

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for July 1934.

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

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References to the I.L.O.

Labour Times, Madras, of 16-7-1934 reproduces the opening speech of M. Justin Gedart, President of the 18th I.L.Conference. The number of the Provisional Record of the 18th I.L.Conference containing the speech was supplied to the Journal by this Office.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, publishes a Reuter's message dated 15-6-1934 from Geneva giving a summary of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai's speech at the 18th I.L.Conference in the course of the discussion over the Director's Report to the Conference.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 1-7-1934, and Labour Times, Madras, of 16-7-1934, publish the full text of the speech of Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Indian Workers' Delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, on the Report of the Director submitted to the last Conference.

... ..

Labour Times, Madras, of 25-7-1934, the June 1934 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Railway Employees' Bulletin, Secunderabad, and the July 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish the full text of the speech of Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Indian workers' delegate at the 18th I.L. Conference, on the question of reduction of hours of work.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Railway Employees' Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes an editorial article on Mr. Mehta's speech supporting the plea for reduction of hours of work in industry.

... ..

Federated India, Madras, of 18-7-1934 publishes a short note complementing Mr. Jammadas Mehta on his speech on the question of limitation of hours of work at the 18th I.L. Conference.

... ..

The Statesman of 3-7-1934 publishes the full text of the speech delivered at the last I.L. Conference by Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Indian workers' delegate to the Conference, urging the inclusion of agricultural workers within the scope of the unemployment insurance Convention.

... ..

Labour Times, Madras, of 25-7-1934 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 29-7-1934 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 17-7-1934 under the caption: "The International Labour Conference and Indian Railway Workers". The communiqué is based on the observations of Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Indian workers' delegate, on the report submitted by the Government of India under Article 408.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 29-7-1934, publishes a note giving details regarding the points raised by Mr. Jammadas Mehta before the Committee of the I.L. Conference on Article 408 and in the open Conference on the report of the Government of India under Art. 408.

... ..

The Statesman of 4-7-1934, the National Call of 4 and 9-7-1934, and the Leader of 7-7-1934 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 3-7-1934 summarising the reply of the Director to the debate on his report at the 18th I.L. Conference.

(Cuttings from papers publishing the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1545/34 dated 26-7-1934).

The June 1934 issue of "Advance India", Madras, publishes in its "Diary of the Month" columns the news that on 16-5-1934 the British Government despatched to the I.L. Office a White Paper detailing the reasons for its opposition to the proposal for the 40-hour week.

In the same columns is published the news that the Committee of the I.L. Conference on Reduction of Hours of Industry adopted on 15-6-1934 the draft of the 40-hour week Convention.

... ..

The Indian Labourer, Madras, dated 10-7-1934 publishes the Tamil version of the Communique issued by Mr. R. R. Bakhale regarding the election of Mr. N.M. Joshi to the Governing Body. (For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide pages 9-10 of our June 1934 report).

The communique was also published in the July 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, and the July 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta.

... ..

The Leader of 11-7-1934 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 15-7-1934 publish a communique issued by this Office on 6-7-1934 giving full details regarding the election of Mr. N.M. Joshi to the Governing Body.

(For a list of other papers which published the communiqué, vide page 10 of our report for June 1934.)

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 8-7-1934, publishes a long summary of the speech of Mr. Arthur Hayday, the British workers' delegate at the 18th I.L. Conference, in support of the proposal for the

40-hour week.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 10-7-1934 and other papers publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 9-7-1934 summarising the speech of Mrs. Subbarayan, Adviser to the Indian Government Delegation, at the 18th I.L.Conference, on the subject of employment of women in underground work in mines.

(A cutting from the Hindustan Times of the communiqué was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1545/34, dated 26-7-1934).

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 1-7-1934 publishes the substance of a Reuters' cable dated 22-6-1934 from Geneva to the effect that the I.L.Conference passed a resolution inviting the United States to join the I.L.O.

(For a list of other papers which published the message, vide page 10 of our June 1934 report).

... ..

The Leader of 16-7-1934 reproduces the editorial comments made by the Manchester Guardian on the invitation extended to the United States of America by the last session of the I.L. Conference to join the I.L.Organisation.

.... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 12-7-1934 publishes a summary of the speech delivered by Mr. Kikukawa, Japanese workers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, in the course of the debate on the Report of the Director to the Conference.

... ..

The Leader of 27-7-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the heading "Physician Heal Thyself" on the speech of Mr. Forsyth, the South African Labour Delegate to the last I.L. Conference, delivered in the course of the debate over the Director's report. The article remarks:-

"That the working and the policy of the International Labour Organisation requires to be improved in many respects may be admitted. For instance, we ourselves have felt that the Organisation is excessively dominated by European influences and that Indian and other Asiatic interests are not properly represented at Geneva. But it is curious that in the suggestions that he made for improving the usefulness of the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Forsyth omitted to mention the fact that the native workers of South Africa were excluded from the Geneva Organisation and that if that body is to obtain universal support it is of the utmost importance that the workers of all nationalities should be properly represented at Geneva".

"This is by no means the only grievance of the native workers who are labouring under great disabilities, thanks to the white labour policy. There are a number of legislative enactments which check the rise and competition of the native worker. There is the Colour Bar Act of 1926 which excludes natives from skilled and semi-skilled occupations in the mines. Then, while the Masters' and Servants' Acts render trade union activity illegal for natives, the exclusion of the native worker from the operation of the machinery provided under the Wage Act and the Industrial Conciliation Act deprive him of constitutional means of redress of his economic grievances. But as it is the Labour Party itself, which is composed exclusively of Europeans, that is more than anybody else responsible for the wrongs done to the native workers, it is obvious why Mr. Forsyth, who requested the International Labour Conference to take more interest in the affairs of South Africa and suggested how it could make itself a more useful body, did not draw the attention of the Conference to the grievances of the native workers. How far the reforms suggested by Mr. Forsyth will be acceptable to and will be carried out by the authorities concerned remains to be seen".

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 8-7-1934 publishes a short editorial note on the decision of the 18th I.L. Conference to postpone consideration of the question of the reduction of hours of work to a future session. The following comments were made in the note:-

"Already the 40-hour week is being adopted in many countries by many industries. By next year the very serious situation in regard to unemployment and world opinion will force the employers to be more reasonable, and Geneva will register a general practice as it has done inasmuch regard to some of the Conventions passed by it".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 30-7-1934 publishes a photograph of the Director addressing the 18th I.L.Conference. The photograph was supplied to the paper by this Office.

... ..

Federated India, Madras, of 4-7-1934, and the July 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish a Reuter's message dated 24-6-1934 from Geneva announcing the termination of the 18th I.L.Conference on 23-6-1934 and the postponement of further consideration of the proposal for reduction on hours of work.

(For a list of other papers which published the message, vide page 4 of our June 1934 report).

... ..

The National Call of 13-7-1934, the Leader of 15-7-1934, the Hindu of 17-7-1934 and Federated India, Madras, of 25-7-1934, publish a communique issued by this Office on 11-7-1934 summarising the results of the 18th I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Statesman and the Hindu of 14-7-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 15-7-1934, the Times of India of 16-7-1934 and Federated India, Madras, of 18-7-1934, publish a statement issued on 13-7-1934 on the subject of her European tour by Mrs. Subbarayan, Adviser to the Indian Government delegation to the 18th I.L.Conference, soon after her

return to India. Regarding the last I.L.Conference she says in the statement:-

"Two questions I had to deal with in particular were those relating to women. This is the first time that the Government of India included a woman in their delegation and here again India has proved quite progressive, because very few Governments include women in their delegations to the International Labour Conference. I was unanimously elected by the Conference Committee on prohibition of underground work by women in mines of all kinds to be their rapporteur".

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 21-7-1934 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 20-7-1934 giving a summary of the speech of Mr. H.B. Butler on "India and the I.L.O." at a meeting of the East India Association on 10-7-1934.

(A cutting of the communique from the Hindustan Times dated 21-7-1934 was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1545/34 dated 26-7-1934).

... ..

The National Call of 25-7-1934, the Statesman of 26-7-1934, and the Hindu of 27-7-1934, publish a communique issued by this Office on 25-7-1934 giving fuller details regarding the speech of Mr. H.B. Butler to the members of the East India Association, London, on 10-7-1934.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 24-7-1934, the Leader of 25-7-1934, the Servant of India, Poona, of 26-7-1934, and the Statesman of 27-7-1934, publish letters from their London correspondents. These letters contain a fairly full summary of the proceedings of the meeting of the East India Association held on 10-7-1934 at which Mr. H.B. Butler delivered an address on India and the I.L.O.

... ..

The Times of India of 24-7-1934 publishes a long report of the Director's address to the East India Association sent by a correspondent from London.

... ..

The Hindu of 23-7-1934 publishes a short summary ~~of the report~~ of the Director's address to the East India Association sent out by its London correspondent.

... ..

The Tej, an Urdu daily of Delhi, dated 27-7-1934 publishes a summary of the remarks ~~made~~ made by Mr. Jammadas Mehta, Indian workers delegate to the 18th I.L. Conference, in the course of the discussion over Mr. H.B. Butler's lecture on "India and the I.L.O." delivered at a meeting of the East India Association held at the Carlton Hall, London, on 10-7-1934.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of "Financial Times", Madras, publishes two items from the June 1934 issue of "News Bulletin" issued by the I.L.O. The two items published are: "Social Consequences of the Economic Crisis" and "Japanese Competition".

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 1-7-1934, publishes the item ~~entitled~~ ^{entitled} "Wages and Unemployment" contained in the June 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Railway Employees' Bulletin, Secunderabad, reproduces the item: "The International Labour Conference: The Director's Report - A Bird's Eye View", from the June 1934 issue of the News Bulletin.

... ..

Federated India, Madras, of 4-7-1934, publishes the following items from the News Bulletin for June 1934:- "June Conference: Forecast of the Agenda"; "The I.L.Conference: The Director's Report - A Bird's-Eye View"; "Japanese Competition"; "Planned Economy"; "The Reduction of Hours of Work: Some Recent Developments"; "Pension Rights: An International Problem"; and "Public Works and Economic Recovery".

... ..

The July 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, reproduces the item entitled "Japanese Competition" contained in the June 1934 issue of the News Bulletin.

... ..

The July 1934 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, reproduces the following ⁷² items from the News Bulletin issued by the Geneva Office for June 1934: "The International Labour Organisation: Character ~~of~~ Annual Conference"; "The I.L.Conference: The Director's Report - A Bird's-Eye View"; "Planned Economy"; "The Reduction of Hours of Work: Some Recent Developments"; "The Social Consequences of the Economic Crisis"; "Wages and Unemployment"; "Social Insurance in 1933"; "No Fallacious Optimism"; "Unemployment Insurance"; and "Public Works and Economic Recovery".

... ..

The Guardian, Madras, of 12-7-1934, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication "International Survey of Social Services".

... ..

The July 1934 issue of India and the World, Calcutta, publishes an appreciative review of the recent I.L.O. publication "International Survey of Social Services".

... ..

The June 1934 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Industrial Relations in Great Britain".

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, of 21-7-1934, publishes a long review of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1933.

(A cutting from the issue of the Financial News containing the review was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1545/34, dated the 26th July 1934).

