
- (ii) all Government employees of the same class must be eligible for membership;

~~4. Government may require the regular submission of~~
~~the~~ (iii) it must be registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act.

4. Government may require the regular submission of copies of the rules of any recognised association, of its annual accounts and of its list of members.

5. No recognised association shall maintain a political fund except with the general or special sanction of Government, and subject to such conditions as Government may impose.

6. Government may specify the channel through which representations from recognised associations shall be submitted and the authority by whom deputations may be received.

7. The officer who is empowered to grant leave to a Government employee will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an employee who is a representative of a recognised association to attend duly constituted meetings of the association. The grant of such leave will be subject to the exigencies of the service, of which the officer in question shall be the sole judge.

8. Government may delegate any of its powers under the preceding rules to any authority subordinate to it.

9. These rules supersede all previous rules in respect of all associations to which they are applicable.

Explanatory Note.-The term "industrial employees" has not been defined, but its general meaning is well understood. It includes workers in Government factories, mines, railways, plantations, and other classes of workers engaged on what is generally regarded as "labour". The wider term "employees" has been preferred to the term "servants" which might be inappropriate in certain cases.

(Pages 108-109 of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, October 1934). †

(2) Other Government Employees' Associations.- The Govern-
ment of Bombay have issued the following rules for recognition of
associations of their employees other than those of industrial
employees to which special rules apply:-

Part A.- Rules applicable to Government employees in Depart-
ments other than the Police and Prisons Departments.

1. Government is prepared to accord official recognition to
associations of its employees which comply with the conditions
set out in the following rules. Representations from such asso-
ciations, whether made orally by deputation, or presented in
writing, may be received by Government officers, subject to the
conditions set out in these rules, and notwithstanding anything
contained in the rules relating to the submission of petitions
and memorials by Government servants.

Note.- Nothing in these rules affects the discretion of the
Governor to receive or not to receive a deputation
from any association.

2. The association must ordinarily consist of a distinct
class of Government employees.

3. Every Government employee of the same class must be eligible
for membership of the association.

4. Ordinarily Government will not object to persons who are
not in the active service of Government being office-holders of
the association, but Government reserves the right in particular
cases of refusing recognition to associations of which all the
office-holders are not either in the active service of Government
or honourably retired officers belonging to the same class of
Government employees as the association represents.

5. No representation or deputation will be received, except
in connection with a matter which is, or raises questions which
are, of common interest to the class represented by the association.

6. Government may require the regular submission, for its
information, of copies of the rules of the association and the
annual statement of its accounts and of lists of its members.

7. Government may specify the channel through which representa-
tions from the association shall be submitted and the authority
by whom deputations may be received.

8. The officer who is empowered to grant leave to a Government
employee will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an
employee who is a representative of a recognised association to
attend duly constituted meetings of the association. The grant
of such leave will be subject to the exigencies of the service,
of which the officer in question shall be the sole judge.

9. (1) Government may delegate any of its powers under rules 1 to 8 to any authority subordinate to it.

(2) Government may make subsidiary rules relating to the recognition of associations of classes of Government employees subordinate to it.

Part B. - Rules applicable to employees in the Police and Prisons Departments.

The rules in Part A shall be applicable to associations of employees in the Police and Prisons Departments with the following additions to rules 2 and 6 and the substitution of the following rules for rules 4 and 5 -

Rule 2.- The association shall also consist of such distinct rank or ranks of employees as Government may prescribe: provided that Government may accord recognition to particular associations of specified ranks of employees in the Police Department of which specified ranks of employees in the Excise Department are also members.

Rule 4. No person who is not in the active service of Government or an honourably retired officer belonging to the same class of Government employees shall be an office-holder of the association.

Rule 5. No representation or deputation will be received on questions of discipline or of promotion affecting individuals.

Rule 6.- No rule of the association shall be valid until it has received the approval of Government, and Government may from time to time require the modification of a rule or proposed rule in a particular manner.

(Pages 430-431 of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, February 1935).

Attention is directed in this connection to page 45 of our September 1934 report where reference was made to the lifting of the ban on Associations of Government servants in Madras. ↵

Ban on Indian Communist Organisations:

Government of India Communique. ✓

At pages 61-62 of our July 1934 report was given the text of a Government of India notification declaring the communist party of India and its organisations unlawful and at pages 61-62 of our report for September 1934 the reply of the Home Member, Sir Henry Craik, to an interpellation on the subject in ^{the} Assembly was given. The Government of India issued on 21-3-35 a statement to the effect that 24 organizations have been banned on the ground that they had for their object interference with the administration of law. The following is a summary of the main points brought out in the statement:—

Reasons for Ban.— On July 23, 1934, the Government of India declared the Communist Party of India, its committees, sub-committees and branches, to be unlawful associations under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 on the ground that they had for their object interference with the administration of law and the maintenance of law and order and constituted a danger to public peace. The reasons for this action were that it ~~has~~ been held judicially by the Allahabad High Court in the Meerut case that the Communist Party of India aimed at the violent over-throw of the present order of society and bringing about the independence of India by means of an armed revolution and sought to secure this object by means of mass action, strikes, demonstrations, etc., culminating in a general strike and an armed insurrection.

"Draft Platform of Action." - In amplification of this statement the Government gives extracts from the "draft platform of action" which first appeared in December, 1930, in the International Press Correspondence, the official organ of the Communist International and copies of which were circulated at the Karachi Congress in March 1931. The Government had evidence to show that attempts were being made by Communists in various parts of India to carry out the programme outlined in the "draft platform" which would eventually lead to a massed revolution and that, as in other countries such as the U.S.A., Communists were endeavouring to secure control over workers' organizations to create thereby revolutionary organisations of workers which would control the bona fide labour organisations. They were also attempting to inculcate revolutionary and Communist ideas into the peasants, in particular in the Punjab, were starting youth workers' leagues in Madras and Bombay and in other industrial centres, and in

64

Bombay and Calcutta were endeavouring to obtain control over the trade Unions.

