

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

C 1903/66

Report for May 1934.

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

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References to the I. L. O.

The outstanding event of the month was the holding of the Asiatic Labour Congress at Colombo on 10-5-1934. (A summary of the proceedings of the Congress is given elsewhere in this report). The Congress, and through it the I.L.O., received a fair amount of publicity in the Indian and Ceylonese press.

The Times of Ceylon of 9-5-1934 publishes an interview with Dr. Pillai regarding the I.L.O.'s interest in the Asiatic Labour Congress.

The Veera Kesari, (a Tamil daily of Colombo) of 9-5-1934 publishes an interview with Mr. N.M.Joshi and Dr. Pillai on the aims and objects of the Asiatic Labour Congress.

The Ceylon Daily News of 10-5-1934 publishes the agenda of the Asiatic Labour Congress. The same issue also publishes the time of arrival of the Japanese delegates to the Congress.

The Times of Ceylon of 10 & 11-5-1934, the Ceylon Independent of 11-5-1934, the Ceylon Daily News of 11-5-1934, the Hindu of 17-5-1934, Labour Times, Madras, of 21-5-34, the Servant of India of 24-5-34, ^{the Leader and} and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 25-5-34 publish details regarding the proceedings of the Congress.

Editorial comments regarding the Congress were published by the Servant of India of 3-5-1934, ^{the} Hindu of 12-5-34, the Leader of 21-5-1934, the Financial News, Bombay, of 26-5-34, the Guardian, Madras, of 24-5-34 and the May 1934 issue of Union Herald, Bombay.

The Hindu explains the genesis of the Congress and the interest the I.L.O. takes in the movement and makes the following comments:

"A momentous gathering whose potentialities it would be wrong to measure by its comparatively humble beginnings, met at Colombo

(10-5-1934)
 on Thursday — the first session of the Pan-Asiatic Labour Congress. There may be those who may question its representative character, for there were delegates but from three countries — India, Japan and Ceylon. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that India and Japan between them, representing as they do the two great divisions of Asiatic races, the Aryan and the Mongolian, may well claim to speak for Asia on large questions of policy."

"In seeking to secure a sound standard of living higher than and in any case different from that at present obtaining, the workers of Asia will have the sympathy of the public at large. European labour has hitherto tended to look down upon Asiatic labour unfairly, forgetting the while that its own so-called higher standards were largely built upon the exploitation of Asiatic races. If Asiatic labour were adequately rewarded, Europe and America would not have secured these absurdly cheap raw materials on which their prosperity and in consequence, the higher wages scale of white labour are based. That is why western civilisation has been condemned by more than one thoughtful writer as a "serf civilisation." Asiatic labour can make a distinctive contribution to the world industrial system if it could show that it can spend wisely as well as earn with the sweat on its brow and secure fair wages. To do this, one need not build upon a philosophy of abstinence."

The Leader makes the following comments:

"We welcome the formation of the Asiatic Labour Conference of which the first session was held last week at Colombo. The opinion has often been expressed in Indian and other Asiatic labour circles that the International Labour Organization at Geneva is exclusively concerned with European affairs and European problems, that Asiatic labour has its peculiar problems, and that an Asiatic conference for the purpose of discussing these problems which are entirely Asiatic in nature, will be of great utility. There had already been a feeling that the machinery of the League of Nations was being utilized by the more powerful nations which dominated Geneva for promoting their own imperialist interests, and that the weaker nations whose interests the League was really intended to safeguard, had no voice in its affairs. It would be very unfortunate if the International Labour Organization should similarly be captured by the bigger powers, and if the interests of the weaker nations should be similarly disregarded by that body as they are disregarded by the League of Nations. It should now be possible for India, Japan, China and other Asiatic countries to compel the Geneva authorities with the help of the Asiatic Labour Conference to pay equal attention to non-European problems."

Commenting on the resolution at the Colombo Congress regarding direct representation of workers of Colonies and Dependencies at the I.L.Conferences, the Leader says:

"We remember that about ten years ago a similar demand was made by the late lamented Lala Lajpat Rai who represented the

Indian workers at one of the sessions of the International Labour Conference. But no steps have been taken to redress this grievance. The working classes in, say, South Africa, may be labouring under the most cruel hardships, but because they are not white they are not allowed to send a representative to Geneva. The Union Government may not admit that it is a very unfair arrangement, that while the white working classes and employers should be represented, non-white labour should not be, but if the I.L.O. were to follow the racial policy of South Africa, we would rather wish that the Geneva organisation were abolished altogether. Why then does colonial labour continue to remain unrepresented at Geneva? It will be one of the first duties of the Asiatic Labour Conference to get this policy of racial discrimination abolished, and it is gratifying that the matter is already receiving its attention."

The Guardian, Madras, of 24-5-1934 publishes ^a brief editorial note explaining the history of this ^{for the Asiatic Labour Conference} movement, and the reasons for holding it.

The editorial article in the Union Herald also traces the history of the movement and expresses great satisfaction at the holding of the Congress.

The National Call, the Hindustan Times and the Times of India of 18-5-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 19-5-1934, the Leader, ^(an) the Statesman of 20-5-34 and other papers publish the news of the arrival of Mr. N.M.Joshi and Dr. Pillai at Madras after attending the Asiatic Labour Congress and also a statement issued by Mr. N.M.Joshi on the Congress. The statement contains a brief summary of the decisions of the Colombo Congress.

The Evening News of India, Bombay, of 18-5-1934 and the Times of India of 21-5-34 publish a long statement on the Colombo session of the Asiatic Labour Congress issued by Mr. N.M. Joshi on his arrival at Bombay from Colombo.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 20-5-1934 and other papers publish a statement made to the press by Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta on his return to Bombay, regarding the achievements of the Congress.

The Leader of 30-5-34

The National Call and the Hindustan Times of 22-5-1934, and the Times of India of 25-5-34 publish a statement issued to the press by the Director of this Office on the significance of the Asiatic Labour Congress and the interest in the movement evinced by the I.L.C.

The Hindu of 23-5-34 publishes a long article under the caption "The Asiatic Labour Conference: Potentialities of the Movement" contributed by Mr. B. Shiva Rao.

* * *

"Greater India" (a weekly published from the Cochin State) dated 15-4-34 publishes the Government of India communiqué issued on 4-4-34 announcing the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 18th I.L. Conference.

(For a list of other papers which published the communiqué, vide pages 1-2 of our April 1934 report).

* * *

The General Letter issued by the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association on 1-5-34 publishes the news that Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta has been nominated as the Indian workers' delegate to the 18th I.L. Conference.

* * *

A meeting was held at Bombay on 18-5-34 under the auspices of the National Trades Union Federation to give a send-off to Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta on his mission to Geneva as the Indian workers' delegate to the 18th I.L. Conference. The Conference was presided over by Mr. N.M. Joshi who stressed the important part played by I.L. Conventions and Recommendations in setting up international standards of labour and referred to the work of

of the I.L.O. ~~in the name of~~ workers in complementary terms. Mr. Mehta in thanking the Conference for according him a warm send-off stressed the necessity for workers supporting the I.L.O. wholeheartedly and said that though the League organisations may not represent an accomplished ideal, they at least represent an ideal to be aimed at.

* * *

On the eve of his leaving Bombay for Geneva to attend the forthcoming session of the I.L. Conference as the Indian workers' delegate, Mr. Jambadas Mehta, in an interview to the Press, said that the I.L.O. had been recommending various methods to help the workers to tide over the present economic crisis, like shorter hours of work and grant of unemployment benefits. India, he ~~was~~ complained, has not accepted the responsibility to pay unemployment benefits and said that he would be pressing on the attention of the forthcoming Conference the 'utterly inadequate' nature of the attention paid by the authorities in India to this important question.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 13-5-1934 publishes the communiqué issued by this Office on 15-3-34 regarding the proposed revision of the Convention re. night work of women.

(Copy of the communiqué with three newspaper cuttings was forwarded to Geneva with our minute H.2/622/34 dated 22-3-34. For previous references vide pages 3-4 of our March 1934 report).

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Leader of 13-5-34, the Pioneer and the Madras Mail of 14-5-34, ^{the Hindu of 16-5-1934} the Bombay Chronicle of

18-5-1934 and the May 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 9-5-34 on the Blue Report on the reduction of hours of work.

(A copy of the communiqué was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/976/34 dated 17-5-1934).

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The Statesman of 17-5-1934 publishes a Reuter's cable from London ^{dated 16-5-1934} to the effect that the British Government have informed the I.L.^{Office} that a 40-hour week for industry is impracticable since it is difficult to separate the question of wages from ~~the~~ reduction of hours of work.

* * *

The Hindustan Times and the National Call of 27-5-34 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 26-5-1934 on the Report of the Director to the 18th session of the I.L.Conference.

(A copy of the communiqué has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/ /34 dated 31-5-1934).

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The Hindustan Times of 16-5-34, the Statesman of 17-5-1934, the Free Press Journal of 18-5-34, the Pioneer of 20-5-34, the Hindu of 22-5-34 and the Leader of 26-5-1934 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 15-5-34 on the Blue Report on "Unemployment Insurance and Various Forms of Relief for the Unemployed".

(A copy of the communiqué was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1012/34 dated 23-5-1934).

The Leader of 28-5-34 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Unemployment in India", commenting on the ^{communiqué} ~~communiqué~~ issued by the Office and urges the Government to ^{consider} ~~take~~ measures

~~to solve~~ the problem in India.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 27-5-34 ~~and~~ and the Statesman of 29-5-34 publish the views of the Employers' Federation of India on the items on the agenda of the 18th I.L.Conference, which were communicated by Mr. H.P.Mody, President of the Federation, to Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian Employers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference. In the course of the letter Mr. Mody states that a 40-hour week for industry in India will have to be ruled out as an impossibility for a long time-to come. As regards the question of the employment of women under-ground in mines, the Federation, Mr. Mody states, is in agreement with the scheme, and it is pointed out that the proposal is already in operation in India. As regards the question of night rest for women, it is pointed out that the new Factory Bill incorporates more liberally the suggestion now brought forward. The letter also directs the delegate ^{to} draw attention ^{by the conference} to the paucity of ratifications of I.L.Conventions by Japan and to the violation of the Convention re. night work of women by that country.

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The Hindustan Times of 27-5-1934 reproduces the "Forecast of the Items on the Agenda", "Planned Economy" and "Japanese Competition" published at pages 2, 16 and 14 respectively of the News Bulletin ^{for June 1934,} recently issued by the I.L.O. ~~for June 1934.~~ Copies of the Bulletin were supplied to the Indian press by this Office.

* * *

The General Letter issued by the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association on 1-5-1934 publishes a long summary of the lecture delivered by Mr. S.C. Joshi at Bombay on the question "Can we solve the Problem of Industrial Unemployment"? In the course of the speech Mr. Joshi referred to the lack of unemployment statistics in India and directed attention to the fact that the Government of India had not moved in the matter of implementing the Washington Convention on Unemployment which she has ratified.

(For previous references to Mr. S.C. Joshi's lecture, vide page 5-6 of our March 1934 report).

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The Financial News, Bombay, of 12-5-1934 and the Indian Labour Journal, Madras, of 13-5-34 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 4-5-34 under the caption "World Unemployment Situation" giving statistics of unemployment and employment during the first quarter of 1934 based on a Geneva Communiqué on the subject.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 2-5-34 publishes the communiqué issued by this Office on 14-2-34 under the caption "Special Problems of Seamen: 1935 Maritime Session of I.L. Conference".

(Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/367/34 dated 15-2-1934).

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The May 1934 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes a short summary of the article "India and Geneva" contributed by the Director of this Office and published in the "Whip", Calcutta,

of 9-4-1934.

(A cutting of the article from the "Whip" was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/742/34 dated 12-4-1934).

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Labour Times, Madras, of 2-4-1934 publishes an article on "Settlement of Trade Disputes" contributed by Mr. S.Guruswamy, B.A., Assistant Secretary, All India Railwaymen's Federation. In the course of the article Mr. Guruswamy says:

"It is indeed deplorable that the I.L.O. which is represented as an organ of class collaboration, has not so far made serious attempts to find an international standard formula for the solution of collective labour disputes. The only efforts so far made consist of some pious resolutions moved by De Micholis and Dewan Chamanlal in the 1927 and 1928 Sessions of the International Labour Conference to place the subject of settlement of trade disputes on the agenda of one of the I.L.Conferences. The I.L.O. would be well advised in concentrating its energies on the question of settlement of labour disputes and the creation of a suitable machinery for the same, instead of dealing, piecemeal, on subjects that have importance fluctuating according to the changing economic factors."

The article is reproduced in the April 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, and the April 1934 issue of H.E.H.the Nizam's State Railway Employees' Union Bulletin.

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The Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, dated 30-4-1934, the Hindustan Times of 14-5-1934 and the National Call of 20-5-1934 publish appreciative reviews of the I.L.O. publication "International Survey of Social Services". Cuttings from the above Journal and papers were forwarded to Geneva with our minutes H.1/930/34 dated 10-5-1934, H.1/977/34 dated 17-5-1934 and H.1/1010/34 dated 23-5-1934 respectively. For previous references, vide page 9 of our April 1934 report).

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The Leader of 10-5-34 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Forced Labour," in ~~the~~ ^{the} course of which the refusal of the Government of India to ratify the I.L.O. Convention on the subject is deplored. The article points out that in spite of the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to the Government to take action on the main provisions of the Convention, numerous instances of forced labour occur in British India and Indian States and enters a plea for adopting strong measures to abolish the practice.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle of 19-5-34 publishes an article under the caption "India and the League" contributed anonymously by "An Observer". The writer states that though India is a member of the League of Nations, she has no independent voice in the Assembly as Indian delegations to the Assembly take instructions from Whitehall, and expresses doubt as to the wisdom of appointing officers in Branch offices of the League who are not previously trained in the League secretariat. In this connection, an approving reference is made to the I.L.O.'s practice of sending out Geneva trained men to take charge of its branch offices.