... ..

The Indian Labourer, a Tamil Fortnightly from Madras, dated 10-7-1934, publishes the third instalment of the Tamil translation of Dr. Pillai's article on the subject; "The World Unemployment Problem". The first two instalments of the article were published in the Indian Labourer of 15 and 28-6-1934 (vide pages 17-18 of our report for June 1934).

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 22-7-1934, publishes an article under the caption "I.L.O. and Workers' Organisations: Their relations during 1933" contributed by this Office. This article is based on the sections of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1933, dealing with relations with workers.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of H.E.H. the N.S. Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, reproduces the broadcast speech of Mr. Walter M. Citrine on "World Trade Unionism" delivered on 24-5-1934. In the course of the speech, references were made to the beneficent influence of the I.L.O. on trade unionism. The speech was reproduced also by the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-1934 (vide page 17 of our June 1934 report).

... ..

Dr. S.N. Ghosh of the League of Nations Secretariat delivered a lecture on the social and humanitarian activities of the League Organisations at a meeting of the Bengal Presidency Council of Women held during the middle of the month under review. In the course of the speech several references were made to the activities of the I.L.O. in the field of labour welfare. *A summary of the lecture was published in the Statesman of 21-7-1934.*

... ..

The Leader of 20-7-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "A 54-hour week" on the new Indian Factories Bill which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 20-7-1934. In the course of the article it is said that the policy of the paper is to accord support to the 40-hour week proposal. As regards the statement of Mr. H.P. Mody

in the Assembly that the employers were prepared to accept the 54-hour week as a gesture of good will, the article says:

"Does Mr. Nedy think that if his constituents had refused to give their assent to a reduction in the hours of work, that would have helped to improve the relations subsisting between the employers and their employees? "Let us above all things", said the late Mr. Albert Thomas, one of the greatest international labour leaders that the world has known, "be careful of the traditional distrust entertained by the workers of the world, by the most unfortunate experiences. We are afraid an attitude like that of Mr. Nedy's constituents who have given their consent to the 54-hour week, a reform which it was long overdue, most reluctantly, being opposed to it on the merits, will not help to remove the distrust entertained by the workers, a distrust which that class of labour leaders who believe in the revolutionary ideals of Moscow try to exploit for their own purposes".

As regards Mr. Nedy's plea for bringing factory legislation in Indian States on a par with that of British India, the article says:-

"We, however, entirely agree with Mr. Nedy that the Indian States should be brought into line with British India in the matter of labour standards. Ever since the League of Nations, to which the International Labour Office is affiliated, came into existence, the representatives of princes have been taking a prominent part in the deliberations at Geneva. The Maharaja of Kapurthala, for instance, has represented India at Geneva on not less than three occasions. But we have yet to know how many of the recommendations and conventions of the International Labour Office have been accepted and given effect to by His Highness of Kapurthala or other members of the princely order. If the princes believe that India should be represented at Geneva, why do they forget that a country's association with the League implies some obligations on its part which should be fulfilled? But, whereas so many reforms have been introduced in British India in the interests of the labouring classes during the last twelve years, the States stand almost where they did. Now comes the present Bill, which among other reforms, reduces the hours of work in British India. Surely an explanation is due from the princes why the interests of the labouring classes continue to be neglected within their territories".

...

...

...

The following is a summary of certain questions asked in the Legislative Assembly on 23-7-1934 on the subject of India's membership of the League of Nations and the Government's replies thereto:-

Sir N.N. Sircar, answering Mr. Bagla's questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding India's contribution to the League of Nations, said: "The amount is arrived at each year by calculating the proportion of the total estimated expenditure for that year which is payable by India under the system of allocation for the time being in force. The amount for 1934 is 1,704,202 gold francs, which is equivalent to Rs. 1,490,013."

Further questions were raised and Sir N.N. Sircar stated that six Indians were at present permanently employed in the Secretariat of the League of Nations, including the International Labour Office. It was believed there were also three temporary Indians employees.

Mr. Bagla asked if the Government had received any representation from the public that India should resign of the membership of the League. Sir N.N. Sircar replied that the Government never contemplated resignation from the League, as that step would at once represent the abandonment of an international duty and the abdication of international status.

Sir Abdur Rahim drew the attention of the Law Member to Lord Lytton's report, which was to the effect that India was paying proportionately more than it should towards the expenses of the League. Sir N.N. Sircar said he had not come prepared to answer on this point. Mr. B. Das, Mr. Sitwidia and Mr. Gopal Prasad Singh pursued the point, suggesting the desirability of making representation to the League of Nations for the reduction of India's contribution. Sir N.N. Sircar, while not committing the Government, said off-hand that it was desirable to get the contribution reduced.

Mr. Gopal Prasad Singh asked why Indian States, which participated in the League along with British India, should not be asked to bear their share of the cost of India's delegations annually. Sir N.N. Sircar wanted notice.

(The Hindu, 24-7-1934).

The above questions and answers were published in all the important Indian dailies.

... ..

Commenting on the ^{representations in the} Legislative Assembly debate on India's financial contribution to the I.L.O., the Hindu of 25-7-1934 in a long editorial article says that India has not been accorded at Geneva a status and recognition commensurate with the yearly amount she pays towards the League funds and draws attention to various authoritative pronouncements tending to prove that India is paying an unjustifiably high amount.

The paper suggests that the Government of India should press for the redressal of these grievances as early as possible.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 27-7-1934, commenting on the ^{wide participation in the} Assembly ~~debate~~ on the question of India's membership of the League and her financial contribution to the League, writes that India should fight for a reduction of her annual quota towards League funds.

... ..

Federated India, Madras, of 25-7-1934, reproduces the note submitted by the I.L.O. to the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations on the effect of prolonged unemployment on the children of workers.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note regarding the 14th Congress of the International Federation of Textile Workers' Associations from "Industrial and Labour Information" of 28-5-1934.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces under the caption "I.L. Conventions; Ratifications by China", the note published in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 14-5-1934 on the ratification of two I.L. Conventions by China.

... ..

The June 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short summary of the proceedings of the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May last.

... ..

The M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union, Madras, in offering its views on the Madras Maternity Benefit Bill, remarks that the provisions of the Bill fall far short of the provisions of the I.L.O. Draft Convention re. employment of women before and after child-birth. The views of the Union are published in Labour Times, Madras, of 25-7-1934, which also gives the full text of the Convention to facilitate comparison.

... ..

Financial News, Bombay, of 28-7-1934, publishes a summary of a note contributed by this Office under the caption: "Participation of workers in National Economic Life - A World Review: National Economic Councils", giving extracts from the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1933, on the subject.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 29-7-1934, publishes a long review of the trade union movement in Japan during 1933, in the course of which references are made to the attitude of the Japanese trade unions towards the I.L.O. and to the Asiatic Labour Congress.

... ..

A meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, was held on 26-6-1934 to discuss certain matters with Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, who was then in Bombay. One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was the employment of Indians in the League and I.L.O. Secretariats and the Chamber urged the Government of India to bring pressure on the League authorities to employ more Indians. (Details regarding the meeting are given in the section of this report: "Employers' Organisations"). A report of the meeting was published in the Times of India of 11-7-1934 and in other papers.

... ..

United India and Indian States, Delhi of 28-7-1934, publishes a review of the publication: "Labour Movement and Labour Legislation in China", by Lin Tung-Hai, contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the review references are made to the influence of the I.L.O. on the labour movement of China.

"Commerce and Industry," Delhi of 10-7-1934 publishes an article on "National Economic Councils the World Over". The article was sent to the paper by this Office (A cutting from "Commerce and Industry" was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1422/34 dated 19-7-1934.)

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 18-7-1934 publishes an article under the caption "America and the I.L.O; Significance of its Entry". The article was contributed to the paper by this Office.

* * *

The Times of India of 13-7-1934 publishes a short review of the I.L.O.Year-Book, 1933 (A cutting of the review was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/1422/34 dated 19-7-1934).

* * *

The issue of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 31-7-1934 publishes in four columns the communique on the Director's address before the East India Association issued by this Office on 23-7-1934. The same issue reproduces the item "Japanese Competition" contained in the June 1934 issue of the I.L.O.News Bulletin.

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Apart from messages which have already been mentioned in the previous reports of this Office, no fresh message emanating from Reuters or other European news Agencies was received published in the Indian Press during July 1934.

Ratifications.✓ The Indian Dock Labourers' Bill, 1933;Text of Select Committee's Report. ✓

Reference was made at page 18 of our September 1933 report to the Bill to give effect in British India to the ^{I.L.O} Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships, introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 18-9-1933. (A copy of the Bill was sent to Geneva with our minute D.1/1779/33 dated 5-10-1933). On 16-7-1934 the Select Committee on the Bill presented the following report to the Legislative Assembly:

• We considered a proposal put forward by Mr. ^(N.H.) Joshi that the preamble should be reworded to make it clear that the Bill applies to workers working in docks, wharfs, quays or warehouses.

So far as this proposal does not involve an extension of the scope of the Bill to matters alien to its expressed scope, we are satisfied that a change is unnecessary. The definition of "the processes" in clause 2(a) includes work in docks, wharfs, and quays and would include work done in connection with the transfer of goods from a railway wagon alongside a ship or from a warehouse on a wharf or quay. The Bill is not intended to apply to warehouses generally.

We received an assurance that the Government of India would bring to the notice of the Administrations of those Indian States which possess ports the action now being taken in British India, so that those Administrations may consider the advisability of adopting similar measures in respect of any of their ports which attain dimensions rendering such measures advisable.

A misprint in sub-clause (2) of clause 5* has been corrected.

The slight alteration in clause 6* removes a possible source of ambiguity."

*The following is the amended text of sub-clause (2) of clause 5 and of clause 6:-

5. (2) Regulations made under this section may make special requirements of any particular port or ports. ^{Provision to meet the special}

17

(6) Subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, Power to Local Government to make rules. the Local Government may make rules regulating:-

(a) the inspection of premises or ships where the processes are carried on; and

(b) the manner in which Inspectors are to exercise the powers conferred on them by this Act.

(Extracted from pages 175-178 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 21-7-1934, where the full text of the Bill (L.A.No.46 of 1933) as amended by the Select Committee is reproduced).

The Dock Labourers' Bill Passed.

The Indian Dock Labourers' Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, came up for third reading before the Legislative Assembly on 30-7-1934. *The Bill was passed on that date.*

In the debate that ensued Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury welcomed the Bill as a step in the right direction.

Dewan Bahadur Ramaswamy Mudaliar wanted the maritime Indian States to fall in line with British India.

Raja Bahadur Krishnamachari agreed, but wanted the Government of India to obtain the unfettered opinion of the States without much use of the powers of persuasion as were often employed.

Mr. B. Das suggested that Indian Princes be not allowed to represent India at the League of Nations if they did not give effect to the recommendations made in the Conventions

(The Statesman, 31-7-1934.)

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National Labour Legislation.