24 Subsidiary Organisations Banned.- In view of these facts the Government recognised the necessity of taking action, not only against the Communist Party of India but also against subsidiary organisations which were working in support of its programme and adopting the methods which it had suggested. The Punjab Government, therefore, on September 10 last year declared unlawful five associations, including the Anti-Imperialist League, the Punjab Kirti Kisan Party and the Amritsar Kirti Kisan Sabha. In Madras the local Government on November 20 last year declared unlawful the Young Workers' League, which in a criminal case was found to have imbibed all the doctrines of the Communist International to spread the doctrine of Communism in the worst form". There was also reason to believe that this League, which was in no sense a bona fide trade union or labour organisation, was in touch with the Communist International. In November the Bombay Government took similar action against five associations which were described in a communique to be controlled by Communists,. Finally, the Government of Bengal took action against 13 associations which were under the control of local Communist agitators.

Bona-fide Trade Unions left free.- The statement adds that the account of the action taken by the local Governments shows clearly that no action had been taken against bona fide trade unions or labour organisations, but only against those which are working in support of the objects of and adopting the methods recommended by the Communist International. The Government hopes that the action taken by the Government of India and local Governments will tend to hamper the work of Communist agitators and prevent the spread among the uneducated working classes and uneducated cultivators of revolutionary Communist ideas.

(The Statesman, 22-3-35). +

Strengthening Collective Bargaining Capacity of
Indian Trade Unions: Proposal for Joint
Committee. ✓ +

The following statement signed by Mr. N.M.Joshi, Mr. V.V.Giri, Mr. S.R.Ruiker, Mr. B. Shiva Rao and Mr. Hariharnath Shastri, has been issued to the Press on 12-3-1935:-

Fundamental Differences.- During the last four years, several attempts have been made to bring about unity between the different organisations of the workers. These attempts have unfortunately failed in their purpose, and it must be recognised that the failure is due, in part at least, to some of the differences proving fundamental in character.

Disunity - A source of Weakness. - At the same time every one who has been connected with one or the other of the workers' organisations must acknowledge that lack of unity has had serious and adverse effects on the conditions of the Indian workers; and further that so long as there is no unity, the interests of the workers are bound to suffer.

Need for Joint Action.- Bearing both these considerations in mind, we have come to the conclusion that even if complete unity in the sense of an amalgamation of the different bodies be not immediately possible, it is essential that some machinery should be brought into existence so that joint action by the several organisations may be practicable wherever the interests of the workers are threatened.

Proposal for Joint Committee.- We therefore, suggest to our respective organisations that a beginning may be made in a Joint Committee, to consist of ten representatives of each organisation. This Committee would be entrusted with the task of drafting lines of common action which when approved by the respective organisations can be put into operation by the Joint Committee and all the affiliated units of those organisations. There should be, in our opinion, no decisions taken by votes at meetings of the Joint Committee, but decisions shall be taken by mutual agreement.

A Limited Scheme.- This procedure, we venture to think, will have the merit of facilitating ^{action} where action is both possible and desirable; where we differ we shall agree to differ, without allowing those differences to lead to mutual recrimination. Along these lines we feel there is the greatest chance of achieving success, not only within the more modest limitations we are placing upon ourselves for the present, but ultimately ^{in bringing about} even that larger unity which all of us have at heart.

Office Bearers.- The General Secretaries of the National Federation of Trade Unions ^{Federation} and All-India Trade Union Congress shall act as the joint conveners of the first meeting of the Joint Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-3-35). ↓

66

Intellectual Workers.

The Half-Yearly Meeting of ^{the} Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta. ✓ +

The half-yearly meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association was held at Calcutta on 24-2-35 under the Chairmanship of Sj. Mrinal Kanti Bose. The Secretary of the Association presented the report for the half year covered by July 1934 to December 1934. Prominent in the programme of the Association during the half-year ^{were efforts} related to the securing of (1) better conditions of service for the working journalists, (2) common holidays in all newspaper offices, (3) attempt at securing services for ~~the~~ unemployed journalists and (4) fixed and uniform hours of work etc. A movement is also on foot to bring ~~the~~ working journalists more in touch with the office-bearers of the Association and to cultivate better fellow-feeling and better understanding among all members of the profession.

The idea of teaching ~~of~~ Journalism in the Calcutta University was first incorporated in the programme of the Association in 1930 and the matter was mentioned in the annual Report for 1930-31. A scheme of studies was prepared and submitted to the Calcutta University authorities. Since then the Executive of the Association have been in communication with the University which appointed a sub-committee to deal with the question as early as January 1932. After the appointment of the present Vice-Chancellor the matter was prominently placed before him and ^a revised scheme was submitted. It is gratifying to note that it has been able to interest him in the matter ~~so~~ so much so that a series of lectures by Sj. Mrinal Kanti Bose, ~~is~~ the President of the Association, on the subject of Journalism in its various aspects has been arranged in the University. The lecture delivered by Sj. Mrinal Kanti Bose has forced the attention of other Universities to the necessity of introducing the subject in their curriculum of studies.

(The Amrita Bazar & Patrika, 1-3-1935) +

Economic Conditions.

Relief to Baroda Agriculturists:

Details re. Relief Works Proposed.