* * *

National Labour Legislation.

Bombay Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1934

(Bombay Act No.V of 1934).

It was mentioned at page 15 of our April 1934 report that the Bombay Maternity Benefit Bill which was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 11-9-1933 and was referred to a Select Committee on the same date, was passed by the Legislative Council on 19-3-34. (For the views of the Select Committee on the Bill, vide page 8 of our October 1933 report). The following is the full text of the Act which has received the assent of the Governor General:

Bombay Act No.V of 1934.

An Act to amend the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act has been obtained for the passing of this Act; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Bombay Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1934.

2. After clause (c) of section 3 of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, hereinafter called the said Act, the following shall be inserted, namely:-

"(d) 'wages' includes the money value of any earned grain concession, and any money paid to cover high cost of living but does not include a bonus given for regular attendance, or any deduction or payment made on account of fines."

3. In section 5 of the said Act —

Amendment of section 5 of Bombay VII of 1929.

(a) in sub-section (1), after the word "day" the words, figures and brackets "in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi, and elsewhere

at the rate of her average daily wage calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna on the total wages earned during a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6, or at the rate of

Bombay VII of 1929.

1 & 6 Geo. V, c. 61.

Short title.

eight annas a day, whichever is less" shall be inserted;

(b) in the proviso to sub-section (1), -

(i) for the word "six" the word "nine" shall be substituted; and

(ii) for the words "notifies her intention" the words "gives notice" shall be substituted; and

(c) in sub-section (2), for the words "seven" and "three" the words "eight" and "four" respectively shall be substituted.

4. For sub-section (3) of section 6 of the said Act, the Amendment of section 6 of Bombay VII of 1929. following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(3) Maternity benefit shall be paid by the employer to the woman entitled thereto after taking her wishes into consideration in any one of the following three ways, namely:-

(i) for four weeks - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner certifying that the woman is expected to be confined within one month next following, and for the remainder of the total period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child; or

(ii) for the period up to and including the day of delivery - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child, and for the remainder of the total period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - ~~namely~~ four weeks after the production of such certified extract from a birth register; or

(iii) for the entire period for which the woman is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - within forty-eight hours of the production within six weeks of her delivery of a certified extract from a birth register stating that she has given birth to a child;

Provided that no woman shall be entitled to any maternity benefit or any part thereof the payment of which is dependent upon the production of a certified extract from a birth register under the provisions of this sub-section unless such extract has been produced within six months of the day of her delivery."

5. In sub-section (2) of section 14 of the said Act, for Amendment of section 14 of Bombay VII of 1929. clause (a) the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) the preparation and maintenance of a master roll of register or a combined master roll and register and the particulars to be entered in such master roll, register or combined master roll and register or in the register

kept or deemed to have been kept under section 35 of the Indian
 XII of 1911. Factories Act, 1911".

6. In section 15 of the said Act, -
 Amendment of section 15
 of Bombay VII of 1929.
- (a) for the words "A copy" the words "An abstract" shall be substituted;
 - (b) for the word "place" the word "manner" shall be substituted; and
 - (c) after the word ~~अथवा~~ "every" the words "part of a " shall be inserted.

Nothing in sections 3, 5 and 4 of this Act shall apply
 Savings. for a period of six months from the date when
 this Act comes into force to any woman who
 shall continue to be employed by the same
 employer for a period of six months thereafter.

Such woman shall be paid the maternity benefit to which
 she is entitled under the said Act in accordance with the provisions thereof, as if this Act had not been passed.

(Extracted from pages 118-119 of Part IV of the Bombay
 Government Gazette dated 9-5-1934).

Madras Maternity Benefit Bill, 1933;

Views of Select Committee.

At page 7 of our August 1933 report was given the Statement
 of Objects and Reasons appended to the Madras Maternity Benefit
 Bill, 1933, introduced by Mr. V. M. Ramaswamy Mudaliar in the Madras
 Legislative Council. ^{on 1-8-1933.} The Bill was referred to a Select Committee
 on 30-1-1934 and according to press reports the Select Committee
 has come to the conclusion after some preliminary discussion, that
 reports should be obtained from the Governments of Bombay and the
 Central Provinces on the detailed working of similar enactments
 in those provinces. The Committee also resolved that the Local

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Government should be requested to obtain the views of the representatives of owners of factories and employers & of industrial labour in this ^{Madras} Presidency, and also of representatives of trade unions on the provisions of the Bill. The Committee recommended that arrangements should be made to obtain such opinions as early as possible.

(The Hindu, 5-5-1934).

Conditions of Labour.

Factory Administration in Mysore, 1932-33.

The following details regarding factory administration in Mysore State ^{during 1932-33} are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State for the year ending June 1933.

Number and Classification of Factories. - The total number of factories coming under the purview of the Mysore Factories Regulation stood at the beginning of the year under review at 186 as against 182 in the year before. 19 factories were registered and 5 struck off during the year leaving 199 on the register at the close of the year. Of these, 18 of them were Government factories, 47 were seasonal factories. Grouped under important industries, 89 were dearticulators, 38 rice mills, 24 textile factories, 12 brick and tile works, 11 Engineering works, 9 flour mills, 7 cotton ginning and pressing factories, 7 printing presses, 7 oil mills and the rest may be classed as miscellaneous.

Number of Operatives. - The average number of persons employed in all the factories in the State rose to 20,223 from 17,132 in the previous year. The number of adults rose from 15,750 in 1931-32 to 19,974 in 1932-33, and the number of children rose from 1,400 to 1,849. 14,020 persons were working in Government factories and 10,519 persons in the textile factories.

Inspection. - 130 factories were inspected by the Inspectors of Factories in 1932-33, against 70 in 1931-32. 109 factories were inspected once, 17 factories twice, and 4 more than twice. 69 factories were left without inspection. Of the 1,849 children employed in factories, only 412 were examined by certifying surgeons and of these inspected, only 215 were granted certificates. The report declares that it is absolutely necessary that certifying surgeons should pay more attention to the examination of children employed in factories, and recommends the appointment of a full time certifying surgeon who could devote his full time for the examination of children employed in the factories in and around Bangalore and Mysore cities and Davangere town.

Health of Operatives and Industrial Safety. - The Inspectors paid attention to the question of ventilation, lighting and provision of drinking water and other sanitary conveniences. These are reported to be satisfactory in the factories located in buildings specially constructed for the purpose. In the majority of factories, the fencing and guarding of machinery were also satisfactory. The total number of accidents reported during the year was 126 against 104 in the previous year. Of these, 6 were fatal, 54 serious and 66 minor ones. Housing accommodation

Administration Report of the Department of Industries & Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1933. With the Government Review thereon. - pp.24.

has been provided for the workers in about 14 factories. Three mills are reported to have devoted attention to welfare works during the year.

Hours of Work. - The daily and weekly hours of work in factories were regulated by the owners of factories in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. Rest intervals were observed in the majority of factories as provided for in section 2(a)(1) of the Regulation. In about five per cent of the factories, work by shifts of eight hours each was in vogue. Sundays are usually treated as holidays but in a few cases other week days are substituted for Sundays. During the year under review three factories were granted exemptions in respect of certain provisions re. hours etc. in view of great pressure of work in them. Managers of eight factories were prosecuted for failure to comply with the provisions of the Regulation. But the proceedings were subsequently withdrawn as the managers submitted their explanations and gave an undertaking to be more careful in complying with the provisions of law.

Ginning, Spinning and Pressing Factories. - 30 ginning factories and 6 spinning factories were working in the State. The Ex-officio Inspectors appointed under the Regulation inspected the factories. The statistical registers were found correctly maintained in all the factories and the lb. weights and scales used by them were accurate. The total number of bales pressed during the year was 21,122 as against 20,575 in 1931-32.

Labour Disputes and Industrial Relations. - There were two labour disputes - one in a textile factory in Bangalore, and another in a mine in Kolar Gold Fields. Both strikes were of very brief duration and did not involve many workers. Excepting the above disturbances, the relation between the employers and the employed was amicable during the year. Seasonal conditions were satisfactory. Food grains continued to be cheap. There was a steady demand for labour and there was no decline in the level of wages. The average percentage of absenteeism in the textile mills amounted to 12 in Mysore and to 10 in Bangalore City as against 11 and 9 in 1931-32 and 14 and 9 in 1930-31.

Action on Whitley Commission Report. - Action is being taken to amend the Workmen's Compensation Regulation and the Factories Regulation in the light of the suggestions of the Royal Commission of Labour in India.

Grant of Maternity Benefit. - Government have sanctioned in G.O.D. 2274-5-I & C. 22532-2, dated 21st April 1933 the grant of maternity benefit to women working in the Factories under the control of this Department.

Board of Conciliation. - The Board of Conciliation constituted under Government Order No.D.600-91- I & C.44531-1, dated 31st July 1931 (vide pages 40-41 of our August 1931 report) met once during the year. There was no occasion for further meetings of the Board. Its existence is reported to have a salutary and reassuring effect.

(Factory Administration in Mysore in 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 40-41 of our July 1931 report, and that during 1930-31 at pages 11-12 of our May 1932 report and that during 1931-32 at pages 15-16 of our April 1933 report).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation

Regulation in Mysore State, 1932 - 33*

The following details regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in the Mysore State ^{during 1932-33} are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in the State for the year ending June 1933.

Number of Cases. - The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 204 ^{in 1932-33} against 212 in 1931-32 and 204 in the year previous. 193 cases were disposed of and 9 cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the 193 cases disposed of, 62 related to fatal accidents, 49 to non-fatal accidents and 82 to the registration of Memoranda of Agreements. The number of claims for compensation for injuries by accidents in the mining industry was 166, in textile factories 34 and in oil mills two.

Of the 204 cases that came up before the Commissioners, 33 cases were contested during the year. In five cases, the claims were allowed. 25 cases were dismissed and three were compromised. A review application under section 8(6) of the Regulation was

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1933. With the Government Review thereon. pp.24.

filed and it was allowed. There were no appeals to the High Court during the year. Of the two appeals pending at the beginning of the year, one was disposed of and the other was still pending when the year closed.

Amount of Compensation Paid. - The total amount deposited with the Commissioners during the year was Rs.40,744-0-5 as against Rs.98,364-8-4 in 1931-32 and Rs.47,596 in 1930-31. A sum of Rs. 33,219-13-0 was distributed among the dependents of the deceased workmen and Rs. 3,647-5-7 was distributed in non-fatal cases as against Rs.87,295 and Rs.6,404-6-4 respectively in 1931-32. A sum of Rs. 3,876-13-10 was pending distribution when the year closed .

Returns Under Section 15. - The annual return for the year 1931-32 under section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation was received from 138 factories out of 182 factories in the State. Returns were also received from all the mining companies and the other concerns in the mining area.

Revision ^{of} Workmen's Compensation Regulation. - A set of draft amendments has been submitted to the Government for amending the Workmen's Compensation Regulation ^{(Regulation} XIV of 1928) in the light of the Indian law on the subject.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1929-30 is reviewed at page 41 of our July 1931 report, that during 1930-31 at page 12 of our May 1932 report and that during 1931-32 at page 15-17 of our April 1933 report).

Conditions of Work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1932-33*

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 each of these departments are given in the table below:-

	Post Office.	Telegraphs.	Radio.	Telephones.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.	73,243,835	25,801,828	633,416	5861,303	105,540,382
Expenditure.	73,851,180	29,149,416	1,095,829	5,633,213	109,729,638
Surplus(+) or Deficit(-).	-607,345	-3,347,588	-462,413	+228,090	-4,189,256

The net results of 1932-33 show a total loss of Rs.4,189,256, as against a total loss of Rs.9,385,146 in 1931-32. Although the department as a whole worked at a heavy loss during the year under review, there was a reduction of nearly 5.2 millions in the amount of the loss as compared with the results of 1931-32, improvements occurring in all branches. As the receipts of 1932-33 were less than those of 1931-32 by more than Rs. .9 millions the reduction in total expenditure amounted to over Rs. 6.1 million.

Effect of Retrenchment on Staff. - Up to the year 1929-30 both the revenue and expenditure of the Department were rising steadily but the expenditure was increasing more rapidly than the revenue. In the year 1930-31 revenue suffered a serious setback 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 economic 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

* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Annual Report for the year 1932-33. - New Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press, 1934. Price Rs.2-4-0 or 4s. - pp.103.

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 magnitude of the saving realized is shown by a comparison of the expenditure during 1932-33 with that in 1930-31. The total saving was Rs. 11,405,000, of which Rs. 6 millions was realized 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. 5,405,000; it may be added that this is a net saving realized after meeting inevitable increases in expenditure such as increments in pay and in charges for interest and depreciation. It has to be noted that the pay of the personnel is the largest single kind of expenditure and as a natural consequence the largest economies have been secured from the pay of the staff.

Strength of Staff; Drastic Reduction in Personnel. - On 31-3-33 the total number of persons employed by the department was 153,411 as compared with 150,412 at the close of 1931-32. The decrease of 3,001 is mainly due to heavy retrenchment of staff effected during the year. The figure/22,411 includes 18,722 extra-departmental postmasters, stamp vendors and others, of the ~~kind described in paragraph 17~~ who are not Government servants in the strict sense of the term, as well as the Financial Adviser and 3,128 members of the Audit and Accounts staff, with 68 military telegraphists. The remaining 101,505 employees were under the direct control of the Director-General. The total number of superior (gazetted) staff was 489; this number includes 124 divisional and other superintendents, 49 postmasters and 73 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 115 assistant and deputy assistant engineers most of whom are in executive charge of engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts.