Factories Bill Passed on 19 - 7 - 1934;

Legislative Assembly Debate. ✓ ✓

On 17-7-1934 the Legislative Assembly, on the motion of Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge, Department of Industries and Labour, took into consideration the Factories Bill as reported by the Select Committee. In his speech moving consideration of the Bill, Sir Frank Noyce said:

"The Select Committee had gone through the Bill with care and thoroughness and were ably assisted by Bombay and U.P. Factory inspectors, whose services they greatly valued. The changes made by the Committee, were voluminous, but no change had been made in any matter of fundamental importance. The Government had intended to pass the Bill during the last session, but owing to pressure of other legislation it was deferred to this session. There should be no difficulty in passing the Bill as it had emerged from the ~~Select Committee, for the measures contained in the Bill were~~ administratively sound and workable."

The Government of India, the Employers' Federation and the Millowners' Association of Bombay had agreed to the shorter hours of work proposed by the Select Committee. Among other important changes made by the Select Committee was the change in the definition of a factory. In Clause 16, provision had been made for cooling factories, while in a later clause it had been laid down that persons physically unfit should not be employed in factories, while Sunday work had been permitted as Sunday is not considered by Indian workman from the same point of view as in Christian countries. Finally, the Bill had been considerably strengthened by the Select Committee and he hoped the House would pass it in that form.

The following is a summary of the discussion that ensued on 17, 18 & 19-7-1934:-

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury. - Mr. Chaudhury regretted that the minority report signatories had failed to persuade the majority to accept a 48-hour week, which had been accepted by all countries of Europe. The Select Committee had not made any material changes in the Bill.

Mr. G. Morgan. - Mr. Morgan said that the measure was too general in application. The provisions of the Bill should have come in such manner that, at any rate, the major industries should have received special attention. The powers of local

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Governments and inspectors of factories had been made too wide and the object of the legislation, namely, minimizing the chances of appeals, had not been kept in view. He urged the Government of India to control the rule-making powers of local Governments as laid down in Clause 18 and desired that local Governments should consult factory owners before making rules. Owing to the too wide powers given in the Bill, he anticipated another Bill to amend the present Bill after it had been in operation for some time.

Mr. H.P.Mody. - Mr. H.P.Mody said industrial conditions in India were vastly different from those in other countries and it would be many years before they could reach the stage of over-production. Labour in India was far behind other countries in efficiency and he recently made the startling statement that the Bombay mills, judged by output, were paying the highest wages in the textile industry in the world, barring of course the U.S.A. India was the first country in the world to ratify the Washington Convention, earlier than even England. Though his constituents were opposed to a 54-hour week on merit, they agreed as a gesture of goodwill and sympathy to accept it. The Millowners' Association, however, wanted time before this change was introduced as they had not consulted their members in other parts of India. Mr. Mody also reminded the House that, as president of the Employers' Federation of India, which included all great industries, he had secured support for a 54-hour week. It was a pity labour leaders did not make a similar response. A 54-hour week meant at least half an anna per pound loss to the textile industry. He would not mind supporting a 48-hour week provided the labour leaders agreed to a lower wage, or secured greater efficiency of labour, or backed whatever protective measures were necessary for safeguarding industries.

Mr. Mody drew the special attention of the Government to the conditions prevailing in Indian States. He said: "I certainly feel that the Government of India ought to exert all their influence - and that is considerable - to bring Indian States into line with British India in the matter of labour standards. Already the Indian States are enjoying very considerable advantage over British India. Wages are low, there is hardly any factory inspection, hours of work are long, living is cheap and taxation very low. There is a tendency for industries more and more to migrate to Indian States and if more burdens were imposed on British India this tendency would be accentuated. I want an assurance that the Government of India are alive to this danger and are going to do everything in their power to bring the Indian States into line with British India".

Diwan Lalchand Navalrai. - Mr. Navalrai, while congratulating both the Government and Mr. Mody on behalf of industrialists on agreeing to a 54-hour week, warned the House that times were

changing and that they must be prepared for a further reduction of hours of work. Besides supporting the point of view of Mr. Joshi, Mr. Matin Choudhury and Mr. Thampan recorded in a dissenting minute, the speaker pleaded for the acceptance of the amendments he had tabled relating to surgical attendance and the resolution on the penalty provided in Clause 60.

Mr. S.C.Jog.- Mr. Jog wanted some responsibility to be imposed on factory owners for the amelioration of the condition of labourers and opposed any handicaps being placed at this stage on labourers working in factories in Indian States.

Dr. Zia-ud-Din Ahmed.- Dr. Zia-ud-Din Ahmed regretted that the Bill did not extend to the navy and feared that local Governments might make rules detrimental to labour and industries.

Sir Abdur Rahim. - Sir Abdur Rahim said the Bill touched only one aspect of the labour problem outlined by the Labour Commission. India could be said to have made a real advance towards its goal only if the Government had given effect to the various suggestions of the Labour Commission in concert with employers, municipalities and district boards. Three years had passed and the House was entitled to know what was the Government's view regarding the recommendations of the Royal Commission which had not been given effect to so far. The housing problem was being dealt with all over the world, but the Government of India were doing nothing. He criticized the powers given to inspectors as too large and thought a 54-hour week was too long.

Sir Frank Noyce. - Sir Frank Noyce replying to the debate, informed Sir Abdur Rahim that the Government's report mentioning in detail the effect given to the Royal Commission's Report had been placed in the library of the House. The Bills already passed included the Assam Tea Districts Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, Pledging of Labour Act, the Land Acquisition Act, and the present Bill. The present Bill embraced a large number of the Commission's recommendations. There was another Bill on the anvil to regulate payment of wages, but after reading the criticism of the Bill he had decided not to proceed with it now, but to bring it forward in the next session in a more acceptable form. He assured the House that the present Bill did not give wider powers to local Governments and inspectors than they possessed under the existing Act. He assured Mr. Mody that the Government would examine the question of the Indian States and see what could be done.

The House then proceeded to discuss the Bill clause by clause; several amendments were proposed, but the majority of them were lost.

Dewan Lalchand Navalrai moved an amendment to clause 2 with

a view to extending the provisions of the Bill to factories where ten or more workers were working instead of twenty or more as suggested by a Select Committee. Sir Frank Noyce said that the only ground on which the Government had not extended the operations of the Bill to factories employing less than twenty was financial. If the amendment were accepted the Government would have to employ many more inspectors at considerable cost, which they were not in a position to bear at present, but the power of extending operations to smaller factories was given to local Governments and when their financial position improved they would be at liberty to extend them to smaller factories as well.

The Amendment was rejected.

There was a long discussion on Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury's amendment reducing the weekly hours of workers from 54 to 48 hours in ordinary factories and from 60 hours to 54 hours in seasonal factories. He feared it was quite possible in some factories to decrease wages while reducing hours of work. Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmed supported the amendment, but said that the ideal position would be to pay labourers according to the hours of work put in.

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Sir Frank Noyce replied, saying that the proposal in the Bill was an instalment of progress and they should see the result of this before moving further in the direction of reducing hours. The amendment was rejected without a division.

Government accepted two amendments - one each to clauses 51 and 53. The first amendment substituted clause 51 by the following: "No child who has completed his 12th year and no adolescent shall be allowed to work in any factory unless (a) a certificate of fitness granted to him under Section 52 is in the custody of the manager of the factory and (b) he carries while he is at work a token giving reference to such certificate". The second amendment was consequential to the above mentioned amendment.

Seven more amendments were accepted, six of which (moved by the Government member, Mr. E.W. Perry) carried out improvements of a formal nature. The seventh amendment, moved by Mr. Morgan, added an exception to the rule regarding the penalty for smoking or using a naked light in the vicinity of inflammable material. The exception reads: "This provision does not extend to use in accordance with such precautions as may be prescribed of a naked light in course of a manufacturing process".

Sir Frank Noyce then, without making a speech, moved that the Bill as amended be passed. Accordingly, on 19-7-1934 the Legislative Assembly passed the Bill consolidating and amending the law relating to labour in factories.

(Summarised from the Statesman, 18, 19 & 20-7-1934)

Trade Disputes Act for Baroda:

Resolution Urging Legislation in State Assembly. ✓

At the Baroda State Legislative Assembly ~~which is now in session,~~ resolutions were moved on 18-7-1934 by messrs. Vidya Shankar and Rasuk Khan Pathan appealing to the Government to take immediate steps to bring into force an enactment on the lines of the Trade Disputes Act of British India, modified to suit local conditions, to improve the labour situation and encourage local trade and industry. It was pointed out by the movers that a conciliatory ^{board} board was established as an experimental measure by the Government last year, but for want of the necessary authority to intervene in trade disputes it had proved absolutely ineffective in enforcing its decision on the parties concerned. In view of the repeated strikes during the last two years, it was high time that Government arrived at some definite line of action ^{to} save industry and labour from total ruin.

Mr. Devidas Shah opposed the resolution on the ground that to apply, in the State, measures in force in British India without establishing whether they would suit local conditions or the recognized policy of the Government was undesirable. He saw no reason why they should burden the Statute ^{Book} with an enactment which was quite foreign to their constitution and whose efficacy was doubtful, as would be seen from the state of affairs in Bombay ^{and} other places.

Mr. Sudhalkar, one of the members of the Conciliatory ^{Board} Board,

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thought that without legal support neither the Government nor the Board had powers to intervene in disputes unless a breach of ^{the} public peace was feared. The motion was withdrawn on the Dewan Saheb explaining that the need of some sort of control had been long established. He assured the House that the Government was not opposed to the spirit underlying the motion.

(The Statesman, 18-7-1934).

Ceylon Workmen's Compensation Draft Ordinance, 1934:

First Reading Passed on 24-5-1934. ✓✓

Reference was made at pages 11-15 of our April 1934 report to the Draft Ordinance to provide for the payment of compensation to workmen who are injured in the course of their employment, proposed to be introduced in the Ceylon Legislative Council (A copy of the Draft Ordinance was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.8/859/34 dated 24-4-1934). The first reading of the Ordinance was passed in the Ceylon State Council on 24-5-1934.

(The Hindu, 25-5-1934).

Labour Legislation in Travancore State:

The Travancore Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill, 1934. ✓

It is reported that a Bill called "The Travancore Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill", to repeal certain enactments ~~xxxx~~ whereby breaches of contract are made punishable under the Criminal Law is proposed to be introduced in the Travancore Legislative Council.

Objects and Reasons.- In British India, by Act III of 1925 certain enactments of the above nature, viz., the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act and Section 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code, were repealed. The question of repealing the corresponding provisions in Travancore has been under consideration since then. The Statement of ~~Objects and Reasons~~ of the Bill further says that the International Labour Conference of June 1930 has expressed the view that forced or compulsory labour should, as a rule, be abolished as early as practicable and this principle was generally accepted by the Indian Legislature in 1931. The object of the Travancore Bill is to repeal the Travancore Breach of Contract Regulation and Sections 493 and 495 of the Travancore Penal Code.

(The Hindu, 27-7-1934).

Conditions of Labour.Standardisation of Wages in the Bombay Cotton TextileIndustry: Mr. Bakhale's Criticism of Millowners' Scheme. ✓

A brief summary of the decisions of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in respect of standardisation of wages of mill-hands was made at pages 33-34 of our June 1934 report. The following ^{are} being the salient features of the scheme:

(1) The consolidation of the wages of time workers by amalgamating the basic rates and the dear food allowance.