Reference was made at page 57 of our February 1935 report to the Order of the Government of Baroda regarding the provision of relief works for the alleviation of distress in the State due to damage to agricultural crops brought about by the ^{severe} winter of 1934-35. In pursuance of the order to open up relief works in all the districts of the State for unemployed field workers, the Baroda District Local Board has, it is understood, decided to take up projects amounting to about Rs. 450,000 this year and have arranged to give contracts for raw material and implements. The projects generally consist in the construction of fair-weather roads in the district, repairs to village tanks and irrigation canals, the schemes for which have, it is said, been already prepared, but are lying in abeyance for want of funds. It is to ensure work in sufficient quantity for local labour, in accordance with the instructions of Government to keep them employed till the next cultivation season begins, that the decision to utilize the reserves appears to have been arrived at. Similar efforts to relieve the prevalent distress are reported as being made in the other districts.

(The Statesman, 5-3-35). +

Development of Hand-loom Industry:

Madras Government's Scheme.

References were made at pages 66-67 of our July 1934 report and at pages 34-35 of our November 1934 report to the decision of the Government of India to give grants to the different provinces for ~~in~~ a period of five years for carrying out approved schemes for the development of the hand-loom industry of the country. At pages 49-51 of our May 1934 report was given the main features of a scheme adumbrated by the Madras Government for the development of hand-loom industry in that province. Fuller details of the Madras Government's scheme, which has been approved ~~of~~ by the Government of India, are given below. The scheme contemplates the establishment of a Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society at Madras with a number of Primary Weavers' Production Societies in select places in the districts linked to the Provincial Society.

The Central Co-operative Society.— The Central Co-operative Society will comprise of persons who sympathise with the lot of the hand-loom weavers, firms engaged in the production, distribution of sale of raw-materials required by hand-loom weavers, and co-operative societies intended mainly for the benefit of weavers. The work of the society will be to raise the money required by issue of shares and by borrowings; to purchase either for cash or credit such raw-materials and appliances as may be required for the industry and retail the same either for cash or credit to the affiliated societies; to grant advances to affiliated societies; to purchase and hold in common or let on hire improved appliances connected with the industry; to purchase or receive for sale the finished products of the affiliated societies and sell the same to the best advantage; to purchase and supply the requirements of the affiliated societies; to establish and conduct one or more depots for the sale of the products of societies; to do such other acts as may help the development of the hand-loom industry or improve the economic condition of weavers; and to receive contributions for such purposes and carry out the objects of the contributions.

The Provincial Co-operative Society in Madras will be started with an authorised share capital of Rs. 500,000 divided into 10,000 shares of Rs.50 each. The society will be managed by private persons subject only to the general control by the officers of the Department of Industries and Co-operation acting as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the ~~Saxx~~ Society. The amount of Rs. 59,000 sanctioned by the Government of India will be contributed to the Provincial Co-operative Society as subsidy. The area of the Provincial Co-operative Society's operations will extend to the whole of the Madras Presidency.

District Primary Societies.- The District Primary Societies will be production organisations and will be assisted by the Central Society in securing supplies of raw-materials such as yarns, dyestuffs, chemicals as also improved appliances and in disposing of the surplus stock of goods left over after local sales.

Marketing Officer and Cloth Designer.- A Marketing Officer and a Cloth Designer will be attached to the Central Society, while five Marketing Agents stationed at important centres will direct the operations of the Primary Production Societies. Persons with experience of the trade in hand-loom goods and who could furnish guarantees or assurances for marketing definite quantities of fabrics produced by the primary societies in the different areas, will be enlisted as District Marketing Agents. The technical guidance of the officers of the Industries and Co-operative Departments will be freely available for the Provincial as well as District societies.

(The Hindu, 26-2-1935) +

Development of Handloom Industry:

Bengal Government's Scheme. ✓+

In pursuance of the decision of the Government of India to give grants to the provincial governments to develop the handloom industry (vide pages 66-67 of our July 1934 and pages 34-35 of November 1934 reports), ~~The~~ Government of Bengal ~~kh~~ave formulated a scheme for the resuscitation of the hand-loom industry of the province.

Early Efforts. - The Press Officer, Government of Bengal, in a communication on the subject, outlines the scheme in detail and says that following upon the recommendations of the industrial Commission of 1914-16, an attempt was made by the Government of Bengal to organise the hand-loom industry on co-operative lines. In spite of difficulties arising from the conservatism of industrial workers, their distrust of co-operative organisations and above all the hesitation of central banks - accustomed to landed security - to make advances against finished products, the Co-operative Department of the Government succeeded in organising a good number of weavers' societies. Arrangements were also made for the supply of capital for purchase of raw materials and for disposal of finished products turned out by the societies. With the multiplication of societies, it was felt that the federation of these societies into unions for facilities ~~of~~ supply of capital and disposal of products was necessary. Accordingly industrial unions were formed and registered at Dacca, Bankura, Chittagong, Satkania (Chittaganj), Rajpura (Noakhali), Chaumohoni (Noakhali) and Naogaon (Rajshahi).

When after a few years' working acute difficulty was experienced in the disposal of finished products of the affiliated societies, the industrial unions were federated into a provincial organisation known as the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Society Limited with a view to giving them relief. For want of funds however this provincial society was not of much assistance to the affiliated bodies in securing markets. Its activities were mainly confined to the maintenance of a sale depot at Calcutta, to which the Government ~~in~~ in the initial stages made a subsidy of Rs. 12,000 a year. In the first few years the stuff turned out by the societies found ready sale. But with the increase of foreign competition and the growth of power-using factory industry in India the hand-loom industry showed signs of decay.