Magnitude of Postal Business. - At the end of the year there existed 127,000 miles of lines over which mails were conveyed by different agencies. Forty-three new motor lines were opened during the year, 20 of these being in the Bombay and Madras Circles. The following figures give some idea of the volume of postal business transacted during the year:-

Total number of articles handled	1,121,000,000
Total number of registered articles posted.	42,600,000
Total number of insured articles posted.	3,800,000
Value of insured articles posted.	Rs. 1,095,700,000
Postage charges realised.	Rs. 62,400,000
Number of money orders issued.	36,700,000
Value of money orders issued.	Rs. 762,200,000
Value payable post collections.	Rs. 192,300,000

Miscellaneous Operations. - Among the miscellaneous operations of the DEPARTMENT may be mentioned the realisation, for the Customs Department, of import duties to an amount exceeding Rs. 8,500,000; the payment of over Rs. 16,400,000 to Indian Military pensioners; and the sale to the public of over 15,000 pounds of quinine. On the 31st March 1933 there were over 2,700,000 current Savings Bank accounts with a total balance of Rs. 434,500,000, and about 85,000 Postal Life Insurance policies covering an aggregate assurance of nearly Rs. 150,000,000. There were open 25,000 post offices and combined post and telegraph offices at the end of the year; and there were over 60,000 letter boxes in use.

Indebtedness of Indian Labourers in Ceylon:

Solution Sought Through Co-operative Credit Societies.

The problem of indebtedness among Indian labourers working in Ceylon estates has been engaging the earnest attention of the Ceylon Government, the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon and the planters for sometime past. (An exhaustive review of the problem is given in the Annual Reports of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the years 1931 and 1932, which were reviewed at pages 20-27 of our August 1932 and pages 8-14 of our August 1933 reports respectively.) An idea of the magnitude of the problem may be gauged from the evidence tendered by Mr. Reid, formerly Contoller of Labour in Ceylon, before the Whitley Commission when ^{the Commission} it visited Ceylon in 1930; he said: "The Indian labourer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt". The indebtedness of the labourers has been traced directly or indirectly to the prevailing Kangani system of recruitment. Few gangs agree to go to an estate unless they are offered a substantial sum by the Kangany of that estate; nor do workers leave estates except under pressure of their debts or the temptation of

"Cash indentments". Various remedies have been tried so far; these ^{remedies,} for instance the immunity of the labourer from arrest for debt and the abolition of the "Tundu" (an undertaking in writing to discharge a fixed number of labourers on receipt of the amount of their outstanding advances), are based on the principle that all security for debt should be removed. At present, the only security the Kanganys possess is the discharge ticket and the Agent of the Government of India has suggested that the system of Discharge Certificate should be abolished. These measures are only of a negative nature and efforts are now being made to encourage thrift among the workers and with this idea in view, the Agent of the Government of India has proposed to provide facilities for borrowing money at reasonable rates of interest by the starting of cooperative credit and thrift societies which are expected to go a long way in improving the economic condition of the workers. It is understood that the Ceylon Government, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Ceylon, and the Controller of Labour have accorded the scheme their full support. Many planters are also expected to extend their cooperation to bring about a solution to this vexed problem along these lines.

(The Times of India, 22-5-1934).

Wage Reduction in Cotton Mill Industry:
Bombay Labour Office Investigation Concluded.

Reference was made at pages 16-17 of our March 1934 report to the Bombay Labour Office enquiry into reductions in wages in the textile mill industry of Bombay Presidency. The enquiry has recently concluded and the report is expected to be published some time in June 1934.

It is understood that the Labour Office, in the course of the inquiry, has found that the cuts effected in the wages of the operatives have been so diverse that there is a complete lack of uniformity in the cuts. Various explanations have been offered by the millowners, one of which is to the effect that it was not possible to have uniformity, having regard to the weak financial position of certain mills. No fewer than 160 mills have been covered throughout the presidency ^{have been covered} for purposes of the inquiry and a new method for ascertaining the wages is being followed. The wages paid to some 30,000 operatives are being tabulated under 16 occupations. In addition to this, a good many tabulations arising out of the rationalization, variations in wage cuts and the cost of living are being prepared. Moreover, data ^{are} also being extracted from family budgets, with regard to which an inquiry was made in 1932. The Labour Office, it appears, is trying to find out the average earnings of workers employed in the textile industry and the average ^{earnings} of full-time workers, ^{the} people who work throughout the month without absence.

(The Statesman, 27-5-1934).

Unemployment and Wage Reduction in Delhi & Madras

Cotton Mill Industry: Official Enquiry Ordered.

References were made in the various monthly reports of this office for the last two years to the crisis in the Indian textile industry and to the consequent heavy retrenchment in personnel and substantial wage cuts in textile factories throughout the country. Discontent has been rife among textile operatives occasioning a numerous strikes in the industry. These strikes were, however, confined to individual mills till March last; in April the discontentment of the workers was brought to a head by the All India Trade Union Congress launching a general strike in the industry in Bombay on 24-4-1934. From Bombay the strike fever has been slowly spreading to other centres, notably Nagpur and Delhi.

As a result of these developments, the authorities in Bombay and the Central Provinces have initiated special enquiries into conditions of work and wage rates in the textile industry in their respective provinces. (vide pages 20-21 of our February 1934 and page 33 of our April 1934 reports). During the month under review it is announced that an official inquiry into unemployment and the cuts in wages in the Delhi textile industry has been instituted by the Government Industrial Surveyor, Delhi. ^{Province} A comprehensive questionnaire, on the lines of the similar inquiry now being carried on in Bombay, has been issued to local millowners and trade unions for written and oral evidence in this connexion.

(The Statesman, 16-5-1934).

A similar enquiry in the Madras Presidency was ordered by the Provincial Government on 24-4-1934 and is being conducted by the Commissioner of Labour with the Government.

(The Times of India, 3-5-1934)

Textile Strikes.

At pages 34-37 of our April 1934 report were given details regarding the progress of the Bombay textile labour strike (which started on 23-4-1934) till the end of the first week of May. By the beginning of the second week, the situation worsened, the progress of the strike being characterised by acts of violence, intense picketing and arrests of strike leaders and picketers. On 10-5-1934, the strike Committee communicated to the Millowners' Association the following twenty demands for acceptance before the strike could be called off.

1. No further wage-cut and restoration of all cuts effected since January 1933;
2. No further rationalization;
3. Unemployment insurance and maternity benefits at the expense of Government and employers;
4. Reinstatement of all workers;
5. Eight hours duty for day^{time} shift and seven hours for night-shift;
6. Equal wages for equal work;
7. One month's leave with full pay yearly;
8. Minimum living wage of Rs.45 per month;
9. Recruitment of labour through workers' committee to be set up in each mill;
10. Full liberty for the Union to work within the mills and the right of the Mill Committee to supervise the conditions in mills;
11. No victimization of active Trade Union workers and reinstatement of all victimized workers;
12. Fifty per cent reduction in house rent;
13. Well-defined regulations and fair treatment regarding leave, imposition of fines, etc;
14. No recruitment of boys up to the age of sixteen;
15. Consolidated wages;
16. Recognition of Unions;
17. Right of organization, of speech, of assembly, etc.
18. Right to strike and picket;
19. Trade Union legislation and right to organise Trade

Unions within the Indian States;

20. Withdrawal of all repressive laws and anti-labour legislation and release of all political prisoners, ~~and all~~ strikers and strike leaders arrested and jailed during the strike.

A copy of the Committee's communication containing the above demands to the millowners was forwarded to the Governor of Bombay on the same date with an appeal to bring about a fair and equitable settlement. (The Times of India, 12-5-1934).

The twenty demands of the strikers were discussed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association on 11-5-1934. while no authoritative statement on their attitude towards the demands was issued it was understood that the millowners decided not to accept the demands, and to declare a lock-out if the situation ~~did~~ not improve soon.

Since ~~then~~ the strike has continued throughout the month without any change in the situation except for a police firing on a mob of strikers on 16-5-34 for alleged rioting and stoning the police. As a result of this clash between the police and the strikers, all strikers' processions, meetings and demonstrations have been banned and on 25-5-34, there has been a general round up by police of almost all strike leaders of importance.

(The Times of India, 26-5-34)
So far no active efforts have been made either by the parties themselves or by the outside agencies to bring about a settlement of the strike. On 10-5-1934, however, the Bombay Corporation passed after a heated discussion the following resolution with a view to take steps to end the dispute:

"That the Corporation view with grave apprehension the strike situation in the city and they are of opinion that the continuation of the strike will inflict severe hardship on the workers,

will affect the trade and prosperity of the city adversely, and will jeopardize the financial position of the Municipality seriously

"That the Mayor be requested to approach ^{the} Government and impress upon them the necessity of appointing a board of conciliation so that there can be an early settlement of the dispute between the workers and the mill agents."

In the course of the debate on the resolution, Mr. H.P.Mody, President of the Millowners' Association, opposing the resolution declared that upto March 1933, the mill industry in Bombay was paying the highest scale of wages, relative to output, obtaining in any centre of the industry throughout the world. This statement has started a controversy, Mr. R.R.Bakhale, Secretary of the National Trades Union Federation, having issued a press statement ~~refuting~~ ^{refuting} Mr. Mody's claims, (Full details regarding the controversy are published in the Times of India of 12, 15, 18 & 19-5-34). The controversy is still going on. In spite of Mr. Bakhale's challenge, Mr. Mody reiterated the statement which he made in the Bombay Corporation, in the course of his presidential speech at the annual general meeting of the Bombay Millowners' Association which was held on 23-5-34. He also took this occasion to define the millowners' attitude towards the strike. Mr. Mody declared that a compromise was not possible because, in the first place, the cuts in wages were made as a result of enormous losses suffered by the industry during the last ten years and that the wages of labourers were reduced only after all other avenues of economy has been tried, and other interests, like the shareholders and the ^{Managing} Agents, had made huge sacrifices in order to keep the industry going. In the second place, the efficiency of the workers had not increased so as to warrant such ~~as~~ high wages as the employers have been paying. Lastly, the present strike was not a spontaneous

one but was engineered by interested parties, against the wishes of the workers and by the use of intimidation. The ~~Attempt~~^{Attempt} to bring about this strike, he said, had begun long before the wage-cuts were begun. For these reasons, Mr. Mody declared, "We cannot give in to strikes without notice, nor have any truck with those ~~whose~~ ^{whose} aims and methods are so wholly at variance with trade union principles". (The Times of India, 24-5-1934).

No action seems to have been taken as yet by the Mayor ^{of Bombay} in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Corporation on 10-5-34. While the Millowners' Association seems to be firm in its attitude not to negotiate with the Strike Committee for a settlement of the dispute, it is understood that certain individual millowners who are not members of the Association have opened negotiations with the Strike Committee towards the close of the month with a view to ~~end the strike~~ in their respective mills. (The Times of India, 24-5-1934).

The strike in the Shelapur mills which was started on 21-2-1934 has been gradually fizzling out, all the mills working with almost full complement of workers by the end of the month under review.

The textile labour strike in the Empress Mills, Nagpur, which began on 7-5-1934 is still continuing. Mr. R.S. Ruikar and other labour leaders who were guiding the strike were arrested on 7-5-34. Finding the attendance in the mills poor, on 12-5-34, the Management of the Empress Mills declared a lock-out. On the same date, a section of the workers in the Model Mills, which had till then been working with full complement of workers, downed tools, but new men were engaged in their place and the work has ^{been} proceeding ^{uninterrupted}.

Annual General Meeting of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, 1934.

The 1934 session of the annual general meeting of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, was held at Bombay on 23-5-1934.

In the course of his presidential speech, Mr. H.P.Mody said that while the trend of the textile industry in other countries had been in an upward direction, the Indian industry showed a considerable decline and production dropped by nearly 260 million yards.

Bombay mills, he said, were chiefly responsible for this heavy fall in production. On the subject of the industrial progress of the country Mr. Mody declared:

"Our industrial advancement must be in the direction of the smaller industries, and if the Government of India pursue a vigorous policy of giving them every encouragement and assistance which it is in the power of the state to confer, we may see a much more rapid utilization of the resources of the country than has been possible in the past."

Reviewing the events of the year in India, Mr. Mody expressed the view that the most notable events were the trade agreements which India has concluded with Japan and Lancashire. He declared that despite adverse criticisms, he was convinced that the Indo-Lancashire Pact was to the ultimate good of India. Referring to the recent Indo-Japanese trade treaty he said that the negotiations were carried out in a hostile atmosphere and that the course of events which led up to the treaty has taught India the vulnerability of her trade position in depending upon a single country for the marketing one of her most important agricultural produce. He also referred to the Indian Tariff (Textile Protection Amendment) Act as another notable event of the year and said that the Act

"protects every interest but ours".

Mr. Nody, in dealing with the textile strike of Bombay, regarding which details were given at pages 34-37 of our April 1934 and pages 25-28 of our present reports, declared that it is not possible for the millowners to yield to the workers' demands as the industry has suffered heavy losses during the last few years and also because the present strike was declared not due to genuine grievances (vide also pages 27 -28 of the present report).

Mr. Nody also urged early action regarding the diversion of trade from Bombay to Kathiawar Ports which has been engaging the attention of the Government of India and Bombay for some time past. (It may be mentioned here that the Government of India have deputed Mr. W.W. Hind of the Imperial Customs Service to enquire into the matter and a conference of the interests and parties affected by the problem is likely to be held at an early date.).