(2) The association has prescribed minimum consolidated rates of wages for time workers, below which none of its local mills are allowed to go. These minimum wages came into operation from July 1.

(3) There is neither consolidation of wages nor the fixation of minimum wage for piece workers. The basic rates will continue to be in the same chaotic condition as hitherto; but the standard dear food allowance of 80 per cent, which the workers have been getting since 1930, has been reduced from July 1 to a minimum of 35 per cent below which no local mill of the association is permitted to go.

(4) After the introduction of the 54-hour week, the minimum dear food allowance will be increased from 35 per cent to 40 per cent.

Mr. R.R. Bakhale, Secretary, National Trades Union Federation, has issued a long statement criticising the scheme. A summary of the main points made out by Mr. Bakhale is given below:-

Scheme Fixes Lower Rates of Wages. - The scheme is partly a consolidation of wages scheme and partly a minimum wages scheme. The cumulative effect of the scheme is an all round reduction in the earnings of workers in almost every occupation of the textile industry. The Labour Office report has shown that, as compared with July 1926, the earnings had been reduced by 16.94 per cent by December 1933. The scheme of the Millowners' Association has further reduced the earnings, which will be put on the minimum rates of wages and allowances, by 7.7 per cent in the case of time workers and by 20 per cent in the case of piece workers. Thus between July 1926 and July 1934, the earnings of time workers on the minimum-wage basis and those of piece workers on the basis of minimum allowance, assuming that their basic rates are not

disturbed, would have been reduced by 24.64 per cent and 36.94 per cent respectively.

Implications of the Scheme. - To understand clearly the full implications of the scheme, it is not enough to know its main features. It is equally essential to examine what is permissible under it, even though it may not have been prescribed by it.

In the first place, the consolidation of the basic rates of wages and allowance partially gives effect to the recommendations of the Fawcett Committee. It is confined only to time workers, whereas the committee recommended consolidation for the whole industry. In the absence of a time limit, one does not know when even this partial consolidation will fully come into operation. Secondly, though the scheme prescribes minimum consolidated wages for time workers and minimum allowance for piece workers, it keeps mills which are paying above these minima, in a nebulous condition. Thirdly, fixing the dear food allowance at 35 per cent as the minimum has neither consolidated the wages of piece workers nor provided a minimum wage for them. It is difficult to understand the object of arbitrarily fixing only the allowance at a certain minimum unless it be to reduce at one stroke the earnings of the workers.

Fixing Allowances alone Inequitable. - The consolidation of the wages of time workers on a minimum basis creates uniformity at least at the bottom, though the minimum that has been fixed is neither adequate nor fair and reasonable. Fixing the allowance at the minimum level does not achieve even this uniformity at the bottom because the basic rates, which have caused serious heart-burnings in the past owing to their disparity which was sharply criticised by the Tariff Board and other authoritative bodies, are not at all touched. On the other hand, fixing the allowance at a minimum without any consideration of the total earnings has created anomalies of a serious character which will annoy not only the workers but even some of the employers who may be adversely affected.

Absence of a Basic Average Rate. - A ~~well~~ well-thought out scheme for the payment of wages generally starts on the basis of an average wage which a worker in every occupation is expected to get. The 1928 standardisation scheme of the Millowners' Association was framed on this basis and was thus able to secure, with some modifications, the approval of the Fawcett Committee. The present scheme has no such basis and, therefore, the average wage for every occupation in the industry cannot be ascertained until it is seen how the mills paying higher rates and allowances than the minima laid down, react to the scheme. The Millowners' Association, however, has claimed that, as a result of the introduction of the ~~new~~ scheme, the wages in a number of mills will go up. The claim is unfounded. It can be asserted that there is hardly any occupation in the industry the earnings in which are above, or at least equal to, those prevailing before March, 1933, when the reduction began. Moreover, it is the number of

workers affected, and not the mills, which should form the basis of wage comparisons; but this number is not available today.

Tests re. Adequacy of Minimum Wage. - Mr. Bakhale then discusses the tests that are applied to determine the adequacy or otherwise of a minimum wage. There are three tests, he says, which are most important and generally applied, namely: (1) a living wage, or (2) a fair wage, or (3) a wage based on the principle of the ability of the industry to pay. He examines the millowners' scheme by applying to it these three tests, and finds that it fails to satisfy any of them. In this connection, examining the position of the mill industry in Ahmedabad and Bombay, he says:

Relative Efficiency of Bombay and Ahmedabad.- Although it may be difficult to measure the degree of efficiency of the industry, it is not so difficult to compare the relative efficiency of the two centres, Ahmedabad and Bombay. It is an admitted fact that in 1926 Bombay wages were slightly higher than those in Ahmedabad. The earnings at the former centre were reduced by 16.95 per cent by December 1933, and after that, under the mill-owners' scheme, they will be further reduced by 20 per cent in the case of piece workers and 7.7 per cent in the case of time workers in mills put on a minimum basis, while those in Ahmedabad have increased by 5 to 6 per cent. But the latest Tariff Board Report on the Cotton textile industry records that the wage rates in Bombay have decreased while those in Ahmedabad have increased. The present proposals will decrease (further wage rates). The Tariff Board has also stated that the proportion of labour costs to total cost of production is higher by 4.40 per cent in Ahmedabad than in Bombay. The comparison, however, of some other ~~xx~~ items in the cost of production shows that Bombay is extravagant and, therefore, inefficient.

Selling Expenses Compared. - According to the Tariff Board, the proportion of selling expenses in Bombay form 7 per cent of the cost of production as against 1.10 per cent in Ahmedabad. Packing expenses in Bombay and Ahmedabad are 2.50 per cent and 1.60 per cent respectively, and fuel and power expenses are 10.80 per cent and 8.70 per cent for the two centres. No reason has been assigned for the disproportionately high expenditure on selling and packing, and it is within the power of millowners to reduce these expenses to the Ahmedabad level. It is also possible to secure a reduction in fuel and power charges by joint action.

Suggestions for Effecting Economy (a) Improved Selling & Packing. - Bombay's turnover of yarn and cloth was ~~22,000,000~~ 220,000,000. Of the total cost of production, 40 per cent is the

cost of raw cotton and 60 per cent is the manufacturing cost. Of the latter, if the expenses on selling, packing and power, to take only those items, are reduced to the Ahmedabad level - and it is within the powers of millowners to do so - it is calculated that about 8,000,000 will be saved on a turnover of 220,000,000.

(b) Organised Buying of Cotton. - If the managing agents shift their offices from the Fort to the mills, it will not only ensure better supervision but will not fail to result in some savings. The heavy interest charges are also an item for considerable reduction. Similarly, if cotton is bought by organising better methods of purchase, such as those followed in Ahmedabad, a substantial saving can be effected.

No Need for Reduction of Wages. - It has been calculated by competent authorities that these improvements, apart from ensuring better efficiency, will yield a saving to the Bombay industry of between Rs. 12.5 million. This saving will be, it is calculated, as much as, if not more than, that which the wage reductions are expected to make. The test of the ability of the industry to pay even though applied broadly does not, therefore, prove the necessity for the low level to which minimum wages have been taken, and for any wage reductions.

Mr. Bakhale's Conclusions. - The criticism so far offered brings out the following conclusions:-

- (1) The scheme of the Millowners' Association is a hybrid scheme without any rational basis.
- (2) The effect of the scheme on the total earnings of the workers cannot be ascertained until it is seen how mills paying higher rates of wages and allowance react to the scheme.
- (3) It can, however, be stated that the earnings of time workers and piece workers on a minimum wage basis, as compared with those in December, 1933, will be reduced by 7.7 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in addition to the 16.94 per cent cut introduced in the beginning of 1934.
- (4) Loopholes in the scheme allow the rates of wages and allowances above the prescribed minimum to be reduced.
- (5) Fixing the minimum allowance of 35 per cent will not ensure a minimum wage for piece workers.
- (6) The minimum wage and consolidation part of the scheme is confined only to time workers.
- (7) The minimum wages prescribed for time workers are very inadequate and do not satisfy any of the tests by which they are generally determined.

(The Times Of India, 25-7-1934).

Welfare Activities of the Tata Iron and Steel Company:

Tariff Board Report on Iron and Steel Industry. ✓

Reference was made at pages 52-53 of our August 1933 report to the effect that the Indian Tariff Board has been directed to examine the case for further protection to the Indian iron and steel industry and the extent, if any, to which such protection has to be granted. The Tariff Board's report on the subject was published on 12-7-1934. It is recommended that, including the period for which the existing scheme has been extended beyond the statutory term, the Indian steel industry is to receive protection for another period of seven years. In view of India's natural advantages, the improvements in machinery which are being contemplated by the Tatas, and possible reduction in working costs, the Board is of opinion that at the end of the proposed period of protection, i.e., 1941, Indian iron and steel industry would not require further protection. In view of the fact that the industry has been found to be well-organised and efficiently managed, the Board has suggested a reduction in the level of protection.

Acting on the recommendations of the Tariff Board, the Government of India have introduced a Bill in the Legislative Assembly on 25-7-1934. The Bill imposes an excise duty of Rs.4 per ton on all steel ingots and a countervailing duty on imported steel ingots. The countervailing duty is to be in addition to the protective duty recommended by the Board, as an alternative to the "ad valorem" revenue duty on articles in respect of which protection has not been proposed. The Bill comes into force on a date to be notified later. It is proposed that the protection should remain in force till March 1941.

* Report of the Indian Tariff Board on the Iron and Steel Industry. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1934. Price Re.1-8 or 2s.6d. pp.173.

The following is a summary of Chapter VIII of the Report of the Board dealing with the welfare activities of the Tata Iron and Steel Company at Jamshedpur.-

Housing.- In 1918 the Company adopted a regular town-planning scheme and decided, in order to avoid overcrowding, to restrict incidence of population to 12 families to an acre. The scheme allowed for the accommodation of 70,000 persons providing at the same time open spaces and play grounds. The Company, in order to give inducement to employees to construct their own houses, agreed to advance loans up to a total of Rs. 50,000 (a figure later increased to Rs. 75,000). Those who wished to erect houses were allowed an advance equal to three months' pay repayable within a maximum period of 18 months with interest at 3 per cent. per annum. Unfortunately the acute financial depression of the years following 1922 obliged the Company to suspend its building programme. The Tariff Board reported in 1926 that the housing position was not satisfactory. Since the close of the year 1928 the Company has allotted a sum of Rs. 3.8 millions for town capital expenditure, earmarking Rs. 2.1 millions for housing. This scheme provided for 750 houses and the programme with certain modifications was practically completed by April 1932. From the Company's statement submitted to the Board it is found that at the end of March 1933, the number of houses available in Jamshedpur was 13,200 whereas the number of employees on the Company's pay roll was nearly 50,000. About 40 per cent. of these houses were built and are owned by the Company and the rest by the employees, in almost all cases with assistance from the Company. In 1926 the percentage of employees for whom accommodation was provided was only 34, whereas at the end of 1933 the percentage rose to 56. In its programme of capital expenditure expected to be incurred during the next seven years, the Company has provided under the heading "Housing, Sanitation, Street Lighting, etc., in the Town" Rs. 3 millions. The total capital cost on residential buildings up to 31st March 1933, was Rs. 10,053,588.