Causes of Decay of Hand-loom Industry.- The main cause for deterioration of the hand-loom industry generally and of the business of the Co-operative Societies in particular was that the

71

goods produced by hand-loom compare unfavourably with mill made goods in design, texture and finish as well as in price. Before however any earnest attempt could be made to improve the quality of the finished products and reduce the cost of production in the hand-loom industry, the industry was hard hit by the economic depression.

The New Scheme: Difficulties in the Way of Progress.- The Government of Bengal have now formulated a scheme with the grants of the Government of India for the resuscitation of the hand-loom industry in the province. In preparing the scheme the Government have taken into account the difficulties which have retarded the progress of the hand-loom industry. These may be enumerated as follows:- (1) absence of training of weavers in new designs of patterns, texture and finish, (2) difficulty of obtaining yarn at a cheap rate, (3) want of expert advice to reduce the cost of production to a minimum, (4) difficulty in disposal of finished products.

Strengthening of Co-operative Industrial Unions.- The scheme is to strengthen and improve the structure of the co-operative industrial unions of weavers which have already been built up by the Cooperative Department. The work will proceed on the following lines:-

(1) The area of operation of a Co-operative Industrial Union will be taken as the unit for the development of handloom industry.

(2) The boards of Industrial Unions will be reconstituted and men with experience of textile industry included therein.

(3) ~~There~~ One weaving and dyeing expert will be appointed for each Industrial Union for the present, and it will be his duty to train up the weavers in new designs of patterns, texture and finish and also in dyeing and improved process of weaving. The expert will also advise the weavers in the matter of reduction of cost of production, and the Union regarding the disposal of such finished products as can be sold in the locality.

(4) For the supervision of every 20 Weavers' Societies there will be one Supervisor with technical knowledge of weaving. The duties of these Supervisors will be to superintend the distribution of yarns to individual members of societies, to see that the weavers carry out the instructions of the weaving expert about designs and specifications and to collect the finished goods in good time.

(5) Suitable warp preparation machinery, dyeing appliances and Jacquard and other up-to-date improved looms will be supplied to the Industrial Unions for the benefit of the affiliated societies.

The Provincial Industrial Society.- The Provincial Industrial Society at Calcutta will supply yarns ~~to~~ at cheap rates to the Industrial Unions for transmission to their affiliated societies as far as their resources will permit. For this purpose the

Provincial Industrial Society will ascertain the demands of the unions sufficiently in advance and make an attempt to have

the supply from wholesale dealers. The Society will also supply dye stuffs, chemicals and other accessories of handloom weaving to the Unions.

Other functions of the Provincial Society will be to receive from the Industrial Unions such stuff as will not be locally sold, ~~and will~~ find a market ^{for them} in Calcutta and to advertise and carry on necessary propaganda for the sale of these products. The Provincial Society will be assisted in its work by two canvassers and one designer for the present. The designer will study the taste of the public with regard to new designs in ornamentation and texture and prepare designs accordingly which will be communicated to the weaving experts attached to the Industrial Unions in various districts

Marketing Officer.- A marketing officer will be appointed to supply information regarding market conditions to the Provincial Society as well as to the Industrial Unions and to push on the sale of the finished products of the societies in this province and abroad.

Research Staff.- A special research staff, consisting of an expert textile organizer, two artisan assistants and one workman labourer, will be entertained and located at the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, in view of the facilities provided by the Institute. The main functions of the staff will be to study the changing fashions of the market, to watch the opportunities for new ranges of textures and ornamental ~~xx~~ styles likely to attract the public and to demonstrate to the weavers the methods and changes in their processes necessary to accommodate themselves to the market. The staff will be employed with the special object of ~~x~~ ~~xxxx~~ assisting those groups of weavers who are not organized into Industrial Unions, though the results of the research will be equally at the disposal of the co-operative bodies.

(The Statesman, 1-3-1935).

Development of Hand-loom Industry: The U.P. Scheme.

As the Madras and Bengal Governments have done, (vide the two previous items) the Government of the United Provinces also have drawn up a comprehensive five-year plan for the development of the hand-loom industry in the province.

Preliminary Survey.- As a preliminary to the introduction of the scheme it is proposed to have a survey of the existing conditions of the handloom industry in order to enable the authorities

to render assistance at different centres according to the capacity of the weavers. The survey, it is understood, will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Features of the Scheme.- Certain centres will be chosen for intensive work and the products of these centres will be graded and selected for marketing, for which purpose agents will be appointed. The services of good designers will be utilised for producing new designs to suit the taste of the consumers. There will be marketing organisations, which will advertise and market goods, and agents will be attached to these organisations. The designers will be attached to the existing central textile institutions at Cawnpore and Benares, where research in weaving, dyeing and printing will be conducted. Improved looms and appliances will be introduced at the centres. Special provision is made for demonstrations and for loans ~~of~~ improved appliances to weavers.

The scheme aims at organising the weavers of the province on a co-operative basis so that eventually the entire scheme may be taken over by a federation of co-operative societies at different centres. A start will be made with the existing co-operative societies, but those centres which at present have no co-operative societies will not be excluded.

For marketing the central organisation will try to appoint subsidized sole-buying agents who will agree to stock and sell finished products.

(The Statesman, 5-3-35).+

74

Employment and Unemployment.

Relief of Unemployment.:

Resolution in Council of State Defeated.

On 13-3-1935, Rai Bahadur Lala Jagadish Prasad moved in the Council of State a resolution urging the Government to take adequate and effective steps to relieve unemployment in the country. He said unemployment was felt not only among the educated and middle-classes, but also by the masses. While distress was universally acknowledged, the Government, which was the custodian of the welfare of the people, had done practically nothing to tackle the problem. In other countries Governments had found a solution in many ways. In Russia they had a five-year plan. There were schemes like slum clearance and a subsidized housing scheme and road development on an extensive scale. The Government of India should first reorganize the educational system with a view to giving education a vocational bias and making it less literary. He asked why India should not have a five-year plan of economic reconstruction and why the Government should not ~~borrow~~^{take} a loan for the starting of new industries.