(The Times of India, 24-5-34)

Mr. H.P. Nody has resigned the Presidentship of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and is joining the Board of Messrs. Tatas, Ltd., Bombay.

Workers' Organisations
The Asiatic Labour Congress.

The first session of the Asiatic Labour Congress was held in the hall of the Ceylon Trade Union Congress, Colombo, on the 10th May 1924 when, India, Japan and Ceylon were represented at the Congress, and the names of the delegates who attended are given below:-

India:- Mr. V.K. Gokhale, M.L.A. (National Trades Union Federation), Mr. M. N. Srinivasan (National Trades Union Federation), Mr. S. G. Joshi (C.I.T. Staff Workers' Union and Bombay Presidency Postal Union), and Mr. V. Purandare (R.D.S.M. Railway Employees' Union).

Japan:- Mr. T. Kikui Kama, Mr. I. Suzuki, Mr. K. Yamaga, and Mr. K. ~~Yamaga~~.

Ceylon:- Mr. A.L. Somasinghe, M.S.C., Mr. S.M. Dassanayake, M.S.C. (C.I.T. Staff Union, Miss J. Perinanda, Mr. G.V.S. Perumala and Mr. K. ~~Perumala~~).

Mr. P.S. Wimal and Mr. P.L. Aruman also attended the Congress by invitation.

Mr. A.L. Somasinghe, the President of the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress, in welcoming the delegates, thanked them for having chosen Ceylon as the venue of the first Asiatic Labour Congress, and said:

"Perhaps the most unhappy workman in the world today is the Asiatic worker of the heinous exploitation and ruthless tyranny that he has to labour under. Many of you present here might in the corridors of the world, established to labor in a better day for the working man and the working woman. That undoubtedly is what is contemplated by the annual conferences held at Geneva. But the grand resolutions passed and the programmes laid out for the benefit of the worker seem to us a hollow mockery, always excluding us of our hapless position; for these nice things are not for us. It was thus opportune that the idea of an Asiatic Labour Congress should have presented itself to those who have the cause of labour at heart and have valiantly fought its battles. Bitter experience has no doubt taught you that unaided action is necessary for the true vindication of the working man's rights and that the emasculation of artificial diplomacy must now cease. For the establishment of a great brotherhood among the Asiatic countries, for the noble task of bringing freedom to the Asiatic worker, I welcome you, comrades from Japan and India, and we in Lanka join you with eagerness in a programme of work to end the slavery of man, when life shall be troubled on the swills of power."

Messrs. Jinnahs Nehru (India) and Mr. T.Kikui Kama (Japan), suitably responded to the welcome and pledged the loyal support of

trade union movements of their respective countries to the Asiatic Labour Congress.

The Honourable Mr. Peri Sundaram, Minister for Labour, Industries and Commerce in the Government of Ceylon, then formally opened the Congress. In his speech he said:-

"This is a unique and memorable occasion on which we meet here today. It is unique because it is the first meeting of its kind in the history of the world. It is unique because for the first time the delegates of the Eastern nations are assembled together for discussion among themselves of an international problem. It is unique because the subject for discussion is not the rights and claims of one nation as against another, but the common rights of the labouring classes among all nations, and of Eastern nations in particular. It is a sign of the times that we should be assembled here, with our friends from distant Japan and our neighbours from India to exchange ideas on this all important problem - the problem of the welfare of the labouring classes, and endeavour to arrive at a common understanding and to work out a common basis of action.

"For that reason I feel deeply sensible of the honour of being asked to open this Congress today. It is both an honourable privilege and a pleasant duty. I have therefore much pleasure in welcoming the delegates from Japan and from India to this Congress, and wish to assure them of our utmost goodwill and hospitable intent. It is hardly necessary to mention all the delegates by name; but the name of Mr. T. Kikukawa, of the Japanese Trade Union Congress must be well-known to you as one who does not spare himself in the cause of the people; and the names of Mr. N.N. Joshi, the founder of the Indian labour movement, and of Mr. Jankandas N. Nehta, the President of the Indian National Trades Union Federation, must be still better known to you. We must hope that the time will come when this Congress will be more fully representative of the East than it is today, and when we shall have the pleasure and privilege of meeting delegates from China, Malaya, Egypt, Turkey and other Eastern countries; and when that greater assembly of the future shall look back on the small beginnings of today, it will still be remembered that Ceylon, the Emerald Isle of the East, was chosen as the venue of the first Congress.

"I have said that we must hope that the time will come when, out of the modest beginnings of today, truly Pan-Eastern Associations of nations will grow up; but I have no doubt in my own mind that this initial move of ours is bound to be historic and to develop and expand till it comprises within its fold the social democratic movements of all countries and administrative units that constitute this part of our far flung Eastern hemisphere. The period we are living in is a period, when democracy faced with an unparalleled crisis is making an unprecedented effort to remove its internal weaknesses and disperse the current suspicions as to its social and political efficiency; but the spirit of democracy as typified in the working class movements of modern days is rising equal to the occasion and developing channels of fruitful activity and concerted endeavour, by which we shall not only

repel the attempts to undermine its prestige and authority but shall also be in a position to advance towards new responsibilities and towards a newer and more comprehensive conception of our function in the economic and social spheres. It is just in this sphere that international action is most needed. Modern economies have now transcended the bounds of parochialism and nationalism; and in order to cope with the multitudinous and complex economic and social problems of our times and to ensure for the worker his adequate place in the sun, co-operation between the various nations is most urgently needed. This kind of international co-operation has already been born and developed under the aegis of the League of Nations, and there have also been parallel lines of development amongst various regional units. The West has already made great strides in this direction, but this is the first occasion when the nations of the East are realizing their own responsibilities in the matter of promoting concerted international action as between themselves to meet common problems. It is in this sense that I consider that this first Congress of yours is going to be an epoch making event in Asiatic history; and it is one of the reasons that ^{why} I am proud to associate myself with your efforts.

"I will not detain you with a long address. Your purpose today is, as I conceive it, to clear the ground and prepare a preliminary statement of the facts relating to certain questions on which investigation by the International Labour Organisation is necessary. We are conscious that the problem of Asiatic nations in International Labour circles needs definition; we are conscious that the particular conditions under which we Asiatic labour and toil need investigation and ~~investigation~~ ^{investigation}. There is much that we have to contribute to the West; Asia has been the home of the great religions of the world; she has developed a culture and civilization of which she is justly proud. While our philosophical conceptions of Catholicity and tolerance are features which might profitably be adopted by Western countries and help to soothe the reigning political and social passions of our times, we must admit that we have not made much headway in the matter of economic and material development. The Treaty of Versailles has itself recognised this cardinal difference between the full fledged economic systems of the West and the incipient industrialism of Asia. There are the difference of climate, habits and customs, of economic opportunities and industrial efficiency which have to be taken note of in any attempt to provide a common programme of social development for the whole world. I am glad to think that one of your principal pre-occupations at this Congress ^{will} be so to set in relief these special conditions prevailing in Asia that they may have adequate consideration at all world conferences, thus ensuring the possibility of all Asiatic countries being able to accept without reservations common policies and constructive programmes of social amelioration which may be evolved at the International Labour Conference.

"Time was when questions concerning the welfare of the working classes, and in particular such questions as poverty or unemployment were settled on charitable and religious considerations. A further development of the idea of helping the workers came when employers began to interest themselves in what is known as social welfare work, but neither charity nor paternalism finds a place in the modern conception of the duties of the community towards the workers who constitute

more than half of its ^{numbers} members. It is perfectly true that the need for organized help has increased considerably. The world depression has taught us how uncertain life becomes owing to fluctuations of trade; a little swing of the pendulum, a turn of the scale, and the labourer is left destitute or on the verge of starvation. The need for rendering him assistance has become more urgent than ever before, but he now refuses to accept as a matter of charity what he knows is due to him as a matter of justice. We must therefore so orient our social and economic policies that the State itself shall be built on the cardinal principle of social justice and industrial peace. Our aim must be to secure for the worker not only a financial surplus - a little saving for a rainy day - but a cultural surplus - we must try to raise his standard of living. Not only must we raise the standard of the workman and safeguard his interests by social legislation - we must try to raise the Asiatic labourer in the scale of nations. This is ~~not~~ a problem of paramount importance, a burning question. In many quarters of the world - although owing to over-population he is superfluous at home the Asiatic labourer is unwanted abroad. And why? Because it is said his standard of living is low and he undercuts other nationals. This reproach must be removed and he must not only be taught to rise in his own self-esteem, but he must actually rise in the estimation of other nations. Then and not till then will the solidarity of labour become more than an empty phrase.

"This is an ideal we must bear in mind when we discuss the conditions of labour in our respective countries. We shall all be very interested to hear of the conditions prevailing in Japan - especially Japanese experience in the field of social welfare. We may not hope to equal her achievements, but we can at least emulate her organising capacity, her thoroughness, her courage and her sense of national destiny. I have no doubt that if we approach our problems in this spirit, the discussions today will bear good enduring fruit.

"Gentlemen, with these words I declare this Congress open".

Mr. N.M. Joshi (India) then gave a short account of the genesis of the Asiatic Labour Congress. His experience at various International Labour Conferences and in other spheres of international labour activity showed him that people in the more highly industrialised countries of the West were inclined to look upon the comparatively backward labour conditions in Asiatic countries as a drag upon the ^{general progress} labour problems of the world, and this was a position of humiliation which Asiatic workers were anxious to put an end to. Further the inequalities in labour conditions among the various countries of Asia prevented progress even within ^{the} Asiatic continent. Asiatic countries were not adequately represented at the International Labour Conference,

for while India and Japan always sent labour delegations, it was only once or twice that Chinese labour was represented at Geneva and there was no labour representation at all from many other Asiatic countries. In addition vast areas in Asia were not directly represented at the International Labour Conference at all, in as much as under the existing constitution of the I.L.O. Colonies and Dependencies of the member-States had no direct contact with Geneva at all. There were vast areas in Asia which were politically subordinate to European powers — he referred to such territories as Ceylon, Java, Indo China, Federated Malay States — and however populous or economically important ^{were} they, ~~they~~ labour, they were left out of the International Labour Conference, because of their inferior political status. The result of all these circumstances was that the special labour problems of Asia received only insufficient consideration at Geneva.

In 1925, Mr. Joshi discussed the idea of an Asiatic Labour Congress with Mr. Sumjo Suzuki, and conversations took place for a number of years between the Indian and Japanese workers' delegates to Geneva, which finally came to a point when in 1929, Mr. Yenikubo of Japan visited India and Ceylon and it was possible in joint consultation to frame a definite programme. The present session was the outcome of these protracted efforts.

Side by side with the move for the summoning of an Asiatic Labour Congress attended by labour representatives only, they had also discussed the necessity for a special consultative tripartite conference of ^{all} our Asiatic countries including Colonies and Dependencies to be summoned under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation. This Conference was to be attended by representatives of the Government or administrations of the countries or Colonies and Dependencies in

in Asia, together with the representatives of the employers and the employed in those countries. In 1931 the International Labour Conference adopted a resolution for the summoning of such a tripartite conference, and the Governing Body of the I.L.O. was instructed to carry out the resolution. Owing to various causes it has not been possible for the I.L.O. to summon such an official conference till now, but Mr. Joshi was hopeful that the official Tripartite Conference would not now be much delayed. Meanwhile, the purely labour conference of Asia, for which he had worked so long and so ardently, has now assumed material shape. As one connected with the movement from its inception, he was proud to be present on the occasion, and it seemed to him like a dream come true.

Mr. Joshi added a word about the spirit of those who were responsible for the Asiatic Labour Congress. They were not animated by any spirit of separatism but believed on the other hand in promoting international understanding and solidarity. A regional organisation like the Asiatic Labour Congress was one of the surest ways for strengthening the existing co-operation between Asia and the rest of the world.

Mr. T. Kikū Kawa (Japan) then proposed and Mr. Jannadas Mehta (India) seconded the election of Mr. A.E. Goonesinghe (Ceylon) to preside over the session. The proposal having been carried unanimously, Mr. Goonesinghe thanked the Congress for the honour done to Ceylon by his election, and welcomed Mr. Pillai and Ayusawa of the International Labour Office to the Congress, to which they responded in suitable terms.

The public session of the Congress then terminated.

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The 3 Congress reassembled at 10.30 a.m. with Mr. A.I. Gomasasinghe in the chair and took up the consideration of the various questions on its agenda.

Resolutions.

(1) The Draft Constitution of the Asiatic Labour Congress drawn up in agreement between the Indian National Trades Union Federation and the Japanese Trade Union Congress and circulated in advance amongst the delegates to the Asiatic Labour Congress was then discussed clause by clause and was finally adopted with a few minor amendments. The adoption of the Constitution was proposed by Mr. S.G. Joshi (India), seconded by Dr. De Silva (Ceylon) and was carried unanimously. The Constitution is reproduced as an Appendix.

(2) After a general discussion of the items on the agenda of the 10th and 10th sessions of the International Labour Conference, the following resolution was unanimously passed:-

"This Congress requests the Japanese and Indian workers' delegates to the 10th I.L.C. Conference to press for the appointment of a separate Commission to consider the extent to which the general conventions on hours of work and unemployment insurance can be applied to newly industrialized countries". (Moved by Mr. S.M. Joshi (India), seconded by Mr. I. Suzuki (Japan), and supported by Mr. Y. Kikui Kawa (Japan).)