Medical Relief.- As a result of a complete project for an up-to-date hospital designed for 300 beds, the Company in 1923 opened a new hospital to satisfy the growing needs of the town. An additional block was added to this in 1928 and the hospital has been provided with 140 beds. An X-ray department has recently been added. Besides the main hospital, there are 5 dispensaries located in different parts of the town and these seem to be popular. The need for segregation of infectious and contagious cases led in 1923 to the erection of a well equipped infectious diseases hospital with provision for 52 beds. A well-qualified medical staff is maintained by the Company. The total capital expenditure on the existing hospital buildings is Rs. 435,104. The Company is incurring increasing expenditure on staff, medicines, diet, etc. In 1927-28 the amount spent on these heads was Rs. 218,960 and last year Rs. 262,137. All employees are treated free in the hospital. Outdoor treatment at the hospital and dispensaries was originally entirely free to the public also, but from February 1932, a small charge is levied on all non-employees for indoor treatment, for medicines prescribed by doctors and visits to their houses.

Indianisation.- Since the grant of protection to the Indian steel industry, the Company reports that it has been steadily pursuing a policy of Indianisation. During the period under review, the progress in this direction has been satisfactory. In September 1924, the total number of the covenanted staff was 229; on the 1st of June 1926 the number was 161, a reduction of 30 per cent. On the 1st of April 1933, the number of the covenanted staff stood at 70, showing a further reduction of approximately 56 per cent. From the figures available up to 1st January 1934, it appears that the number has now been reduced to 64. This reduction has been effected in spite of a continuous increase in the output of steel.

The total yearly expenditure on covenanted labour amounted to Rs. 5,200,000 in 1927-28. Since then year after year there has been a substantial reduction bringing down the figure to Rs. 1,617,000 in 1932-33, a reduction of over 50 per cent. No covenanted employees were working in many of the departments and it is remarked that in no case has efficiency been sacrificed and that wherever Indianisation has been effected, it has always been done with the advice and support of the General Manager, and not only has efficiency been maintained but real economy has also been effected.

Technical Institute.- The progress in the Indianisation of its staff which the Company has been able to effect is largely due to the system of technical education which it has organised. By the end of 1933 the total number of admissions into the Technical Institute had reached nearly 250, of whom 104 had passed out successfully and had obtained employment with the Company. In order to promote the efficiency of the Technical Institute, in the year 1931 the Company constituted a Committee. As a result of the recommendations of that Committee a revised system has been introduced under which "steps have been taken to recruit highly qualified candidates" and "much greater attention is being paid to the practical training of the recruits under the supervision of suitable officers belonging to the various Departments of the Works".

Since the establishment of the Institute, the Steel Company has borne 75 per cent. of the total capital expenditure of Rs. 248,000 together with 51 per cent. of the total recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,053,000 from the commencement in 1921 to March 1932. The balance has been met by Provincial Governments and the Ratan Tata Trust. There are now 127 ^{past} students employed in the works, 104 under contracts and 23 without. One of them has already been placed in charge of an important department and several others hold responsible positions. Some of the production departments such as the open hearth and most of the rolling mills are at present manned largely by technical graduates who have successfully replaced foreign experts. In addition to giving training in the Jamshedpur Technical Institute, the Company has a scheme by which a limited number of ex-students of the Institute are sent abroad to obtain further experience in other steel works.

The Apprentice School.- In addition to the Technical Institute there is an Apprentice School with accommodation for 73 students. The course of training in the Apprentice School comprises general education, elementary science and mathematics and those branches of

technology required in the works. The course covers five years during the first four of which the apprentices spend four days a week in the shops of the Company obtaining manual skill and practical experience and two days a week attending time classes. During the fifth year the apprentices spend the whole of their time in the works. This apprentice scheme, if successfully worked, will tend to reduce the gulf that often exists between the labourer and the overseer in many industrial establishments.

General Education.- Starting with a small school opened as early as 1918 the Company today has under its management a High School, two Middle English Schools for boys and one Middle English School for girls. There are also 32 primary schools in the town including one for girls. 17 out of the total of 32 primary schools are managed by the Company and in all these education is free. The other primary schools, though managed by the residents, receive help from the Company in the shape of grants-in-aid. A Schools Committee nominated by the Company administers all the institutions in the town. According to the figures supplied to the Tariff Board the capital cost of the schools up to 31st March 1933 was Rs. 305,371. The recurring expenditure on the schools in 1926-27, the beginning of the second period of protection, was Rs. 80,748 and in 1933-34 the amount has gone up to Rs. 134,897. The growth in the number of children attending these schools has been very rapid and has exceeded the estimate of the educational expert who at one time estimated the number of school-going children as likely to be between 2,000 and 3,000. There are now about 5,000 children (boys and girls) receiving instruction. The total number of schools is 42, and the number of teachers employed 209. Special mention is made of the six night schools where general education is being imparted to adult employees of the Company who cannot attend day schools.

Welfare Activities.- Under this scheme the equivalent of six weeks wages is paid to a woman worker on her confinement, provided she has been in the continuous employment of the Company for not less than 12 months prior to the date of her confinement and provided also she gives an undertaking not to take up any work outside her own home during the period of six weeks of confinement. A women's rest house with a matron and two assistants has been established at the cokeovens where women employees can have their food and wash and change their clothes. On an average about 14,000 use this rest house each month. Some women while on duty leave their children in the rest house in charge of the matron. Cradles have been provided for their use and on an average 14 babies are taken care of daily.

First-Aid.- Besides First Aid stations, First Aid boxes have been provided together with emergency stretchers in every department, and attempts are made by notices and other propaganda to inculcate safety-first principles. Books on safety rules required for the various departments are distributed among the workers. Free training in First Aid is given to selected workers from each department. The Company supplies free ice and soda water to all workers inside the works and full advantage is taken of this facility. Workers who have to spend their time in the vicinity of furnaces and hot metals are given a free supply of boots. To enable the workers to obtain good food at cost price, eight hotels have been established within the works.

Co-operation.- There are at present 25 Co-operative Credit Societies in Jamshedpur. Their total share capital is Rs. 481,107. Instalments of loans given by the Societies to their members are recovered through the Company from the men's salary. A scheme for the formation of a Co-operative Central Bank is under consideration.

Provident Fund.- In 1920 the Company brought into existence a Provident Fund. The number of members is 15,611, comprising uncovered employees drawing Rs.15 a month and over or an equivalent daily rate. A member of the Fund may contribute either $\frac{1}{12}$ th or $\frac{1}{24}$ th of the wages actually received by him during the year and this is deducted from his salary every month. The Company contributes a sum equal to the amount contributed by the employee. The whole of the sum is placed to the credit of the employee and bears interest at 6 per cent. per annum. In 1927-28 the Company contributed Rs. 620,000 to the Fund, in 1930-31 Rs. 920,000 and last year (1932-33) Rs.960,000.

Workmen's Compensation.- The Company claims that it gives compensation for injuries received in the works on a more generous scale than provided for in the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Steel Company, though not provided for in the Act, pays in cases of temporary disablement of whatever duration at the full rate of the employee's salary from the date of injury until he is declared fit to go back to work again or until he is declared to have suffered some permanent loss of earning capacity, in which case disability compensation according to the Act is paid to him. The total amount paid by the Company for fatal, permanent and temporary disablement cases in the year ending March 1933 was Rs. 55,108 whereas the actual amount payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act was only Rs. 30,021.

Expenditure on Welfare Activities.- The following are the figures of expenditure on welfare activities inside the works:-

	<u>Approximate expenditure for the year 1931-32.</u>
	<u>Rupees.</u>
Safety First and First Aid	9,429
Free ice and soda supply	126,899
Women's rest house	1,000
Maternity Benefit	4,667
Picnics	2,607
Supply of boots, etc.	41,074
Total	<u>185,676</u>

Welfare Work of Begg, Sutherland & Co., Cawnpore:

Quinquennial Report for 1929-1934. ✓

The report deals with the welfare work carried on between 1929 and 1934 in the following industrial concerns at Cawnpore, controlled by Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co., Ltd.: -

The Elgin Mills Co., Ltd., employing about 4,000 men, Cawnpore Textile Ltd., the Cawnpore Refinery and Distillery, branches of the Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., the Cawnpore Aerating Gas Co. Ltd., Brushware Ltd., and the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation Ltd. with their two Power Houses, Tramways and Car Shed.

The welfare activities, the report states, have been carried on with a view to the realisation of the following objects: (a) improvement of the economic conditions of the workers, (b) provision of adequate facilities for profitable use of leisure time, and (c) all-round development of the workers' personality.

Educational Facilities. Boys' School. - The school for boys was opened with only four students, but the number on the rolls on 31-3-1934 was 50, these being mainly the dependents of the workmen of the Elgin Mills. Tuition, books, slates and stationery are provided free and classes are held in two sections for the sake of those boys who work in the mills in the morning and attend school in the evening. The report states that these half-timers, however, ^{are} recruited through the school and therefore boys seek admission into this particular institution in spite of the fact that there are other schools in the locality. Though it is called a primary school, the curriculum has been specially prepared with a view to meet the needs of the people concerned. As soon as a boy is able to read and write the vernacular and do simple arithmetic, he is straightaway made to learn what will be of use to him in daily life, as for instance, writing of letters and small notes, filling-in money-order forms, and keeping of daily accounts. He is also taught geography, history and elementary hygiene. The students in the final class are expected to read children's story books, magazines and newspapers. The course is supplemented by lectures on useful subjects and training in Boy Scout Craft.

* Quinquennial Report of the Welfare work of Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co., Ltd., Cawnpore. 1st April 1929-31st March 1934. - Printed at the Job Press, Cawnpore - pp.19

Girls' School. - The Girls' school is situated inside the Elgin Settlement and is meant chiefly for girls, but a few boys of tender age are also admitted. In addition to the subjects usually taught in an institution of this kind there is provision for instruction in kindergarten subjects. Singing and sewing are also taught. As in the school for the boys all the facilities are free. The management provides daily half a pound of pure milk for every boy and girl.

Adult Education. - In addition to the two schools and the provision of libraries, newspapers, magazines and pictorials of all kinds, the workmen are also invited to attend the lectures which are a regular feature of the work—the series comprising talks on geography, history, astronomy, hygiene, sanitation, and civics, etc. A night school for adults was opened in 1930 and was conducted for a few months but had to be closed down on account of indifferent attendance because at the end of the day the men were too tired to do anything. A few workmen, however, have continued to learn to read and write the vernacular and English with profit to themselves.

Free Medical Treatment. - There are five dispensaries under the supervision of qualified doctors. There is also a dispensary for women and children with a qualified lady doctor, for the workers of the Elgin Mills. The lady doctor answers emergency calls and ~~serious cases~~ ~~without any fee~~ and the expense of the conveyance is also borne by the Company. Maternity cases are not conducted by the lady doctor inasmuch as assistance is available at the Red Cross centres in the city. Serious medical cases are sent to the local government hospitals. By a system of card records, the history of the illness of each patient is carefully maintained in the dispensary. Free medical treatment is given to the workmen and their dependents in the dispensaries of Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co. In 1933 the number of cases treated was 52,754 and of this number 16,910 were new and the rest 35,844 were old patients. During the period under review the number of new patients treated were 84,550, the old patients being 179,220 and the total number of treatments were 263,770. ~~The workmen are medic~~

Medical Inspection. - The workmen are medically examined at the time of recruitment to detect defective eye-sight, weak heart, and contagious and venereal diseases. If during the course of service a man is discovered to be suffering from any of the serious diseases, the Welfare Superintendent helps to have special treatment provided either at the local hospitals or by specialists. He is not allowed to resume work unless there is a complete cure.