Sir Phiroze Sethna.— Sir Phiroze Sethna agreed that the system of education in India should be changed so that ^{the} thousands of graduates now being sent out by the universities might receive vocational training to equip them in life. Sir Phiroze, however, did not agree with the mover of the resolution that a partial solution may be found in the development of cottage industries and the adoption of a five-year plan of economic reconstruction and said that the establishment of industries could ^{not} be undertaken on an extensive scale by the Central Government. These should be undertaken more by the Provincial Governments.

Mr. P.C.D. Chari.— Mr. P.C.D. Chari was of opinion that thousands of students, failing to find employment when coming out of universities, were driven to despair and naturally imbibed the cult of terrorism and communism.

Mr. Mitchell. - Mr. Mitchell, Secretary of the Industries and Labour Department, said that the Government was well aware of the distress in villages and towns and among educated unemployed. This, however, was due to a maladjustment of the economic machinery. The world had gone off its head, and there were talks of inflation, deflation and the prohibition of imports, etc. One thing that the Government of India had done was to keep its head above water, balance the Budget and maintained the credit of the banks. This was a remarkable achievement ~~done~~ ^{achieved} by very few countries in the world. The Government had launched on capital expenditure on roads, civil aviation, broadcasting, etc. All these had been done well within India's means and without the slightest damage to her credit. Concluding, Mr. Mitchell emphasised that the Government had no wild schemes, and India was really in a better ^{economic} position than most countries.

The resolution was rejected by 34 votes to 18.

(The Statesman, 14-3-1935). +

"Unemployed" Day Demonstrations on 4-3-1935.

Some time back the All India Trade Union Congress decided to hold country-wide demonstrations to bring before the public and ^{the} authorities the acuteness of the unemployment problem in the country and sought the co-operation of their affiliated unions and outside labour unions and Federations to hold on 4-3-35 ^{an} ~~the~~ "All India Unemployed Workers' Day". The National Trades Union Federation also took part in the demonstrations, and ^{on that day} mass meetings were held and processions taken out in many parts of the country. The following are typical resolutions passed at many of the labour meetings held on that day:

"This meeting, while realising that the capitalist economy can never solve the life and death problem of the masses, namely unemployment, which is its own creation, calls upon all unemployed workers to carry on a country-wide agitation for work or unemployment relief and resolves to call an Unemployment Conference at an early date". This meeting also demands the immediate introduction of Seven-Hours' Day all over India without reducing the workers' wages with a view to providing unemployed workers with employment."

(The Hindu, 6-3-35).

Relief ~~to~~ Rural Unemployment in Madras :

Big Programme of Public Works. ✓ +

One of the demands in the Madras Budget for the year 1935-36 is in reference to Rs. 1,437,000 for an accelerated and widespread programme of improvements to minor irrigation works as a means of relieving rural unemployment. The following are the details of the scheme of the Madras Government as explained in a note prepared for the Finance Committee which has sanctioned it:

Schemes of Public Works to Relieve Unemployment.- In view of the present economic depression and consequent unemployment among the rural population, it has been suggested that Government should undertake schemes involving capital expenditure on Public Works which will not impose a recurring liability in the future, and which can be financed from balances to the extent available, and from loan funds, and at the same time prove of direct benefit to the rural population. It was also suggested that one promising method of achieving the object in view would be to undertake a widespread scheme of improvements to the irrigation tanks in the Presidency.

A Three-Year Plan.- The Government have carefully considered the various proposals and the suggestions made by the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and after discussing them at a Conference with the Commissioner for Land Revenue and Settlement and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, have decided that, provided arrangements can be made to debit the expenditure to a capital head, the best course is to adopt an accelerated programme of minor irrigation works in the charge of the Revenue Department

77

and of minor works in the charge of the P.W.D. in a three or four year plan. This would be primarily directed to strengthening the bunds, and where necessary other parts, of irrigation works so that the expenditure on ordinary maintenance would be greatly reduced for some time thereafter. There would be the further advantage that earth work on the scale necessary would result in some clearance of silt in proximity to bunds and sluices. The programme provides for an ultimate expenditure of Rs.15 millions (on both 'works' proper and the special establishment necessary for the purpose) spread over a period of three years, and the works selected would be spread out as far as possible over the various districts, due regard being had to the availability of labour, the possible working season, and to the fact that the possibilities will be less in areas like the deltas. This expenditure of Rs.15 millions is intended to be in addition to, and independent of, the usual minor irrigation programme of repairs to be carried out by the ordinary staff in both Revenue and Public Works Departments.

Detailed proposals have been called for from the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The Government of India have also been addressed to sanction a relaxation of the expenditure to a capital head.

(The Hindu, 9-3-35). +

Social Conditions.

The Madras City Beggars Bill, 1935:

Introduced on 23-1-1935. ✓ +

Mr. C. Basu Dev introduced in the Madras Legislative Council on 23-1-1935 the Madras City Beggar Bill, 1935 (Bill No.4 of 1935) to provide for the better controlling of beggars in the City of Madras. The following is the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill:-

In 1924, the Corporation of Madras appointed a committee to consider and formulate proposals for the better control of professional begging in the City. One of the recommendations of this Committee was that the Madras City Police Act of 1888 should be amended with a view to (a) including within its scope beggars suffering from contagious diseases, (b) giving to Magistrates power to commit able-bodied beggars to recognized work-houses or settlements and infirm or diseased beggars to recognized alms-houses or hospitals. It was also recommended that Magistrates should be empowered to sentence refractory or turbulent beggars to imprisonment, and to deal with child-beggars under the Madras Children Act of 1920.