(3) "This Congress views with great alarm the present economic distress of the industrial workers in Asia. While it recognizes that the world-wide depression and the tariff walls raised in several countries are largely responsible for the depressed condition of the industries and trades and while it further recognizes that the conditions in Asia as elsewhere have been accentuated by exchange, fiscal and financial policies of Governments, it holds that the methods of rationalization, wage cuts and retrenchment adopted by employers have seriously reduced the purchasing power of the masses and thrown thousands out of employment. The Congress is opposed to all economic in the name of rationalization unless it is accompanied by measures recommended by the World Economic Conference of 1927, in its resolutions on rationalization, and more especially by a reduction in the working hours without reduction in the rates of wages and without increasing the strains on the workers. In the absence of these safeguards, rationalization must invariably result in entailing more work on the operatives and more unemployment and wage cuts. (Proposed by Mr. S.G. Joshi (India), seconded by Mr. S.W. Dassanaike (Ceylon), and carried unanimously).

(4) "While recording its conviction that social ownership and control together with international co-operation furnish the only adequate and lasting solution of all industrial and economic problems, this Congress believes that during the transition period vigorous efforts should be made by all parties concerned to adopt inter alia the following measures:-

(a) Immediate reduction of working hours to at least forty per week without reduction of wages and a drastic restriction of overtime, as a means of diminishing unemployment.

(b) Restoration of the "economy" cuts in the social services and in wages and salaries of the subordinate grades of public employees.

(c) Increase in wages in private industries.

(d) International control of currency to prevent manipulation of exchange by one or more countries to the prejudice of the rest ^{there}.

(e) Initiation by governments and local bodies of carefully planned schemes of public works financed by the use of national credit, as have already been adopted in several countries.

(f) Prohibition of child labour under 14 years of age and raising the school leaving age to that limit.

(g) Legislation for fixing minimum wage in protected industries and also in other industries where workers organisation do not exist or are too weak to resist the employers' attack on their standard of life.

(h) Introduction of comprehensive schemes of social insurance."

(Proposed by Miss J. Ferdinando (Ceylon), seconded by Mr. W. Francis (India) and carried unanimously).

(5) (a) "This Congress views with alarm the recent political developments that are taking place in many countries since the last war leading to the overthrow of democracies and installing dictatorship in their place. This Congress regards such developments as a source of friction between nations and nations and the negation of personal and political freedom. It affirms its faith in genuine democracy under which alone the masses and the working classes have a fair chance of securing political power and of improving their economic and social conditions.

(b) This Congress condemns the policy of repression and cruelty which has been pursued in Germany and Austria under the Hitler and Dollfuss regimes respectively, and extends to the workers' organisations in those countries both political and industrial, its warmest sympathy in their sufferings.

(c) This Congress records its definite opinion that the grant of political freedom and the right of self-determination to such of the countries in Asia as are under foreign domination is essential in the interest of international understanding and world peace."

(Proposed by Mr. T. Kiku Kawa (Japan), seconded by Dr. G.W.S. Fernando (Ceylon) and carried unanimously).

(6) "Whereas national economic and political rivalries in the world have for some years past have been threatening the disturbance of international peace,

And whereas the failure of the World Economic and Disarmament Conference has aggravated the danger of another conflagration, more disastrous than the last war,

This Congress is of opinion that international understanding and goodwill alone will prevent such a catastrophe and that this can be secured by progressive abatement and eventual elimination of imperialistic policies and the establishment of social justice.

This Congress therefore pledges itself to co-operate with the labour movements of the other countries in bringing about these conditions.

(Proposed by Mr. R. Kumarasundaram (Ceylon), seconded by Mr. T. Kiku Inaba (Japan) and carried unanimously).

(V) "This Congress strongly protests against the employment of police and military forces in industrial disputes ostensibly for maintaining law and order but resulting in the intimidation of workers and forcing them into submission to the employers. This Congress further protests against the use of ordinances and other repressive measures for the suppression of political and civil liberty in India and elsewhere."

(Proposed by Mr. Jemadas Mehta (India), and seconded by Mr. S.W. Dassanaike (Ceylon), and carried unanimously).

(A) (a) "Whereas under the existing constitution of the I.L.O. the Colonies and Dependencies of Member States are not directly represented at the meetings of the General Conference and whereas the growing industrial developments of these Colonies and Dependencies calls for such direct representation to make the Conference truly international, this Congress requests the I.L.O. to take steps for securing such direct representation."

This Congress further requests the labour group of the I.L.O. to support any proposal that may be brought forward to secure this object.

(b) "Whereas under the existing constitution of the I.L.O. the Member States with Colonies and Dependencies are not obliged to apply the Conventions ratified by them to such Colonies and Dependencies and whereas in the absence of such obligation these territories hardly get any benefit from these Conventions, this Congress requests the I.L.O. to take such steps as will make it obligatory on the Member States to apply the Conventions when ratified by them to their Colonies and Dependencies."

(c) "This Congress invites the attention of the I.L.O. to the resolution passed in 1931 about the Tripartite Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I.L.O. and urges the I.L.O. to expedite the holding of such a Conference."

(d) "Whereas there has been till now no titular representative of Asiatic ~~Asian~~ labour on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. this Congress urges the I.L.O. to allot a minimum of two seats to Asiatic labour."

(Proposed by Mr. H.M. Joshi (India), and seconded by Mr. Suzuki (Japan), and carried unanimously).

(9) "This Congress requests all national labour organisations in Asia to invite fraternal delegates from other Asiatic countries to their annual Conference."

(Moved by the Chair and carried unanimously).

(10) "This Congress assures the International Federation of Trade Unions of its full co-operation with it in all matters of common interest".

(Moved from the Chair and carried unanimously).

(11) Mr. T. Kiku Kawa (Japan) then proposed and Mr. S.G.Joshi (India) seconded that till the summoning of the second session of the Asiatic Labour Congress, the offices of the Congress should be held by the representatives of the following national units:-

President.- Japan;

3 Vice Presidents.- India, Ceylon and China.

2 Secretaries.- India, Japan,

and that the Indian Secretary be Mr. R. R. Bakhale. (Carried Nem Con.) It was further resolved that the national units should communicate to Mr. R. R. Bakhale the names of the persons chosen by them to hold the above offices.

(12) "That the next session of the Asiatic Labour Congress be held in India" (Proposed by Mr. T. Kiku Kawa (Japan), and seconded by Mr. S. G. Joshi (India), and carried unanimously).

The business of the Congress being now over, Mr. Jannadas Mehta on behalf of the Indian delegation proposed a vote of thanks to the president. He particularly complimented Mr. Geemesingha for conducting the business of the Congress in such a business-like manner and in making it a grand success. "Although our beginnings are modest as we all recognise" said Mr. Mehta, "there rises before my eyes the vision of the future of the Asiatic Congress composed of delegates representing the continent of Asia including such countries as Palestine, Syria, Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, China, Java and the French possessions in the East, and including also countries like Egypt which have several problems in common with Asia. In fact when this Congress was more fully developed, half the world will sit round it and its deliberations will influence all the world organisations".

Mr. T. Kiku Kawa (Japan), on behalf of the Japanese delegates, in seconding the motion, said that he was particularly pleased to associate his delegation with the remarks made by Mr. Jannadas Mehta. 80 per cent. of the organised workers in Japan were represented in the Japanese Trade Union Congress, a special meeting of the Committee of

which had been summoned to give the Japanese delegates their instructions as to the Asiatic Labour Congress. Mr. Kiku Kawa and his colleagues were warned that the first session of the Asiatic Labour Congress may not be able to do anything more than discussing informally the various subjects which lay near their heart, as the time for organising the Congress was so short. The thoroughness with which the preparatory work was done and the expeditious way in which they were able to negotiate their work were matters on which the organisers of the Congress deserved the warmest thanks of the delegates. It was a triumph for the organising capacity of the conveners which would surprise even their friends abroad. He could well understand Mr. Joshi's happiness that his patient and laborious efforts have at long last borne fruit. Mr. Kiku Kawa himself was in these days acting as secretary to Mr. Joshi's Japanese colleagues, Mr. S. Suzuki, and therefore, he also ^{felt} highly gratified that their joint endeavours had resulted in the organisation which had its first session this day. Concluding he said: "Today Japan unites with India in forming a social collaboration for the realisation of justice. It is my hearty prayer that we will continue to collaborate for the upliftment of the conditions of labour throughout Asia".

Mr. Ganesinghe then announced ^{by Mr. Joshi} dissolved the Congress sine die.

APPENDIXASIATIC LABOUR CONGRESSConstitution as Adopted by Resolution I
of the Asiatic Labour Congress.N A M E.

1. This organisation shall be called the Asiatic Labour Congress (hereinafter referred to as the "Congress").

O B J E C T S

2. The objects of the Congress shall be:

- (a) To bring about unity among the working classes of Asia by developing closer relations between the trade unions in the affiliated countries.
- (b) To promote the interests and activities of the Trade Union Movement in Asia, nationally and internationally.
- (c) To carry on activities of general interest to the Trade Unions in Asia.
- (d) To remove the disabilities of a discriminatory character imposed upon Asiatic workers and bring about equality of treatment in working conditions, irrespective of race, nationality or colour.
- (e) To remove the exploitation of workers in Asiatic countries under foreign domination.
- (f) To improve the conditions of life and work of the workers in Asiatic countries so as to remove the existing disparities and bring them on a level with those obtaining in countries where social legislation is sufficiently advanced.
- (g) To promote the development of International Social legislation.
- (h) To avert war, establish international peace and to combat Imperialism and Capitalism.

METHODS OF ATTAINMENT

3. The object of the Congress shall be achieved by democratic and recognised trade union methods which include, inter alia:-

- (a) Cooperation with other organisations in so far as such co-operation appears useful in the interests of the Trade Union Movement in Asia.
- (b) Giving support to trade union activities in the affiliated countries on the recommendation of the National Trade Union Centre concerned.
- (c) Giving support to the Trade Union activities in Asiatic countries not yet affiliated to the Congress.

(d) The compilation of Statistics and securing information relating to the conditions of life and service of the workers and the Trade Union Movement in the Asiatic countries.

(e) The publication of periodicals and reports on working class conditions and such other literature as will promote the objects of the Congress.

COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS.

4. The Congress shall consist of the National Trade Union Centres or Units in Asiatic countries which accept the objects and the methods of the Asiatic Labour Congress.

EXPLANATION: A National Trade Union Centre or Unit includes a Congress, Federation or a permanent joint Council of the most representative trade unions in any Asiatic country.

5. In any Asiatic country or countries where a National Trade Union Centre or Unit does not exist, or where there is more than one such Centre or Unit, the annual Session of the Congress shall decide the question and the country or countries concerned shall receive representation at the next session of the Congress as per that decision.

6. The autonomy of the Trade Union Movement of each affiliated country is guaranteed.

MANAGEMENT.

7. The affairs of the congress, when not in session, shall be managed by an executive committee which shall not act in contravention of the policy and the decisions of the Congress.

8. The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents and two General Secretaries elected at the ordinary biennial session of the Congress.

9. (a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year and the Secretariat shall keep the minutes of the meetings and circularise them to the Affiliated countries.

(b) A clear three months' notice shall be given for the meetings of the Executive Committee.

(c) When the Executive Committee cannot meet, the views of the members may be invited by a circular.

10. In cases of emergencies the President and the General Secretary may take the necessary provisional action and subsequently obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

THE SESSION OF THE CONGRESS

11. The Congress shall ordinarily meet once every two years in one of the Asiatic Affiliated countries as may be decided upon by its previous session, and when not so fixed, by the Executive Committee in consultation with the affiliated National Trade Union Congress.

12. (a) The Congress shall consist of the Executive Committee and delegates from the Asiatic Affiliated countries in the following proportion:-

1. Delegate for 10,000 organised workers;
2. *Delegates* 50,000 -do-
3. *Delegates* 100,000 -do-

for every 50,000 over 100,000 one additional delegate with a maximum number of 10 from any single National Centre (fraction shall be eliminated).

(b) The delegates of the Congress must be the residents of the countries they represent and members or officials of Trade Unions in those countries.

(c) The calculation of the membership of the National Trade Union Centres or Units, for the purposes of electing delegates, shall be based on the amount of affiliation fees paid to the Congress in the preceding year.

13. The Agenda of the Congress shall consist of :

- (a) Consideration of the Annual Report of the Executive Committee;
- (b) Consideration of the Agenda of the International Labour Conference;
- (c) Consideration of the resolutions submitted by the National Centres;
- (d) Election of the members of the Executive Committee.
- (e) The question of affiliation, withdrawal or expulsion of National Centres;
- (f) Amendment of Constitution and Standing Orders;
- (g) Fixing the place and the dates of the next Session.

14. The Agenda of the congress shall be circulated to the National Trade Union Centres or Units at least three months before the annual session of the Congress and the report of the Executive Committee at least one month before the Session.

15. Each National Trade Union Centre or Unit represented at the Congress shall have as many votes as the number of delegates it is entitled to send.

16. The procedure at the Congress shall be laid down by the Standing Orders.

AFFILIATION FEES

17. The annual affiliation fees for each National Trade Union Centre or Unit shall be, subject to a minimum of Rs.50/- on the following basis:-

Rs.50/- for a National Trade Union Centre or Unit with a membership up to 10,000.

Rs.100/- for a National T.U.C. or Unit with a membership between 10,000 to 50,000.

Rs.150/- for a National T.U.C. or Unit with a membership between 50,000 and 100,000.

Rs.200/- for a National T.U.C. or Unit with a membership above 100,000.

EXPENSES

18. (a) The travelling, hotel and other incidental expenses of the delegates shall be borne by the delegates themselves.

(b) The expenses incurred in the Annual Session will be met, as far as possible, from the Congress funds and the deficit, if any, shall be made good by the affiliated countries.

WITHDRAWAL AND EXCLUSION

19. Any voluntary withdrawal from the Congress can take place only at the end of the current year, after six months previous notice.