Creche. - A creche under the supervision of a nurse and an ayah is provided in the factory of Brushware Ltd., for the children of the women who form the majority of the workers. The mothers feed their children in the creche, which is equipped with hanging cradles and cots, mattresses, sheets, blankets and all the necessary requirements for infants. Biscuits, toys and simple medicines are also

provided. The infants are bathed every morning and given clean clothes. The mothers who are not accustomed to leave their ~~children~~ infants in the care of other people are slowly learning to leave them in the creche, away from the dust of hair and bristles which they handle in their work.

Housing. - Under the welfare work scheme a fairly big housing programme has been carried through. The Elgin Settlement, consists of 141 houses on the banks of the Ganges, the rents for which vary from Rs.1-2-0 to Rs.3-8-0 per mensem. Besides this, there are 64 quarters at the Khalasi Lines Settlement, 40 quarters in the settlement built by the Cawnpore Textiles Ltd., 120 quarters in the Jaggerygunj settlement of the Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., and 70 quarters at Wishartgunj.

Complaints and Grievances. - A special feature of the work of the Welfare Superintendent is to represent the individual and collective grievances of the workers to the management and to secure redress for them. The report states that the Welfare Superintendent has been able to interpret the difficulties of one party to the other and in a general way has served as a "safety valve" and a "shock absorber" for the workmen, by enabling them to give vent to their feelings of genuine resentment.

Credit Societies. - A credit Society on the principle of co-operation was started for the workmen of the Elgin Mills in September 1932. The Society made a profit of Rs.566/8/6 during the first year of the working. There are 355 shareholders ~~many~~ owning 744 shares of Rs.5/- each. Fixed deposits are accepted at a rate of interest not exceeding 9% and the rate charged on loans to members is 12 1/2%, whereas the bazar rates are 37 1/2%, 75% and 150%. Savings Bank accounts of members are opened at 6%. The Society proved so useful that the demand for loans increased rapidly and to prevent the Society from becoming unwieldy the limit of Rs.8,000/- has, for the present, been set on the aggregate amount of loans distributed among the members at any one time. Fewer Kabuli money lenders have been seen at the gate of the mills since the credit society was started.

After the success of the Elgin Mills credit society had been demonstrated, the request of the employees of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation was considered and a society organised for them. This has now proved itself as useful as the Elgin Mills Society. The number of shareholders are 335 and the shares sold are 500. In the Elgin Mills Credit Society the total amount of money loaned to members since the inception up to the 31-3-1934 ~~is~~ was Rs.21,423/- and the total number of debts 373. In the society of the Electric Supply Corporation the total amount loaned out was Rs.15,232/- and the number of debts 290. Both the Elgin Mills Company and the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation have each given a loan to their respective societies up to Rs.2,000 at a nominal rate of interest.

Quarterly Strike Statistics for
the Period Ending 31-3-1934. W

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-3-1934, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 58 disputes during the period involving 64,776 workers and entailing a loss of 862,231 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency where 32 disputes involving 51,946 workers entailed a loss of 813,300 working days. Next comes Bengal with 11 disputes involving 7,254 workers and entailing a loss of 31,594 working days; Madras with 6 disputes involving 1,720 workers and entailing a loss of 9,670 working days; Assam, Burma, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces with 2 disputes each involving 900, 150, 1,250 and 1,491 workers, respectively, and entailing losses of 2,000, 1,270, 1,844 and 2,382 working days, respectively and Bihar and Orissa with 1 dispute involving 57 workers and entailing a loss 171 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 36 disputes involving 54,338 workers and entailing a loss of 819,337 working days. 2 disputes occurred in jute mills involving 4,200 workers and entailing a loss of 4,200 working days. Other industries were responsible for 18 disputes which involved 5,468 workers and entailed a loss of 34,014 working days.

Of the 58 disputes during the period under report, 43 were due to wage questions, 8 due to questions of personnel, 1 to bonus and 6 to other causes. In 12 disputes the workers were successful, in 12 partially successful and in 26 unsuccessful. 8 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

Demand for Overhaul of Bombay Textile Industry:Action of Government on Labour Office Report. ✓

At pages 24-30 of our June 1934 report was given a summary of the findings arrived at by the Bombay Labour Office after a special enquiry which the Office conducted into wages and unemployment conditions prevailing in the cotton textile industry of the Bombay Presidency. Responsible labour leaders in Bombay have expressed themselves as not fully satisfied with the Labour Office report. At a meeting of the Bombay Provincial Committee of the National Trades Union Federation held at Bombay on 5-7-34 under the presidency of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, a resolution was passed requesting the Government of India to appoint a committee to enquire into the position of the textile industry, particularly in Bombay City, with special reference to its thorough reorganisation under public control and urging that immediate steps should be taken for conducting an enquiry under the Trades Disputes Act with a view to make recommendations on the issues arising out of the Labour Office Report.

The resolution was moved by Mr. S.A. Brelvi, Editor, Bombay Chronicle, who expressed dissatisfaction with the Labour Office report, and characterised it as incomplete. Mr. N.M. Joshi, who seconded the resolution said the industry had not been developed on ~~the~~ right lines. The present system was so bad that not even those who had invested money in the industry controlled it: the industry was managed by mill agents according to an irresponsible system. Many of the industry's difficulties could be attributed to that system. He urged a very thorough inquiry not only into the

question of wages and the operatives' conditions of work, but into the condition of the industry itself. His view was that if the industry was to function on sound lines as a national endeavour it should be thoroughly overhauled and reorganised and must be subject to a certain measure of public control.

(The Times of India, 7-7-1934)

The Government of Bombay has been considering the action to be taken on the report and, according to recent reports, it is understood that they have decided (1) to introduce a Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council with the idea of setting up "Conciliation Machinery" of a permanent nature to prevent recurrence of strikes in future and (2) to appoint an Officer as a Protector of Labour. The Bill is reported to have been circulated among the interests concerned for expression of views.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-7-34).

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Factory Administration in C.P. & Berar, 1933.*

Number of Factories and Inspection. - During the year under review, the total number of factories registered under the Act rose from 930 to 956, the increase being mainly in seasonal factories, viz. rice mills, cotton ginning and pressing factories. The number of factories actually at work fell from 743 to 735 during the year. Of these, 622 were seasonal and 113 perennial. No factory remained uninspected during the year. The total number of inspections was 1,921, as against 1,771 in the preceding year. Of these the expert inspectors are responsible for 1,609 and the District Magistrates and additional inspectors for 312 as against 1,450 and 332, respectively, in 1932. 178 factories were inspected once, 235 twice, 172 thrice and 150 more than three times.

Number of Operatives and Conditions of Labour. - The average number of operatives employed daily in factories showed a slight increase from 61,627 in 1932 to 61,781 in 1933, of whom 40,525 were men, 20,537 women and 719 children. The report shows that in the case of skilled labour wages have fallen slightly, particularly of those engaged in the textile trade. Owing to trade depression the supply of operatives was greater than the demand with a consequent fall in wages. 4 strikes occurred in the textile mills, 2 of these were settled within a week and the operatives resumed work unconditionally. The other 2 lasted for over three months. The cause in each case was reduction in wages and allowances, the uncompromising attitude of the workers being fostered by professional agitators, who played on the ignorance of the people without explaining that the cuts were due to the general economic crisis and that work on reduced wages was better than no work at all.

Health of Operatives. - The general health of the operatives appeared to be good and there has been no epidemic of any sort amongst the industrial population. The hospitals and dispensaries attached to the larger perennial factories became increasingly popular and the operatives took every advantage of the facilities offered by their employers. The records maintained at the factory dispensaries show that 205,910 cases were treated by the medical officers attached to them.

Fencing of Machinery. - Protective measures were found to be satisfactory and except in the case of some of the smaller concerns, any improvements or additional fittings suggested by the department were readily complied with by owners and managers. The law compels the owner to provide mochis, oilmen and other

* Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (Act XII of 1911), as modified up to the 1st June 1926, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1933. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1934. Price Re. 1-8-0 - pp.37

persons similarly occupied with tight trousers free of cost, but the wearers of these garments often defeat the object of the rule by wearing loose shirts and turbans.

Lighting and Ventilation. - More windows ^{were} provided to admit day light, and the use of electricity is increasing rapidly. ~~and~~ In many remote places, where no town supply is available, even quite small concerns have installed power units for the supply of current for lighting purposes. Among the ~~the~~ perennial factories considerable improvements were made to secure adequate ventilation, not only in providing more openings to admit fresh air, but in the use of exhaust fans to improve the circulation. The cotton mills throughout the province are well-equipped with scientifically designed humidifying and air cooling plant, and gave no cause of complaint with regard to the observance of the rules relating to the use of artificial humidification.

Sanitation. - According to the report, the sanitary arrangements in the majority of the perennial factories were ~~are~~ satisfactory. In the case of the seasonal concerns a slight improvement was observed. It is feared, however, that this improvement is due rather to trade depression than to any definite advance on the part of owners, as in a busy season when factories are working day and night attention to sanitation is usually very lax. Scarcity of water and the apathy of local authorities are two important factors responsible for the lack of progress in hygiene.

Welfare Work. - The cotton spinning and weaving mills and other large concerns have, with difficulty continued to carry on well-organized welfare work with good results. Some of the other factories have endeavoured to follow suit on a modest scale.

245 babies are reported to have been cared for during the year in crèches attached to seven cotton mills and one pottery works. Crèches did not appear to be altogether popular with the operatives. The Berar Manufacturing Company at Badnera recently opened a well-equipped creche fitted with excellent cots and suitable attendants, but the institution is reported to be hardly patronized and only some five or six infants are cared for daily. 203 children received education in factory schools during the year under review as against 552 in 1932, the decrease being due to the general fall in employment of child labour.

Maternity Benefits. - According to the report, all the female operatives employed in perennial factories are now quite conversant with the provisions of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act. The average number of women employed in factories during the year was 4,157. 446 women claimed maternity benefit and 430 were given a compensation of Rs.9,333 by the employers.

Accidents and Prosecutions. - The total number of accidents was 280 as against 252 in the previous year. Of these 5 were fatal, 54 serious and 221 minor. The total amount of compensation paid is reported to be Rs.2,975 as against Rs.4,703 in 1932. Prosecutions were instituted against 94 factories for 168 offences as against 64 and 121 respectively in the previous year and convictions were obtained for 112 cases, with fines ranging from Rs.5 to Rs.150. In ten cases the managers were let off with a severe warning. The remaining 46 cases are still pending, having been instituted about the close of the year.

(Factory Administration Report of C.P. and Berar for 1932 is reviewed at pages 26-28 of the August 1933 report of this Office).