This Bill seeks to carry out these recommendations by amending the Madras City Police Act of 1888, and the Madras Children Act of 1920. It also makes provisions for the recognition by Government as suitable settlements, work-houses, alms-houses and hospitals.

The whole purpose of this Bill is to provide the machinery whereby beggars can be removed from the streets of the City and committed to the care of suitable institutions, the able-bodied to places where they will be made to work, the infirm to alms-houses, the diseased to hospitals and the children to certified schools. The law can provide the machinery, but it will be for the public, the municipality and the Government to co-operate in making the machinery effective.

(Pages 28-30 of Part IV of Fort St. George Gazette, dated 5-2-35). +

Measures to Check Traffic in Women and Children

in India: Regional Conferences to Tackle Problem. ✓+

As a result of the suggestions made by the League Commission in order to check the traffic in women and children in India, preparations are now being made to ~~hold~~ hold regional conferences to devise means for tackling the problem. These conferences will be held under the auspices of the Indian branch of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene which is conducted by an advisory committee consisting of the Metropolitan of India, the Bishop of Lahore, Lady Bhowe, Mrs. S.N. Mukherji and Dr. Ruth Young.

The main subjects for discussion at the regional conferences will be:-

1. The present position in the locality, the areas (segregated or tolerated), the numbers of women and children, the type of trafficking involved; also the present position with regard to drink, ~~drugs~~, and obscene publications, films and plays, which are used by traffickers to induce submission by victims and to stimulate the trade. The police, doctors missions, magistrates and teachers may all contribute information.

2. The present position from the legal point of view: Barristers, the police and magistrate will be asked to supplement local knowledge.

3. The present position from the medical point of view.

4. The present position from the educational standpoint, The points for discussion will include such questions as whether there is a considered policy with regard to sex hygiene in places of biological teaching and moral education in every school and college. Some attempt should be made, especially in teachers' training schools and colleges, to explain the meaning of the social hygiene concept, to treat simply of the changing attitudes to the subject of sex hygiene and to help teachers and young people to attain their own adjustment to ~~these matters~~ these matters so that they may use their influence aright and understand that the elements of social hygiene are related to psychology and ethics and the foundation of the family.

(5) The present position with regard to child protection and rescue work for girls and boys in the locality. Included in this section could be a study of the League books showing the work done for minors in other countries. A comparative study of the work in existence in India, with visits to representative rescue or industrial homes, should be part of the planning for the conference.

(6) The present position with regard to finance. Bankers and leading business men should be encouraged to map out a statement, with assistance from certain Departments of the Government, so that a concerted move forward may be made, with funds made available for such needs as a Children's Act, a Children's Court with women probation officers, a woman magistrate and a Children's Home where, if needed, medical treatment and education can be given together so that the child does not remain ignorant and backward owing to absence from normal school life.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-3-35).

The Statesman of 25-3-35, ~~commenting~~^{writing} on the above programme, makes the following editorial comments:

"In India, there are special difficulties not found in other countries, notably in the enlistment of women to do welfare work and in the after care of prostitutes. Owing to the pardah system, women of the better classes are not available in sufficient numbers for this work and in this country, as elsewhere, many women, it is said, condone prostitution as an inevitable evil. So long as their womenfolk adopt this attitude, it is not surprising that the men should be inclined to see no moral wrong in the vice. Nor is it to be wondered that there is a tendency to lay down a different standard of morality for boys and girls. Indian women, with their undisputed authority in the home, have it in their power to revolutionize public opinion in this matter. So far as the after care of prostitutes is concerned, rescue work is handicapped by the difficulty in India of finding work for girls. In the West, honest employment of sorts can usually be found without difficulty for girls who are rescued but social conditions in India at present bar the way. Industrialization has brought another special problem in the checking of vice and, it may be added, the spread of disease in India. Owing to the system of engaging labour that has been prevalent in many places up till now, large numbers of labourers are separated from their wives and families for months in the year and on their return to their villages take with them disease which is spread with disastrous results. This is an aspect of the problem that needs urgent attention from employers of labour and all concerned with the public welfare."

(The Statesman, 25-3-35) +

87

Agriculture.

Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1931-32* ✓ +

The following details regarding agricultural statistics in Indian States are taken from Vol. II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1931-32. This volume deals with statistics for Indian States as far as reported. As in the previous issues, summary tables have been inserted to show the total figures relating to area, the classification of area, and the area under crops for each State or group of States, and the totals for all the reporting States. These statistics are defective for comparative purposes, as additions have been made in the number of reporting States from time to time. Two charts and an index for easy reference have, as usual, been added to the volume. It should be noted that the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Volume I. As these States comprise one-third of the total area of India, the importance of the statistics relating to them can scarcely be over-estimated.

Area & Population of Indian States.- The total area of Indian States is about 458 million acres (715,000 square miles), with a population of 81 millions according to the Census of 1931. These States are divided, for purposes of agricultural statistics, into two main classes, namely, (1) States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations, and (2) States having direct political relations with the Government of India. The total area

* Dept. of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, India. -Agricultural Statistics of India 1931-32 -Vol. II. Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in Certain Indian States.-Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Delhi: Manager of Publications 1934. Price Rs. 4-8 or 7s. 6d. pp. v + 364

of the States coming under the first category is 91,792,000 acres, with a population of 17 millions. The agricultural statistics dealt with in this volume relate only to thirty-one States in the Bombay Presidency, the Punjab, and the United Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 31 States is 8,702,000 acres and the total population 2,005,000.