GENERAL

20. (a) The Headquarters of the Congress shall be in Bombay, India.

(b) In the case of the affiliated countries other than India, the headquarters of the National Trade Union Centres or Units shall be the branch offices of the Congress in those countries.

21. The constitution of the Congress can be amended only at the annual session of the congress by a two-thirds majority.

STANDING ORDERS

1. The Management of the Congress shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee.

2. The first meeting of the Annual Session of the Congress shall appoint a Credentials Committee of three delegates to examine the credentials of the delegates and submit a report to the next meeting of the Annual Session for its approval.

3. The Executive Committee shall examine all resolutions submitted by the National Trade Union Centres and submit them to the Congress with such modifications as may be necessary. Resolutions must reach the General Secretary at least three days before the commencement of the Annual Session.

4. In cases of necessity, the Congress may appoint one or more committees to decide specific items on the agenda and committees will submit reports thereon to the Congress.

5. Speeches on resolutions and other items on the agenda shall be limited, as a rule, to fifteen minutes for the mover who has^a right of reply and ten minutes for subsequent speakers, but the time-limit may be extended with the approval of the President.

6. A vote shall be taken, when necessary, on each item of the Agenda by a roll-call.

7. Additions to, or amendments of, the Standing Orders may be made by the Annual Session of the Congress.

All-India Socialist Conference, Patna, 17-5-1934.

Elsewhere in this report are given particulars regarding the Swaraj Party which was recently inaugurated at Ranchi on 2 & 3-5-34. Soon after, the socialists in the Congress fold decided to initiate, under the auspices of the Congress, an all-India socialist movement. With that end in view it was decided to hold an All India Socialist Conference at Patna on 17-5-34 under the presidentship of Acharya Narendra Dev, Principal, Kashi Vidyapith, Benares. The chief items on the agenda of the Conference were: (1) plans for initiating an All India Socialist movement within the ranks of the Indian National Congress and (2) the proposals in this connection to be placed before the All India Congress Committee meeting at Patna in the latter half of the month under review. (The Amrita Basar Patrika, 11-5-1934).

The first session of the Socialist Conference was held at Patna on the 17th May and was attended by over 150 delegates from all parts of the country. In the course of his presidential speech, Acharya Narendra Dev said that the Conference should make it clear that it did not believe in national socialism or economic socialism but that it stood for a socialistic state.

The following are the more important resolutions passed by the Conference:-

1. Council Entry. - This conference is of opinion that the resolution passed by the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress calling upon Congressmen to boycott the legislatures should not be rescinded except by the open session of the Congress. The conference is of opinion that if the Congress at its next session rescinds that resolution, the conduct of electoral and parliamentary activity should be in the hands of the Congress organisation, and such activities should only be in furtherance of a programme which is Socialist in action and objective.

2. All India Congress Socialist Conference to be Established. - In the opinion of the All India Congress Socialist Conference the time has come for an All India organisation of Socialists in the Congress to be established. With this end in view, it is resolved that

(a) A drafting committee consisting of the following be appointed to prepare a draft programme and constitution for an All India Congress Socialist Party; Acharya Narendra Dev (President, Messrs. Jaya Prakash Narayan (Secretary), Abdulbari, Purshottamas Tricumbdas, M. Masani, Swami Sampurnanand, C.C. Banerji and Fareed-ul-Haq Ansari as members;

(b) Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan be appointed the organising secretary of the All India Congress Socialist Conference to organise Provincial Congress Socialist groups, where they do not exist on the basis of the programme adopted by the drafting committee, and arrange for an All India Conference to form an All India Congress Socialist Party immediately prior to the next session of the Indian National Congress.

3. Greetings to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. - This Conference sends its affectionate greetings to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and places on record its sense of appreciation of the lead given by him and his valuable services to the Socialist cause.

4. Bombay Textile Strike. - The All India Congress Socialist Conference extends its sympathy and support to the textile strikers in Bombay in their heroic struggle against capitalist offensive against their standard of living and condemns the policy of the Government for openly taking sides against the workers by arresting their leaders and detaining them without charge or trial, for placing restriction on their right of demonstration of the workers and for ordering police action by shooting and lathi charges on the workers.

5. Socialist Policy and Programme. - In addition to the above resolutions ^{the Congress} a few resolutions to be moved at the All India Congress Committee meeting were passed. One of these resolutions referred to Socialist Party's programme and policy and was as follows:-

Whereas the preamble to the fundamental rights resolution of the Karachi Congress declares that, in order to end the exploitation of the masses, political freedom must include real economic freedom of the starving millions and whereas, in order to widen the basis of the struggle for independence and ensure that even after Swaraj comes the masses do not remain victims of economic exploitation, it is necessary that the Congress should adopt a programme that is Socialist in action and objective, the A.I.C.C. recommends to the Congress to declare as its objective a Socialistic state and, after the capture of power, to convene a Constituent Assembly (on the

basis that every adult shall have a vote with the exception of those who have opposed the struggle for freedom and that representation shall be on a functional basis) for the purpose of formulating a constitution for India on the following political, social and economic principles:-

- (1) Transfer of all power to the producing masses.
- (2) Development of the economic life of the country to be planned and controlled by the State.
- (3) Socialisation of the key and principal industries, for example, steel, cotton, jute, railways, shipping, mines, banks and other public utility concerns with a view to the progressive socialisation of all instruments of production, distribution, and exchange.
- (4) State monopoly of foreign trade.
- (5) Organisation of co-operative societies for production, distribution and credit in the unsocialised section of economic life.
- (6) The elimination of Princes and landlords and all other classes of exploiters.
- (7) Redistribution of land to peasants.
- (8) State to encourage and promote co-operative and collective farming with a view to the ultimate collectivisation of all agriculture in the country.
- (9) Liquidation of debts owed by peasants and workers.
- (10) Adult franchise on functional basis.

6. Organisation of Tenants' & Workers' Unions. - The A.I.C.C recommends the method of organising the masses on the basis of their economic interests as the only effective method of creating a mass movement, and the organisation by Congressmen of Kisan and Mazdoor Sanghas (tenants' and workers' unions) and the entry into such sanghas where they exist for the purpose of participating in the day-to-day struggles of the masses and with a view to lead them eventually to their final goal.

Mr. R.M. Masani, moving the above two resolutions, said that the Socialists had no objection to a Parliamentary programme. He laid down three conditions on which the Socialists could lend their support to such a programme: (1) The programme should be sanctioned by an open session of the Congress; (2) Parliamentary activity should be under the guidance and control of the Congress itself and (3) The programme should be a full-blooded Socialist programme. An amendment to the first ^{of the two} resolutions to the effect that the control of the economic life of the country should be with the workers and peasants and that the fruits of their labours be not wrested from them was accepted and the resolutions were passed.

The last two resolutions, however, were not moved in the A.I.C.C. meeting. (The Hindu, 17 & 18-5-34)

Ceylon Services Recruitment Policy re. Employment of Indians.

It is understood that the Chief Secretary to the Ceylon Government has submitted a report to the State Council on the question of the public services, in which he states that the policy of the Government is the rational Ceylonisation of the public services. At present there is a good number of educated Indians employed in various Government departments, particularly in the teaching department, in Ceylon. The new policy outlined by the Chief Secretary will, if adopted, tend to reduce the numbers of unemployed of Indian finding employment in the departments of the Government of Ceylon. The new policy is aimed at giving preference to Ceylonese candidates when they are found to be properly qualified, except in the case of posts for which it is desirable in ^{the} public interest to recruit non-Ceylonese.

Labour Recruitment. - Regarding the question of the employment of Indians in the labour employing departments of the Government in which there are 7,977 Indians, he states that the Ceylonese have not taken readily to labour on the railway with the result that non-Ceylonese had to be employed. For sanitary services ^{also} it had been difficult to find Ceylonese labourers ^{and} Indian labour ~~also~~ had to be employed, ~~he states,~~ in malarial districts.

(The Times of India, 3-4-1934).

Economic Conditions.

Restriction of Rubber Plantings:

India Implementation Scheme from 1. 6. 1934.

It will be remembered that the Dutch Government opened a year ago negotiations with the chief rubber producing nations as a result of which an international rubber restriction agreement has been reached by the close of April last. The agreement includes all territories where there is an appreciable organized plantation of rubber. The scheme, which will become operative on June 1 and remain in force till December 31, 1938, regulates the production and export of rubber, in order to reduce existing world stocks and maintain an equitable price level reasonably remunerative to efficient producers. Further planting of rubber and exports of planting material from territories covered by the agreement are prohibited. For the past three years the price of first grade rubber has been 3,65d. per lb. which is uneconomic and which has affected not only producers but has threatened to dislocate regular supplies to consumers. The quotas fixed by agreement are a measure of the territories' potential producing capacity. The following table gives the export quotas allowed for the next five years for the various countries which have assented to the scheme.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Malaya ...	504,000	538,000	569,000	589,000	602,000
Dutch Indies ...	352,000	400,000	443,000	467,000	485,000
Ceylon ...	77,500	79,000	80,000	81,000	82,500
North Borneo ...	12,000	13,000	14,000	15,500	16,500
Sarawak ...	24,000	28,000	30,000	31,500	32,000

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons.
Siam ..	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
India ...	6,850	8,250	9,000	9,000	9,250
Burma ...	5,150	6,750	8,000	9,000	9,250.

(The Statesman, 25 1-5-1934).

The Government of India have consulted the Governments of Madras, Burma, Travancore State, Cochin State and Mysore State which are the governments chiefly interested in rubber production in India and it is understood that these governments are favourably disposed towards the scheme. The Government of India have announced that there is every likelihood of a Bill being introduced in the Legislative Assembly in the forthcoming July session to be held in Simla to implement the provisions of the scheme as far as India is concerned. The scheme, however will be brought into force in British India from 1-6-1934.

(The Statesman, 10-5-34).

The scheme is expected to have favourable reactions in the Indian labour market since Indian workers are engaged also in the ^{rubber} industry ^{of the} Federated Malay States and Ceylon.

Protection to Handloom Industry; Madras Government's Scheme.

The Government of India recently proposed to set apart a sum of Rs. 350,000 from the Customs Revenue and to distribute the same to several provinces for developing handloom weaving industry. The Industries Department of the Government of Madras, in anticipation of Rs. 100,000 as yearly contribution from the Government, has drawn up the following scheme which is contemplated to give direct assistance

to the handloom industry and to place it on a sound commercial footing.

Assistance through Co-operative Societies. - The main point at issue is to see how best the handloom weaver can be helped to produce his cloth cheap and to market his goods in par with mill products. Attempts during the last 30 years to start Co-operative Societies for weavers having proved a failure, it is now proposed to directly assist the formation and working of Weavers' Co-operative Societies on the following lines:-

(1) To advance out of the amount of contribution to this province a share capital of Rs.10 to each weaver and to recover the amount in small instalments of, say, Rs.4 per week from the profits earned by the member.

(2) To obtain in bulk from the mills or wholesale dealers, yarns, dye-stuffs, chemicals and other raw materials for the use of the Societies.

(3) To purchase and lend, free of charge, warp preparation machinery and dyeing appliances to enable the Societies to be self-contained and to bring about the much desired "linked" organisation which will render the handloom a commercial weaving machine.

(4) To hold during slack seasons stocks of hand-woven finished goods.

(5) To open an emporium in Madras City for the sale of hand-woven products.

(6) To arrange for wholesale and retail sale of goods in shops and through commission agents and hawkers.

(7) To advertise the products of the weavers' cooperative societies and display them in provincial exhibitions.

(8) To depute the Marketing Officer to Straits Settlements, Burma, Ceylon, etc. in order to arrange for the sale of "lungees" (an item of Indian male dress) and coloured sarees.

(9) To grant loans and give other facilities to cooperative societies.

Nature of the Societies Proposed. - The Madras Industries Department feels that unless the above facilities are offered in the beginning to a few select Societies proposed to be started in different centres, each to deal with a particular class of goods,

there will be a little inducement to other weavers who are not members to join such Societies. If the scheme works ^{successfully} for a period of three years, the Department hopes to bring about, without legal enactments, a proper adjustment in the sphere of production of the handlooms and power looms.

To work out the scheme successfully, the Department proposes the formation of a Textile Development Board which should be vested with the actual expenditure of the fund, so that the proposed body may have a free hand to deal with the scheme.

Financial Details of the Scheme. - If the total contribution for Madras Province is Rs. 100,000, it is proposed to allot Rs. 20,000 for expenditure on staff for organising the industry and Rs. 80,000 for financing the Cooperative Societies. To start with, ten Co-operative Societies, with 400 weaver members in each, are proposed to be formed at the following centres:- (1) Madras (cotton); (2) Sankarapuram (milk); (3) Mandarapalem (Madras handkerchiefs); (4) Salem (cotton); (5) Cannenore (suits); (6) Bellary (wool umbrellas); (7) Wallajah (wool druggots); (8) Coimbatore (cotton); (9) Madura (cotton); and (10) Poddana (cotton).

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-5-34)

Methods of Increasing Indian Trade with Afghanistan:

Delegation sent by India to Investigate Possibilities.

In accordance with the policy recently adopted by India of concluding reciprocal trade agreements with foreign countries, the first of which was concluded in December 1933 with Japan, the Government of India announced early in April ^{last} the sending of a trade delegation to Afghanistan "to discuss matters affecting trade relations between the two countries and to investigate the possibilities of furthering trade interests to the mutual advantage of both countries". The Afghan Government having agreed

to receive a delegation, the Government sent at the beginning of April a delegation with three members: Mr. W.W. Hind (lately Additional Member of the Central Board of Revenue), Lala Shri Ram (a Delhi Millowner), and Khan Bahadur Syed Murratib Ali. According to a communiqué on the subject issued by the Government, they ~~were~~ ^{have been directed} merely explore local trade situations and exchange general views with the Afghan Government and have not been empowered to negotiate any agreements on behalf of the Government of India.