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Factory Administration in Hyderabad State, 1932-33. ✓

According to the Government review of the working of the Factories Act in the Hyderabad State during the last Fasli year 1340 (1340 corresponding to 24-9-1932 to 23-9-1933), ~~shows that~~ there has been no strikes, either in mills or other industrial concerns during the year. The health of the employees in factories was satisfactory, and the scale of wages has remained almost the same as during the previous year. There were 59 accidents during the year, of which 49 were minor, 7 serious and 3 fatal.

The number of factories increased from 402 to 419, of which 317 worked during the year, as against 274 last year. Of the factories that worked, 33 were perennial and 284 seasonal. A correct estimate of the average daily number of operatives in all the factories is not available, as, in spite of several warnings, 90 factories failed to send in their returns in time. Government desire that steps should be taken to secure compliance with the rules on the subject. Government note with regret that the first taluqdars (Collectors) of districts did not inspect the factories and that the ex-officio inspectors also took little interest in their working. Since the efficient administration of the Factories Act, the review remarks, depends very largely on the support and co-operation ^{of} local district officials, Government hope they will take more interest in this important branch of their duties.

The Draft of a Workmen's Compensation Bill for the State is under consideration *of the Government.*

(The Times of India, 12-7-1934)

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1933.* ✓

One special feature of the Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay for 1933, is that the Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act is attached to it instead of being published separate as in previous years. It is stated that in future the report on the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act will be incorporated with the Factory Report and not issued as a separate publication.

Number of Factories. - The number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 1,852 to 1,868. 98 factories were added to and 82 removed from the register. The usual ebb and flow occurred in seasonal industries and in those just on the border line of the legal definition. The number of factories that actually worked was 1,610 compared with 1,575 in the previous year. Of these, 846 were perennial and 764 seasonal. ~~229 of the perennial and 637 of the seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.~~ A notable feature of the year was the decline of Bombay City as the Centre of the textile industry and the rise of Ahmedabad. There were only 73 in Bombay mills (including one small concern) working during the year 1933 some of which worked for a portion of the year only. Others however worked double shifts. Ahmedabad continued to expand. Three mills reopened, two with a considerable amount of new machinery. Only one medium sized mill and a small spinning mill remained closed at the end of the year in this centre. 51 of the factories did not furnish information this year, in spite of efforts made to obtain submission of returns. Some of these were large cotton mills, closed after working the greater part of the year, and employing normally about 10,767 persons. ~~A footnote to this effect has been made below the statements accompanying this Report.~~

Number of Operatives. - The number of operatives employed in all industries based on annual returns received from factories and including a weighted average of operatives working on night shifts in textile mills was 354,637 compared with 389,647 last year. There was a decrease of 34,475 in Bombay mills and 785 in Ahmedabad mills. This reduction is due to various causes. About half the Bombay mills employed smaller numbers, some mills were closed and,

* Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay, 1933 and a Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act (for the Half Year ended 31st December 1933) Bombay: Government Central Press, 1934. pp.51 - Price 3as. or 4d.

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one large group employed on the average nearly 14,000 fewer hands owing to strikes and other difficulties. Seasonal factories showed an increase of 3,039 persons employed.

Inspections. - Of the 846 perennial factories, 104 were inspected once, 344 twice, 168 thrice and 207 more than three times, while 23 were not inspected. Of the 764 seasonal factories, 347 were inspected once, 343 twice, 57 thrice and 13 more than three times while 4 remained uninspected.

Sanitation. - The statutory lime washing and painting of factories has generally been complied with. The lack of cleanliness and sanitation in the compounds of some of the Ahmedabad mills has necessitated warnings that unless improvements are effected proceedings will be instituted. In a few cases mills have ceased to employ dhobis in the mill compounds, in others the quantity of cloth bleached in the compounds has been reduced. There is also an increase in the use of kiers and finishing machinery, which, with the extension of the drainage system and better arrangements for disposal of waste products, should eventually improve conditions. The disposal of waste products in rice factories continued to receive attention and there has been a marked improvement in conditions. ~~is reported.~~ In the matter of dust removal and collection in these factories, 54 have already installed chambers etc., and the remainder ~~are being~~ comply soon with instructions issued.

Ventilation. - According to the report the ventilating and cooling systems installed in the Ahmedabad mills are regularly used for the greater part of the year and more attention is now being paid to their maintenance and use. Improvements are also being effected gradually in older mills and smaller factories at Ahmedabad and Bombay. Several small factories in Bombay have improved air movements by fitting paddles and in some cases by using electric fans. The improvements have been demonstrated by inspectors with kata thermometers. Many sizing departments in Ahmedabad still require considerable improvement. Two Bombay mills using unsuitable mill tank water for humidification have now made other satisfactory arrangements. Problems connected with the prevention of dust or fume inhalation received attention during the year. The respirators introduced some years ago were seldom used but better types have been tried out and some of the previous objections to their use overcome. A more extended use of efficient respirators in the colour mixing, stone crushing and paint spraying industries is likely to result. In several paint spraying factories, booths have been re-designed and the exhaust made more efficient. A few more mills have installed exhaust stripping on the cards. In one cotton cleaning factory the dust nuisance has been very much reduced.

Wages and Strikes. - Several strikes in individual mills occurred owing to cuts made in wages or rates, and, in some cases cuts have been made without the operatives striking. In most cases the employees gave way. The question of a reduction in Ahmedabad is still the subject of discussions between the Textile Labour Union and the Millowners' Association. The low rates of pay in seasonal industries have been maintained in most areas, although in Sind where the supply of labour in some centres is stated to be less than the demand there has been a slight increase, partly owing to the extension of cotton growing areas and partly through the prevalence of malaria.

Employment of Women and Children. - The numbers of women and children employed in the last five years are as follows:-

Women			Children		
Bombay	Mofussil	Total	Bombay	Mofussil	Total.
27,741	47,183	74,924	56	4,471	4,527
31,404	46,561	77,965	83	4,306	4,389
28,459	44,018	73,477	100	3,741	3,841
29,916	44,061	73,977	114	2,678	2,792
22,456*	43,702	66,158	62	2,050	2,112

* Owing to the impossibility of obtaining information from a group of mills which closed down towards the end of the year these figures are approximately 2,288 less than the actual number employed.

The employment of children continues to decrease; this year ~~there were~~ there were 680 less. The employment of women showed a large decrease mainly in Bombay.

6 factories were prosecuted for employment of women before or after the legal hours laid down and 79 convictions were obtained. One factory was prosecuted for breach of section 20 and 6 convictions resulted. In 5 factories prosecutions for irregular employment of children were instituted resulting in 15 convictions.

Accidents. - During 1933, 5,425 accidents were reported (38 fatal, 1,329 serious and 4,058 minor) as against 5,572 in the previous year (37 fatal, 1,331 serious and 4,204 minor). The rate per 100 persons employed rose from 1.43 in 1932 to 1.53. It is reported that 5 persons lost their lives through Hydrogen Sulphide Gas poisoning. The development of new industries, the report states, has added to the toll of accidents. In some instances managerial supervision has been defective owing to a lack of knowledge of the dangers, whilst operatives have been unaccustomed to the risks.

Safety First. - Several excellent Safety Committees have

where

functioned in Bombay particularly those in the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, the G.I.P. Workshops, the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways repairshops and the New Swadeshi Mill at Ahmedabad. The difficulties in the Bombay mills have undoubtedly hindered developments. In Ahmedabad more than 20 mills have set up Safety Committees and eight of these are doing good work. 3 engineering workshops in Bombay reported a reduction in accidents, and with a view to stimulate the safety movement, illustrated write-ups of the methods employed in two of these workshops were prepared and sent to a technical journal. One excellent Committee in an Ahmedabad mill was successful in obtaining a rebate of 25 per cent on its workmen's compensation insurance premium, and it is expected that this will give a fillip to Safety Committees in Ahmedabad. The painting of red triangles on certain dangerous portions of machinery, together with the exhibition of posters explaining this cautionary sign is now general throughout the textile industry. The system has also been extended to other large factories and to many smaller concerns.

First Aid training continues to receive encouragement from many managements.

Prosecutions. - 359 cases were instituted against 58 factories by full time Inspectors and 356 were successful, while 3 cases were withdrawn. 35 cases are pending against 10 factories. Fines ranged from Rs.5 to Rs.300 and totalled Rs.8,309. The average fine was Rs.23 per case and Rs.143 per factory. In addition 4 successful cases were instituted by ex-officio Inspectors.

Housing. - A number of improvements are reported in the Surat and Nawapur areas in providing decent accommodation for labourers in ginning factories. Separate washing and bathing accommodation has also been secured for women in several seasonal factories. The general trade depression has however made it difficult to obtain improvements in many centres. In Ahmedabad several housing schemes are still in progress, with a much better type of accommodation than formerly.

Welfare Work. - The report states that welfare work continued to show some progress during the year but not such progress as it ought. The reason for this, it is stated, may be attributed to trade depression. 2,843 infants are receiving care and attention in varying degrees, in the 104 creches established in factories. New ground was broken during the year in several areas and it is expected that the poorer types will soon change into a higher category. Bombay has not advanced materially during the year, but a really fine creche was opened in the New City Mill. Creches have not been established in some of the Bombay mills where one could justifiably expect them. During the small-pox epidemic all children at the creches were vaccinated. Some mills again co-operated in the health educational activities of the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association and exhibitions were held in several mill compounds and attended by large numbers of employees and their wives.

Maternity Benefits in Bombay for the Six Months Ending

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Maternity Benefits in Bombay for the Six Months

Ending ~~the~~ 31-12-1933.

Returns Received. - Returns were received from 396 of the 411 factories amenable to the Act. Most of the factories that did not submit information employed few women and probably did not pay any benefits. Four large mills however of a group which closed during this period, and for which information could not be obtained, normally employ about 1,500 women. During the period under review, the average number of women employed daily in factories in the Bombay Presidency was 43,809.

Benefits Paid. - The number of benefits was 2,746 and the amount paid came to Rs.64,417-4-0. ~~The report shows that,~~ owing to the report being in respect of only six months, information cannot be accurately compared with the previous twelve months, as enquiries show that claims made in the latter half of the year generally exceed those made during the first half in some areas. The claims paid per 100 women was 6.2.

Attitude of Employers. - Employers in large factories continued to treat claims liberally and, with a few exceptions, claims are dealt with more in the spirit than the letter of the law. ~~Inspectors and the Lady Inspector have successfully settled the claims in a number of doubtful cases and also endeavoured to ensure that women are acquainted with their rights.~~

(The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for 1932 is reviewed at pages 13-18 of the July 1933 report of this Office and the Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act during 1932-33 ~~is given~~ at pages 26-27 of the November 1933 report.)

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in U.P., 1933.*

According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the United Provinces during the year 1933, the Act worked smoothly during the year under review and no particular difficulty was experienced by the Commissioners in its working. The daily average number of persons employed in registered factories increased from 103,474 to 112,693.

During the year under report, there were 70 fatal accidents, 58 permanent disablements and 975 temporary disablements in respect of which compensations ^{amounts} of Rs.41,908, Rs.12,763, and Rs.10,443 respectively were paid, as against 78 fatal accidents, 64 cases of permanent disablement and 770 cases of temporary disablement in 1932 for which compensations ^{amounts} of Rs.51,685, Rs.11,503 and Rs.6,429 respectively were paid.