The total area of States coming under the second category is 365,859,000 acres with a population of 64,204,000. Returns were received from only 39 States in this category, having a total area of 250,088,000 acres and a population of 53,345,000. The total area of all the seventy reporting States coming under both the categories amounts to 258,790,000 acres with a population of 55 millions. These States, therefore, contain about 57 per cent of the total area, and 68 per cent of the total population, of the Indian States. From the total area of all the seventy reporting States (258,790,000 acres), deduction must be made of 115,373,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 143,417,000 acres by professional survey, or 143,381,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of Area. This area of 143,381,000 acres is classified, for purposes of agricultural statistics, as shown below:—

	Thousand acres	per cent
Forests.	16,891	11.8
Not available for cultivation.	26,682	18.6
Culturable waste other than fallow.	17,975	12.5
Current fallows.	12,028	8.4
Net area sown.	69,805	48.7
	<u>143,381</u>	<u>100</u>

The net area sown, however, excludes areas sown more than once in the year. If areas sown more than once are taken as separate area for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 73,882,000 acres.

Irrigation Statistics.- The total area irrigated in the reporting States during 1931-32 was 9,665,000 acres, as against 9,854,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this, 3,047,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 925,000 acres from private canals, 1,566,000 acres from tanks, 2,492,000 acres from wells, and the remaining 1,635,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. These figures, however, do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. If areas sown more than once are counted as separate area for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops amounts to 10,098,000 acres, of which 8,594,000 acres were under food crops.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States was, as stated above, about 74 million acres in 1931-32. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each, so far as details are available, are stated in the table below:-

	Thousand acres	Per cent of total.
Food grains. ...	52,589	71.7
Condiments and spices. ...	405	0.6
Sugar. ...	226	0.3
Fruits and vegetables. ...	706	1.0
Miscellaneous food crops.	1,689	2.3
Total food crops.	55,615	75.9
Oilseeds. ...	6,278	8.5
Fibres. ...	7,026	9.6
Dyes and tanning materials	2	...
Drugs and narcotics. ...	418	0.6
Fodder crops. ...	2,842	3.9
Miscellaneous non-food crops.	1,117	1.5
Total non-food crops.	17,683	24.1

Statistics of Live-Stock, Ploughs and Carts.- According to the latest statistics the total number of live-stock of the bovine class (bulls, bullocks, cows, buffaloes, and young stock, i.e., calves and buffalo calves) is 47,740,000, of the ovine class (sheep and goats), 32,298,000 and of horses and ponies, mules, donkeys and camels, 1,594,000. The numbers of ploughs and carts are 5,858,000 and 1,839,000 respectively.

(The Agricultural Statistics for Indian States for 1930-31 are reviewed at pages 68-71 of our June 1934 report).+-

Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1933-34. ✓

The following information about the estimates of area and yield of principal crops in India for 1933-34 ~~ix~~ is taken from a publication issued on the subject by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. The crops dealt with are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, sesamum, castor-seed, ground-nut, coffee and rubber. The estimates for these crops in the forecasts for earlier years did not relate to all the producing areas in India, but only to those tracts where the respective crops were grown on an extensive and commercial scale. Tracts of minor importance have been added gradually. At present the estimates for cotton, wheat, castorseed (in the case of castorseed, no estimates are framed for the mixed crop of the United Provinces), and jute, as also those for tea, coffee (in the case of ~~the~~ coffee, estimates were hitherto framed for plantations having an area of 10 acres or more; but from 1931-32 statistics of smaller plantations having an area between five and ten acres are also included), and rubber, relate to all the tracts in India where these crops are grown to any extent, excluding certain unimportant outlying tracts such as Baluchistan, Kashmir, Nepal, and Sikkim. For other crops, however, the estimates relate to all the British provinces where they are grown to any considerable extent, but exclude Indian States, except certain States in the Central Provinces, the Rampur State in the

* Dept. of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India -
Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1933-34 -
Published by Order of the Governor General in ~~the~~ Council. -Delhi:
Manager of Publications 1935. Price Rs.1-2-0 or 2s. - pp.55.

United Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency, the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda, the Bhopal State in Central India and the Alwar and Kotah States in Rajputana in certain cases.

Rice.- The provinces to which the estimates for rice now relate are Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Madras, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Bombay (including Sind), and Coorg. The Indian States for which estimates for rice are prepared are Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda, and the Rampur State in the United Provinces, certain States in the Central Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) and Bhopal (in Central India). These tracts comprise about 97 per cent of the total rice area of India. The total area under rice in all these tracts in 1933-34 was reported as 82,699,000 acres, as compared with 82,882,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was, on the whole, fairly good. The total yield was estimated at 30,793,000 tons, as against 31,114,000 tons in 1932-33. To this figure should be added about 1,038,000 tons in respect of other tracts (Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, and certain Indian States) having an area of about ~~559,000 acres~~ 2,787,000 acres for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat. The provinces and States to which the estimates for this crop relate are the Punjab, the United Provinces (including Rampur State), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bombay (including Sind), Bihar and Orissa, the North-West Frontier Province, Bengal, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Central India, Gwalior, Rajputana, Hyderabad, Baroda, and Mysore. These tracts contain a little over 98 per cent of the total area under wheat in India. The total area under wheat in 1933-34 was reported to be 36,062,000 acres, which is greater than the area of the preceding year by 9 per cent. The crop was adversely affected in places by cold, frost and rust, and the condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 9,358,000 tons, which is 1 per cent less than the yield of 1932-33. An addition of some 145,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (Burma, Madras, and the States of Kashmir and Benares) having an area of about 559,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sugarcane.- The provinces to which the reports on this crop relate are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the North-West Frontier Province, Assam, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Delhi. Reports are also received from the Rampur State in the United Provinces and the States in the Bombay Presidency and from Hyderabad, Mysore, Bhopal (in Central India), and Baroda. These tracts contain over 96 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India. The total area reported under sugarcane in 1933-34 was 3,307,000 acres, as compared with 3,317,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be good. The estimated yield amounted to 5,094,000 tons of raw sugar (gur),

which exceeds the last year's record crop of 4,676,000 tons by 9 per cent. To this figure should be added approximately 176,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 114,000 ~~xxx~~ acres), for which no separate estimates are made.