India's chief exports to Afghanistan are cotton goods, indigo and other dyeing materials, sugar, hardware, leather and silver treasure, while she imports ^{from Afghanistan} timber, fruits and vegetables, grain, spices, wool, silk, cattle, hides and tobacco. In the past few years, several new industries have developed in Kabul where a number of match, button, leather and boot factories have been built, and opportunities of increasing trade are believed to be considerable.

The delegates concluded their investigations by the middle of May 1934 and have submitted to the Government of India their report which has not yet been published.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 20-5-1934).

Coal Output Restriction Scheme:

Reply of Indian Mining Association to Government Objections.

It will be remembered that ~~as the result~~ ^{in view} of the crisis through which the coal industry in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa is passing, through, the Indian Mining Association submitted sometime back a proposal to the Government of India for a coal output restriction scheme. On 21-3-1934 the Government of India informed the Association their inability to accept the scheme for various reasons, but chiefly for a lack of unanimity in the industry regarding the details of the scheme. (vide pages 54-56 of our April 1934 report for a summary of the Government's reasons for rejecting the scheme). Early in the month under review the Mining Association has sent the Government of India another communication in reply to the Government's objections and asking for sanction of the restriction scheme.

The Association's Reply to Government Objections. - The Association, in its reply, points out that the opposition to certain minor details of the scheme emanates from a body which produces little over a million tons of the 19 million tons annually produced in British India. Altogether it would appear that nothing far short of 95 per cent of the coal trade supports the Association's scheme. As regards the Indian States, the Association contends that, because of the peculiar position of the States, political and otherwise, the Government appear to be better able to say how the extension of the scheme to the States could be brought about. Even if the extension of the proposals to the Indian States is not feasible, the Association points out that this would not prevent the scheme attaining the desired end. As the Government of India regarded lack of unity within the trade as a serious obstacle in the way of a further consideration of the scheme, the Association would welcome an official indication of what is regarded as sufficient unanimity within the industry. The Association points out that in at least one important coal mining country in the British Empire, the Government of the country have indicated that the acceptance on the part of 75 per cent of the mine-owners would be sufficient mandate for them to proceed with a compulsory restriction of coal output scheme.

The interests of the consumer are, the Association assert, amply safeguarded by the power of the Governor-General-in-Council to modify the degree of restriction which may be recommended by the Control Committee and by the existence of external and acute internal competition in the trade itself which the Hon'ble Sir Joseph Bore, in the case of the protection granted to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry, has stated to be "the surest guarantee that the interests of the consumer would be safe". It is pointed out that the Industry does not ask that they should be placed in the position of monopolists; all that the scheme is designed to ensure is that a fair selling price over the real cost of production should be accorded to those who have risked much in the development of this asset, the prosperity of which is, as the Government themselves say, vital to the economic structure of the country.

In view of the Government's objection that no industry can claim statutory protection at the public expense, except on production of proper statistical material, the Association have furnished as appendices to the present memorandum ~~and~~ data ~~to~~ showing the rapid fall in the average pitmouth price of coal from 1923-32 in India as compared with that in other countries. The Association emphasises that the price in India is the lowest and the fall in ~~the years 1923-32~~ has been as much as 55 per cent. The Association refers to the decline in the industry as evidenced from reductions in the number of companies engaged in the industry, in the paid up capital, and in the number of persons employed by the industry.

(The Statesman, 5-5-1934).

On 10-5-1934 a deputation consisting of Messrs A.H. Gansavi and S.C. Mitra waited on the Commerce Member and is understood to have discussed the possibility of restricting the output of railway collieries.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1934).

Employment & Unemployment.Rs.1 million for Capital Works: Bombay Corporation'sScheme for Relief of Unemployed.

At page 66 of the report of this Office for April & 1934 reference was made to a motion regarding relief measures for unemployment moved at a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation on 1-4-34 by Miss Najim Ben Kara, and to an amendment moved by Mr. Jammadas Mehta to the effect that the Corporation should raise a loan, to be called the Unemployment Relief Fund, for starting a capital works programme. At a subsequent meeting of the Corporation held on 3-5-34 Mr. Jammadas Mehta moved a resolution requesting the Standing Committee to expedite the submission of proposals for the raising of a loan of Rs.1 million for this purpose.

Mr. Mehta, in moving the resolution, said that though the resolution urging the adoption of relief measures was passed a month back, nothing was done so far. When the question came up before the Standing Committee, the Municipal Commissioner had stated that if any works were executed the lion's share would go to the contractors and that very little would be left to the persons who were actually unemployed. That, ^{Mr. Mehta said,} could be no argument for not starting the works, ~~Mr. Mehta said,~~ Did it mean, he asked, that all works programmes all over the world should be stopped? If the contractors profited, certainly the others would also get their share. When works were started, materials would be purchased, men would be employed on the execution and the purchasing power of the men would increase. It was true that the question of relief of unemployment was one to be tackled by Government. At the same time, he believed that the Corporation could do something towards solving the question.

Mr. H.N.Talpade wished that the mover had specified what particular section of the unemployed required immediate relief. If it was a question of relieving textile operatives, there was no use starting building works which would benefit the masons and architects, who, far from being unemployed, had plenty to do in North Bombay where buildings were under rapid construction.

The Mayor, Mr. H.M.Rahimtoola, ruled that the resolution was meant to be a request to the Standing Committee and therefore there was no use going into the merits of raising a loan or starting relief works.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried.

(The Times of India, 5-5-1934)

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Co-operation.

Progress of Cooperation in the Punjab, 1932-33*

General Remarks. - The report of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the Punjab for the year ending 31st July, 1933, presents a complete and on the whole encouraging picture of the part played at present by co-operation in the economic life of the province. The movement involves over 21,000 societies including 656,000 individual members with capital actually ~~in circulation~~ ^{in circulation} totalling Rs. 127.5 millions. The number of new societies registered during the year is practically the same as last year, but fell short of the number recorded for the two previous years. It is interesting to note that of the new societies the majority are non-credit societies. This, as the Registrar points out, is due to a deliberate policy of greater concentration on thrift, the avoidance of waste and ^{the enhancement} ~~the increasing~~ of a co-operator's income rather than the provision of easy borrowing facilities.

Statistical Progress. The following statement records the statistical progress of ^{the societies in the Province during} the year.

Class.	Societies.		Members.		Working Capital	
	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933
Provincial Bank	2	2	12,970		Millions.	Millions.
Provincial Bank	1	1	12,970	13,057	Rs. 15.6	Rs. 17.5
Central Credit.	119	118	22,905	22,288	70.9	71.5
Central Non-Credit	46	43	6,969	6,891	700,000	800,000
Agricultural	17,590	17,726	570,332	573,756	83.9	84.0
Non-agricultural	3,120	3,240	110,154	114,332	13.9	14.3
Total.	20,876	21,128	723,330	730,924	185.0	188.1

* Report on the working of Cooperative Societies in the Punjab for the year ending 31st July 1933. - Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab 1934. Price: Rs. 2-12-0 or 4s. 2d. pp. 6+54+xiii.

Workers' Societies. - The report states that the three societies under the head "Production and Labour" were not having a successful year. One of them was removed from the register for repeated acts of mismanagement. As to the Model Town Society, efforts have been made, ~~both by the President and~~ ^{by} the Department, to effect an improvement; but party and personal rancour is too strong, and the hopeless disorder in which its records and accounts have been kept in the past have resulted in considerable financial losses. During the year under review the number of industrial societies and their membership registered a still further decrease from 308 and 5,648 in 1932 to 300 and 5,243 respectively in 1933. The average membership per society fell from 18 in 1932 to 17 during the year under review. These societies have had to contend with a number of adverse factors, but a real effort has been made to cope with them, and there are signs of a definite improvement in ^{the} working in several groups. Closer co-ordination has been sought with the Department of Industries, industrial and technical schools, jails ^(Sections) and important private concerns. The working capital of these societies fell from Rs.621,000 in 1932 to Rs.588,000 in 1933. The value of raw materials advanced to members amounted to Rs.106,000 as against Rs.76,000 in 1932 and the value of members' goods sold was Rs.48,000 as against Rs.81,000 in 1932.

Women and Children's Societies. - There has been an increase in Women and Children's societies, the total number having increased from 171 to 189; membership has increased from

2,889 to 3,393 and working capital from Rs.159,000 to 186,000. Out of a total of 189 societies, 183 are thrift societies, one better living and five children's. The number of children's societies has fallen from 7 to 5; these societies are reported to be somewhat difficult to maintain. These societies are as yet neither numerous nor firmly established, while at the same time further extension is said to be impossible in the absence of further financial assistance or trained staff. The movement among the members themselves, is reported to be more or less in a state of suspense at present depending entirely as it does on the activities of 1 Inspector and 11 sub-Inspectresses. It is not until the movement inspires a more genuine enthusiasm amongst the members of societies that an adequate advance can be anticipated.

(The progress of Co-operation in the Punjab during 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 58-59 of our February 1932 report and that during 1931-32 at pages 57-59 of our July 1933 report).

Agriculture.

Investigation of Marketing Problems

in India: Marketing Expert Appointed by I. C. A. R.

One of the recommendations of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee referred to the establishments of Provincial Marketing Boards to carry out the following functions (vide pages 225-226 of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee Report, 1931):-

1. Secure co-ordination amongst the various interests concerned in building warehouses,
2. Encourage cooperative marketing ⁱⁿ consultation with cooperative authorities,
3. Assist the marketing of produce of cottage industries,
4. Undertake market surveys,
5. Control provincial marketing and exports,
6. By standardising and organising the country's supplies, help the agriculturist to get full and adequate return for his produce.

The Committee suggested that there should be some agency to coordinate the activities of these Marketing Boards, particularly in the case of agricultural produce, and recommended that such assistance by way of advice and research might usefully be given by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

The Imperial Council, which considered this recommendation, proposes to recruit very soon a highly qualified and experienced marketing expert with practical knowledge of agricultural marketing in other countries of the Empire for a period of three years in the first instance and place him on the staff of the Council with the necessary establishment to help him. The expert will undertake the investigation of marketing problems and formulate schemes for the improvement of marketing, make recommendation for grading and standardisation of various commodities and advise the local Governments when desired. It is proposed to concentrate attention in the first instance on important products, namely, rice, wheat, barley, groundnut and linseed.

The Imperial Council has stated that investigations by the expert, in order to be effective, will require close collaboration of the provinces, that necessary market surveys have to be carried out by the provincial agency and the provinces should appoint a marketing officer to collaborate with the expert. It was also stated that the expert's recommendations on the form of organisation

required to develop agricultural marketing in the various provinces and his assistance in building up such organisations would be of considerable value to the local Governments.

In pursuance of these recommendations the Madras Government have issued orders ^{to implement} ~~concerning~~ ^{recent} their decision to appoint a provincial ~~an~~ marketing officer and constitute a provincial Marketing Board.

(The Times of India, 7-5-34).

Agricultural Welfare in Bengal.

The Government of Bengal in the Ministry of Agriculture have recently announced the setting up of an Advisory Board to promote agricultural welfare in the province and to advise the Government on matters referred to them from time to time for opinion. The Board will consist of nine officials and fifteen non-officials with the Director of Agriculture as president.

Besides regular quarterly meetings, there will be an annual meeting of the Board to which the Department of Industries and the Co-operative and Veterinary Departments will be asked to send representatives, and the Director of Agriculture has been empowered to invite to the meeting officials interested in agriculture, ~~land~~ landowners, representatives of agriculturists, representatives of allied trades and others interested in rural development, selected in such a manner as to be representative of agriculture in each district throughout the Presidency.

(The Statesman, 14-5-34).

Indians in Mauritius: Prosperous Conditions in 1932.

The following information about the conditions of life and work of Indian ~~immigrants~~^{immigrants} in Mauritius is taken from a summary, published in the Statesman of 24-4-34, of the Annual Report for 1932 submitted by the Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius:-

Numerical Strength and Wages. - The annual report of the Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius, for the year 1932, contains some interesting facts and figures regarding Indians in the colony who at the close of that year numbered about 263,000. Of these nearly 68,000 were engaged in agriculture. Wages in general were somewhat higher than in the preceding year. Retail prices of the staple articles of food and clothing remained practically stationary, but work was more abundant and on the whole conditions compared favourably with those in recent years.

Prosperous Economic Conditions. - The Indian immigrants and their descendants continue to hold the largest number of ~~small~~ cattle; they also own nearly all of the smaller dairies and run practically eight-tenths of the motor buses, taxis and lorries. The total area of land cultivated by Indians at the close of 1932 was 40,700 acres or 34% of the total area under cultivation. Of this acreage 51,650 acres were under sugarcane.

Health Conditions of Estate Labour. - Several estates were inspected by the Protector of Immigrants and the Chief Inspector of the Immigration Department. It was observed that many improvements suggested by the Department in the interest of the health and welfare of these resident on estates had been carried out by the managers and owners of these properties.

Education and Political Status. - Figures in respect of the number of children attending school show an increase. In the matter of political status Indians still stand on the same political footing as the other members of the general population. Out of a total of about 11,000 Indian electors on the common electoral roll there were ^{about} 3,000 ~~and~~ registered in 1931 to vote at elections for the nomination of members to the Council of Government.

Work of Immigration Department. - In many matters connected with ~~domestic~~ disputes, legal affairs and employment, Indians continued to seek the help of the Immigration Department whose duties under the Labour Law No. 12 of 1922 have reference not only to immigrants introduced from India and elsewhere but also to the descendants of these immigrants and to all labourers who are natives of Mauritius.

(The Statesman, 24-4-34).

Indians in Natal, 1933;

Report of Protector of Indian Immigrants.

According to the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian immigrants, Natal, for the year 1933, a review of which was published in the Statesman of 17-5-1934, the year was one of satisfactory progress in all matters connected with Indian immigrants in the Province, although Natives displaced Indian labour on some estates. The first batch of Indians, who came to Natal under indenture, landed in November, 1860, and it was not till the passing of ^{the} Indian Act in 1911 that such immigration was stopped. During the year under review there were only six Indians (males) who re-indentured. The average rate of wages received by them was 42s.6d. a month, besides food, accommodation, medical attention and medicine, free of charge.

Number of Indians and their Economic Condition. - The

approximate number of Indians in Natal at the end of 1933 was 150,920. Out of a total of 36,338 adult males, approximately 16,000 were ^{laborers} employed and of these 6,900 were on sugar estates. In 15 coal mines employing Indians, there ^{were} 608 men, 429 women and 1,169 children. Wages remained about the same and ranged from 1s-6d to 2s.6d. per shift with food, quarters and medicines, free.

There were no complaints from any of the estates during the year. It is observed, however, that natives are being employed to a great extent on many estates in place of Indians, owing to the fact that in the case of natives the employer has not the wives and families to provide accommodation for, as he has in the case of Indians. On most of the estates the accommodation for Indian employees is good, but

there is still room for improvement. On one of the larger estates a provident fund has been instituted. Indian employees deposit a twelfth of their wages monthly and ^{a proportional contribution is added to} ~~this is added to~~ by the Company. The fund has proved to be of great benefit to the employees besides teaching them how to save.

Vital Statistics. - The general health of the Indians is recorded to be very good. The death rate decreased by 6.25 per thousand, chiefly owing to the drop in deaths from malaria from 1,188 in 1932 to 245. The largest number of deaths (354) was caused through pneumonia

(The Statesman, 17-5-34).

Technical Education of Indians in South Africa:

Increase in Grants Announced in Union

Assembly.

An important statement on ^{the grant of additional} educational facilities for Indians under the terms of the Capetown agreement of 1927 was made by Mr. Hofmeyr, the Minister of the Interior, in the Union Assembly on 26-5-34. He announced that as a result of improvement in economic conditions ^{of the Union,} offer of advanced facilities for Indian education had again become possible. The Agent to the Government of India has been taking great interest in the matter and was keeping in touch with the provincial Administrations on the subject.

In the Transvaal, improvements are being effected since last year especially in regard to secondary education and the training of teachers. In Natal an increase from £5,000 to £10,000 is contemplated in the provision in the provincial estimates for Indian education and as a result it would be possible to improve existing facilities in various ways at both aided and Government schools. The Union Department of Education had increased the grant last year to the committee administering Indian technical classes in Durban and hopes to make a further increase this year. Arrangements have also been made for the establishment of part time classes for Indians in connection with the Witwaters Rand Technical Institute.

(The Statesman, 27-5-1934).

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Indian Labour for Malaya: Government of India
Agree to Non-recruited Assisted Emigration.

Reference was made at page 62 of our March 1934 report to the decision of the Government of India to accede to the Malayan Government's request for the recruitment of Indian labourers for the rubber estates in that Colony and to permit non-recruited assisted emigration from India. The Government of India issued the following communiqué on 11-5-34 reviewing the whole question and giving its decision thereon.

Repatriation of Indian Workers from Malaya. - As a result of the depression in the rubber industry the emigration of unskilled labourers from South India to Malaya was stopped in August, 1930. The stoppage of emigration and the measures taken to repatriate those labourers who could not find work on suitable terms had the effect of preventing unemployment and steadying wages.

Malayan Request for Resumption of Recruitment. - In December, 1932 the Malayan Government represented to the Government of India that not only had practically equilibrium been reached between supply and demand for labour in Malaya but that an acute shortage was likely to occur if there were a sharp rise in the price of rubber and consequent revival of industry. In November, 1933, the Malayan Governments sent to India a deputation consisting of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, the Chairman of the Planters' Association and the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya in Madras. This deputation interviewed the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature and explained that owing to the very large repatriation that had taken place since 1930

it was apprehended that the existing supply of labour in Malaya would be unequal to the demand on the revival in the rubber industry which was expected as a result of improving prices, and that an urgent decision on the request of the Malayan Government for the renewal of emigration was called for.

Government of India's Decision. - Inquiries as to the need for fresh emigration to Malaya to supplement the ^{present} supply of labour ^{there} had been initiated on the receipt of the request of the Malayan Government for the renewal of emigration in December, 1932. After the visit of the deputation from Malaya inquiries were also made from the Government of Madras as to whether there was any desire amongst the people of the Presidency to emigrate to that country. These inquiries revealed both the existence and the desire for the existence of a demand for labour in Malaya and a desire for emigration from Madras Presidency to those territories. After consultation with the Government of Madras and the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature and with their consent, the Government of India have accordingly decided that non-recruited assisted emigration to Malaya should be reopened.

Conditions Governing Recruitment. - In order, however, to ensure that this does not lead to an oversupply of labour with a consequent depressing effect upon the level of wages in Malaya and possible unemployment, they have also decided that emigration shall be subject to the following conditions:- (1) fresh emigration shall be restricted to 20,000 in the first year, (2) an emigrant shall be repatriated free at any time within two years of his arrival in Malaya on reasonable grounds, for example, ill-health,

unsuitability of work, ill-treatment and inability to find work at standard rates of wages. Even after the expiration ^{of} for two years, repatriation will be allowed if conditions justify this. It has also been arranged that the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya in Madras shall supply the local Government with monthly reports of conditions of employment and that statement of information supplied to intending emigrants shall be corrected as frequently as circumstances may require. By this means it is hoped that only those persons will emigrate who consider the conditions of employment in Malaya to be adequate.

(The Statesman, 12-5-34).

Malaya Railway Strike.

According to press reports received here, over 2,000 Federated Malaya States Railway employees, mostly Indians, went on strike from 26-4-1934, the principal issue being the question of the restoration of the 15% cut in wages effected in November 1932. On 27-4-34 the workers held a meeting and passed a resolution defining their grievances and appealing to the administration for the redressal. The following are the grievances:

1. That the cut of 15% in the wages of the daily paid workmen, in force from November, 1932, should be restored, (2) that the amounts so deducted from the wages of the workmen since November, 1932, should now be made good, (3) that a full day's wage should be paid for Saturday work as was customary before November, 1932, (4) that workmen should be given yearly increments of pay which they have not had for the past four years, (5) that a workman who has received injuries while on duty, in consequence of which he has to be admitted in hospital, should be paid his wages in full with all privileges previously granted to railway workmen in hospital, (6) that a workman should be permitted to

stay away from work for at least three days in a month as was allowed before, (7) that the railway authorities should give preference to the sons or dependents of workmen when engaging new hands, (8) that workmen paid \$2 and upwards per day should be allowed to travel second class as before, (9) that the new clause introduced in the leave approval forms that the Department cannot guarantee jobs to workmen returning from home leave should be removed, (10) that the period of apprenticeship should be counted in reckoning gratuity for workmen, (11) that apprentices should be given increments once in every six months as was customary before, (12) that the policy of retrenching apprentices after they have completed their five years' course should be forthwith stopped, (13) that the deduction of house-rents from the wages of certain labourers should be discontinued, and (14) that the policy of retrenching workmen who have put in long service, just before they become eligible for gratuity, and engaging temporary hands in their place should be stopped, and (15) that strikers should be paid for the strike period.

(The Hindu, 4-5-34)

As a result of the mediation of the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya and the Chinese Consul in the Colony, an amicable settlement was arrived at and the workers resumed work on 2-5-34. On 3-5-34, the Government, on the advice of the Standing Labour Sub-committee of the F.M.S. Railways, issued a communique setting forth its decisions on the strikers' grievances.

The Government have agreed to restore wage cuts as soon as the financial position of the railways improves. They have refused to grant demand Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 13 and 15. They have denied the existence of conditions alleged in demand No. 14. The rest of the demands have been sympathetically considered and granted either partially or wholly. As regards treatment of the strikers during the strike period, Government has decided to treat the period as no-pay leave, not constituting a break in service. The Government has also promised to make improved arrangement to enable employees to lay their grievance before senior officers.

(The Hindu, 11-5-34).

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Newly formed Swaraj Party:

Attitude on Labour Problems.

By the middle of April last speculation was rife in Indian political circles as to whether the present Legislative Assembly will be dissolved this year in the usual course or whether its life will be extended for another year. Even before the issue was decided the leading Congressmen all over the country began to demand the lifting of the ban on council entry enjoined by the Indian National Congress about five years ago. Mahatma Gandhi acceded to this demand at a Conference of leaders held at Delhi towards the close of April and it was decided to revive the Swaraj Party and to convene a meeting of Congress leaders at Ranchi early in May to chalk out the Party's political programme. On 1-5-1934 the Government announced its intention to dissolve the present Assembly after its July 1934 session and the Ranchi Conference of Swarajists was held on 2 and 3-5-1934. The Conference decided, subject to the approval of the All-India Congress Committee but with Mahatma Gandhi's previous consent, to constitute the Party as the "Parliamentary Wing" of the National Congress. On 3-5-1934 the Party Conference adopted the following resolution outlining its political and economic programme:-

Political Programme.- "The Swaraj Party declares that the guiding principle of the Party is self-reliance in all activities which make for healthy growth of the nation and resistance to all vested interests which impede the nation's progress towards Purna Swaraj and, in giving effect to these principles, the Party resolved to adopt the following programme;

(a) To secure the repeal of all Acts and Regulations which have been enacted or promulgated with a view to impede the healthy growth of the nation and ^{the} speedy attainment of Purna Swaraj.

(b) To secure the release of all political prisoners and those detained without trial or conviction, and to secure restoration of all properties lost or forfeited for political reasons and to urge abandonment of the Andamans as a penal settlement.

(c) To resist all Acts and proposals for legislative enactments ~~which may be~~ calculated to exploit the country.

(d) To move resolutions and introduce and support measures and Bills which are necessary for the healthy growth of national life and consequent displacement of bureaucracy.

(e) To secure such administrative economies, particularly in the spending Departments of the Government like that of defence and of public debt, as would substantially reduce the burden of the Government of India.

Economic and Labour Policy.- (f) To follow a definite economic policy which would prevent a drain of the wealth of the country and exploitation of one class by another and, in particular, to prevent or oppose any form of Imperial preference.

(g) To reorganize economic life so that every worker may be assured of a decent living.

(h) To safeguard the interests of the workers, industrial and agricultural, and to secure for them by suitable legislation and in other ways a living wage, healthy conditions of work, limited hours of labour, suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes between employers and workers, landlords and tenants, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment and adequate provision for women during their maternity period.

(i) To free labour from all serfdom and conditions bordering on serfdom.

(j) To secure rights for the peasants and workers to form Unions in order to protect their interests.

(k) To regulate the currency exchange solely in the national interest.

(l) To secure relief from agricultural indebtedness.

Social Programme.- (m) To work for inter-communal unity with a view to bring together the different communities living in India.

(n) To bring about the removal of untouchability and to work for the uplift of the so-called "depressed classes".

(o) To work for village organization.

(p) To acquire economic control of the country.

(q) To acquire control over local and Municipal affairs by contesting the elections for Local and Municipal Boards in the Provinces.

(r) To carry out the constructive programme of the Congress.

(s) To organize agencies of foreign propaganda for Indian affairs with special reference to the dissemination of accurate information and the securing of support of foreign countries in the country's struggle for Purna Swaraj.

White Paper Proposals and Communal Award.- The Conference

passed the following resolution on the White Paper and the Communal award:-

"Whereas the conference is of opinion that the proposals of His Majesty's Government for the new Constitution for the Government of India contained in the White Paper, are, considered as a whole, not only a negation of the national demand made by Mr. Gandhi on behalf of the Congress at the Second Round Table Conference but are calculated to perpetuate the political subjection and economic exploitation of the Indian people, this Conference resolves that the Swaraj Party should take all necessary steps to secure the rejection of these proposals by the country. This Conference claims for India, in common with other nations, the right of self-determination and is of the opinion that the only method of applying that principle is to convene a Constituent Assembly of the representatives of all sections of the Indian people to frame an acceptable Constitution. The Conference is further of opinion, that the consideration of the acceptance or rejection of the mode and proportion of representation as contained in the Communal Award is premature at this stage, and time for considering the same will arrive when the constituent assembly is convened".

Dr. M.A. Ansari was unanimously elected the President of the Swarajist Party and Mr. Balgobhai Desai, a leading Bombay lawyer, its leader in the Assembly.

It was decided to submit the decisions of the Conference to the All-India Congress Committee which is due to meet at Patna towards the last week of May.

(The Statesman, 2, 3 and 4-5-1934).

Attention has also to be directed to an attempt made by a section of Congressmen to start an All-India Socialist Party under the auspices of the Congress. A brief description of the policy and programme of the Party is given in the section of this report dealing with workers' organisations.

Patna Decisions. - The All-India Congress Committee meeting which was held at Patna on 18 to 20-5-1934, passed by 85 votes to 32 a resolution moved by Mahatma Gandhi appointing a Congress Parliamentary Board consisting of 25 members with Dr. M.A. Ansari as the president to run and control the election of Congressmen to the legislatures. The Board is to be subject to the control of the All-India Congress Committee. The effect of this resolution is to extinguish the Swaraj Party as an autonomous one. The Swarajist leaders are reported to have accepted this decision.