Tea.- The provinces where tea is grown are Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Tripura (Bengal), Travancore, Cochin, and Mysore, In Burma, tea is grown principally for consumption as pickles. The total area under tea in 1933 was reported to be 816,000 acres, as compared with 809,500 acres in the preceding year. The total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was calculated at 383,264,100 lbs., as against 433,669,300 lbs. in the preceding year.

Cotton.- Cotton is grown in all the provinces. The total reported area under cotton was 23,925,000 acres in 1933-34, as against 22,483,000 acres in 1932-33. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated outturn was 5,006,000 bales of 400lbs. each, as compared with 4,657,000 bales in 1932-33, or an increase of 7 per cent. The following statement compared the estimates of yield for the years 1932-33 and 1931-32 with the sum of exports and internal consumption (in thousands of bales). The figures of mill consumption are those compiled by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay, and refer in the case of mills in British provinces to Indian cotton alone. The estimate of mill consumption in Indian States refers to all cotton.

	1932-33 (1000 bales)	1931-32 (1000 bales)
Exports. ...	2,741	1,582
Mill consumption. ...	2,361	2,346
Extra-factory consumption (conjectural).	750	750
Approximate crop.	5,852	4,678
Estimated in forecast.	4,657	4,007

Jute. - The provinces where it is grown are Bengal (including Cooch Behar and Tripura States), Bihar and Orissa, and Assam. It is also grown to a small extent in the Nepal State, but no reliable information is available from that State except the figures of export. The total area under jute in 1933 was 2,517,000 acres, which is 17 per cent greater than that of the preceding year, and the estimated yield 7,987,000 bales (of 400 lbs each), being about 13 per cent above that of 1932. The area and yield of jute in 1934 are estimated to be 2,497,000 acres and 7,939,000 bales.

Linseed.- The provinces to which the estimates for linseed relate are the Central Provinces and Berar, the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab. Reports are also received from Hyderabad, Kotah (in Rajputana), Bhopal (in Central India), the States in the Bombay Presidency, and certain States in the Central Provinces. These tracts comprise about

94 per cent of the total area under linseed in India. The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts in 1933-34 was 3,258,000 acres, as against 3,299,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 379,000 tons, as against 406,000 tons last year. To this figure should be added some 26,000 tons for other tracts (having an area of 222,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Rape and Mustard.— The provinces from which reports are received are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Bombay (including Sind), the North West Frontier Province, the Central Provinces and Berar and Delhi. Reports are also received from the States of Alwar (Rajputana), Baroda, Hyderabad and from the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain about 96 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard in India. The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts in 1933-34 was 6,068,000 acres, as against 6,094,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crops was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 957,000 tons, as against ~~6,094,000~~ acres in the preceding year. ~~The condition of the crops was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 957,000 tons, as against 1,042,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 294,000 acres), for which no reports are made.~~ ^{The condition of the crops was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 957,000 tons, as against 1,042,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 294,000 acres), for which no reports are made.}

Sesamum.— The provinces to which the estimates for sesamum relate are Burma, the United Provinces, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, the Punjab, and Ajmer-Merwara. Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Kotah (Rajputana), Bhopal (Central India) and the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain a little over 89 per cent of the total area under sesamum in India. The total area under sesamum reported in 1933-34 was 6,217,000 acres, as against 6,256,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield was 537,000 tons, as against 551,000 tons in 1932-33. An addition of approximately 58,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts (containing an area of about 674,000 acres under sesamum), for which no reports are made.

Castorseed.— The estimates for the crop relate to Madras, Bombay (including Sind), Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces and Berar and the United Provinces. Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and those in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain practically the whole area cultivated with castorseed in India. The total area sown in these tracts in 1933-34 was estimated at 1,541,000 acres and the yield at 144,000 tons, as against 1,617,000 acres with an estimated yield of 151,000 tons last year. The condition of the crop, on the whole, was reported to be good. The crop was severely damaged in certain tracts by cold wave and frost.

Groundnut.- The estimates for the groundnut crop relate to Madras, Bombay, Burma, and the Central Provinces and Berar. Estimates are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and those in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts comprise a little over 98 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The total area under groundnut in these tracts in 1933-34 was reported to be 8,064,000 acres, which was 9 per cent greater than that of the preceding year. The estimated yield (3,318,000 tons of nuts in shell) was also 10 per cent greater than that of the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good.

Coffee.- The crop is practically confined to southern India, comprising the Madras Presidency, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. The total reported area under coffee in 1932-33 was 176,700 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 32,490,800 lbs. Prior to 1931-32, statistics of plantations of less than ten acres were not taken into account; but from that year the statistics were made more complete by the inclusion of figures for plantations having an area between five and ten acres.

Rubber.- The provinces where rubber is cultivated to an appreciable extent are Burma, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. The total area under rubber in 1933 was 177,100 acres, as against 180,000 acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 14,253,200 lbs, as against 6,381,400 lbs in 1932.

(The estimates of area and yield of principal crops in India during 1932-33 were reviewed at pages 71 to 75 of our June 1934 report).