The total number of accidents reported rose from 1,683 to 1,979 during 1933, comprising ~~of~~ 32 fatal, 373 serious and 1,574 minor ^{accidents}. Of the 373 serious accidents, all but 13 were recorded as such due to the injured persons being off duty for 21 days or more. The report shows a rise in the number of fatal accidents and temporary disablements, ~~which went up from 23 to 32 and 770 to 975 respectively.~~ The greater part of the compensation was, however, paid for fatal accidents.

As regards the disposal of cases by Commissioners, the year opened with a pending list of 26 cases. During the year 99 cases were filed as against 98 in the previous year. 24 were received

* Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, (VIII of 1923) in the United Provinces for the Calendar year 1933. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing & Stationery, United Provinces, 1934. Price 3as. pp.5

✓ 50

from other provinces and 8 cases were transferred. Thus, out of 141 cases in all, 115 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 25. One case was withdrawn. Of the 115 cases 101 were non-contested, 59 being admitted and 42 allowed ex parte. One of the 14 contested cases was allowed, 2 allowed in part, and 11 were dismissed. The total compensation paid in cases referred to the Commissioners amounted to Rs.48,745 against Rs.46,662 in 1932.

During the year 35 agreements for payment of compensation were registered against 25 in the previous year; of these 24 were for permanent disablement, and 11 for temporary disablement — Cawnpore as usual tops the list with 19 agreements.

The report states that the majority of persons for whom compensation was awarded drew Rs.20 per mensem or less as pay. Thus of 54 out of 69 victims of fatal accidents, 20 out of 27 ^{Cases} of permanent disablement and 7 out of 8 cases of temporary disablement belonged to this wage-class.

For the first time, says the report, some cases of industrial diseases came to light. The Allahabad Arsenal reported that four painters were found suffering from lead poisoning. They were put through a regular course of daily treatment and were inspected weekly by the doctor in charge of the Fort Hospital until they recovered. No case for compensation was, however, instituted during the year under report *in respect of occupational diseases.*

(The annual report on the working of the workmen's compensation Act in the U.P. during 1932 is reviewed at pages 23-25 of the July 1933 report of this Office).

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in Assam, 1933* ✓

According to the report ~~in~~ on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during 1933, the total average number of adults and minor workers employed per day in Assam factories coming under the operation of the Act ~~during 1933~~ was 48,201 and 4,375, respectively. During the year, there were 17 deaths, 15 cases of permanent disablement and 335 cases of temporary disablement in respect of which Rs.5,272-7-0, Rs.6,513-9-10 and Rs.3,445-2-0 respectively were paid by way of compensation. No case of occupational disease was reported during the year under review.

The number of compensation cases pending at the commencement of the year was 6 and 24 cases were filed before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, bringing the total number of cases to be disposed ^{of} to 30. Of these, 9 were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal, 18 cases, which were not contested, were disposed of and 3 cases were pending at the end of the year under review.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1932 is reviewed at page 29 of the July 1933 report of this Office).

* Government of Assam - General Judicial Department - Immigration Branch No. Immgn./3014G.J. of 14-7-1934 - Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Assam for the year ending the 31st December 1933.

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Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Burma, 1933.* ✓

Legal Changes. - The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act to give effect to some of the changes recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India and to certain minor changes in addition was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 28th August 1933 and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 9th of the next month. Some of the provisions of this act came into force on the 1st January 1934 and the remainder will ~~come~~ come into force on the 1st July 1934. The report shows that a press communique was issued from the Labour Commissioners Office on the 3rd January 1934 warning employers of certain important amendments, ~~another is about to be issued.~~

Number of Workers and Compensation Paid. - During the year under review, the total average number of adult workers employed per day in Burmese factories coming under the operation of the Act was 117,354 as against 93,613 in the previous year. The number of minors employed showed a considerable fall from 417 to 267 during the year under report. Altogether 1,208 returns were received from the employers, of which 97 were from establishments which ~~did not~~ work in 1933 and 27 were from establishments which ~~are not~~ are not required by the Government of India's notification to submit returns; thus there were strictly 1,084 reporting establishments. Of these 2 belonged to railways, 944 to factories, 135 to mines, 2 to tramways and one was the staff employed by the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon to move cargo. Only 79 of the 1,084 returns showed any payment of compensation. Compensation paid in 1933 amounted to Rs.41,216, the corresponding amount for 1932 being Rs.58,527. The number of casualties was 759, made up of 25 deaths, 50 cases of permanent disablement and 684 cases of temporary disablement; for the previous year the corresponding figures were 784, 30, 82 and 672. No payment of compensation for injuries for fatal accidents to minors or for injuries or deaths caused by occupational diseases has been reported for 1933. The same was the case for 1932 also.

Workmen's Compensation Commissioners. - District magistrates continued to be the commissioners for workmen's compensation for their respective districts except in few cases in which the same special arrangements as were in force last year continued throughout the year. The number of commissioners remained the same as at the end of the preceding year, i.e., 39 in Burma proper and 12 in the Federated Shan States, the total being 51.

Applications before the Commissioners. - The total number of cases filed during the year under review was 78 as against 121 in the previous year. Of these, 10, 22 and 6 related to compensation

* Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1933. - Rangoon; Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1934. Price Rs.1-8-0 or 2s.3d. - pp.22

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✓

for fatal accidents, permanent disablements and temporary disablements, respectively. 27 to distribution in fatal cases and 13 to distribution in non-fatal cases (8 in respect of permanent disablements and 5 in respect of temporary disablements).

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Burma during the year 1932 is reviewed at pages 37-38 of the June 1933 report of this Office)

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✓
Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in

C. P. & Berar, 1933.* ✓

Award of Compensation under Section 10. - At the commencement of the year under report, 20 applications were pending, 13 relating to fatal accidents and 7 to permanent disablement. During the year 26 applications were filed, of which 13 related to fatal accidents, 11 to permanent disablement and 2 to temporary disablement; and one was received by transfer from the Commissioner, Bengal, making a total of 47 applications for disposal. Of these 47 applications, 1 was withdrawn, 1 dismissed for non-appearance, 18 admitted by opposite party, 1 allowed ex parte, 6 allowed in full or part after contest, and 8 dismissed after contest, leaving 12 applications pending at the close of the year. The number of contested applications, 14, remained the same as in 1932.

Distribution under Section 8. - There were 2 distribution proceedings pending at the beginning of the year; ~~was 12x of these~~ the number of proceedings filed during the year was 12. Of these 14 cases, 13 were disposed of and one remained pending at the close of the year.

Employers' Returns under Section 16. - According to the annual Returns furnished by the employers, there were 234 cases of accidents for which compensation was paid during the year. 6 of these 12 resulted in death, 25 in permanent disablement and 197 in temporary disablement. The compensation paid was Rs.3,955-8-0 for fatal accidents, Rs.4,585-10-5 for cases of permanent disablement

* Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar during the Calendar year 1933 - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1934 - Price Annas Ten. - pp.9.

and Rs.2,957-9-6 for cases of ~~the~~ temporary disablement. No minors were involved in accidents and no cases of occupational diseases were reported.

It is remarked that the working of the Act is, on the whole, satisfactory. Berar produced only three cases and the Commissioner, East Berar, is of opinion that the provisions of the Act require still wider publication. The Commissioner, West Berar, reports, however, that the people are beginning to learn their rights ^{under the Act} through the agency of the Inspectors of Factories and cases are settled amicably without the intervention of the Commissioners.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the C.P. Berar during 1928 was reviewed at pages 30-31 of our August 1929 report; that during 1929, at pages 41-42 of our July 1930 report; that during 1930, at page 39 of our 1931 report and that during 1931 at pages 17-18 of our August 1933 report).

✓ Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. & Berar, 1933.* ✓

Supply of Labour. - According to the review ^{on the Working of the Indian Mines Act in C.P. Berar during 1933} the conditions of trade showed a slight improvement for coal and limestone concessions, but the slump in the manganese market continued throughout 1933. 3 mines for minerals other than coal and manganese were opened, 2 in the Bilaspur district and one in the Yeotmal district, while 6 manganese mines in the Bhandara, Nagpur and Balaghat districts, 2 coal mines in the Chhindwara district and 2 mines for other minerals in the Jubbulpore district were closed during the year. Thus the total number of working mines fell from 72 to 65. There was a slight rise in the number of workers in the Chhindwara, Chanda and Jubbulpore districts and the supply of labour was adequate except at the Majri colliery in Chanda where housing conditions continued to be unsatisfactory. In the manganese tract, viz., the Bhandara and Balaghat districts, the demand for labour

* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1933. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1934. Price Annas five. pp.5.

fell further and the supply was largely in excess of requirements.

Wages. - There was no appreciable change in the rates of wages. Labourers are paid largely on a piece-work basis and the range of earning is therefore wide. The average earnings of male labourers employed in coal mines ranged between Re.0-4-0 to Rs. Re.0-10-0 per day for underground and between Re.0-6-0 to Rs.2-0-0 per day for surface work; those of female labourers varied from Re.0-3-0 to Re.0-8-0 both for underground and surface work. In manganese and other mines male unskilled labourers earned from Re.0-2-9 to Re.0-8-0 a day and females from Re.0-1-10 to Re.0-4-0. while skilled labourers earned from Re.0-4-0 to Re.1-9-7.

Health of Labour Force. - Except in the Chhindwara and Chanda districts the mining camps were free from epidemics and the health of the labourers was generally good. In Chhindwara influenza broke out in a mild form in several mining camps resulting in 540 attacks and 2 deaths, while smallpox was responsible for 17 attacks and no death. The Ballarpur Colliery in the Chanda district was also visited by influenza causing 322 attacks, but owing to the prompt measures adopted by the management no casualties occurred.

Housing Accommodation and Sanitary Conditions. - The sanitary condition of the mining camps continued to be satisfactory and compared favourably with general village conditions. The supply of drinking water was also adequate. Progress is, however, largely held up by the attitude of labour itself, which objects to windows in its quarters and invariably closes in the verandahs provided in chawls. Government recognizes that the present depressed trade conditions militate against increased expenditure for the improvement of housing, but trusts that concessionaires will endeavour to provide at least reasonable minimum of housing comfort and sanitation and thereby increase the efficiency of their labour.

Prices of Food Stuffs and Clothing.- The prices of food stuffs and clothing continued to be low. The labourers obtained their supplies from the markets in the mining camps or from the weekly bazars in the neighbouring villages.

Education. - The review shows that greater attention is being paid to the education of the children of labourers in the Central Provinces and Berar. In the Bilaspur district a primary school is maintained by the Tata Iron and Steel Company's contractor for the education of the children of the labourers employed at the Company's limestone quarry at Baraduar. In the Yeotmal district the school opened by the Christian Missionaries two years ago continued to give education to the children of the labouring classes. In the Chhindwara district the provision for the education of the children of mine operatives rests with the Independent Mining Local Board which maintains 12 schools for the purpose. The school previously maintained at the Katcheedhana manganese mine has been discontinued

owing to the continued depression in the manganese trade. In the Chanda district free education is imparted at the school maintained at the Mahakali coal mine where a play ground is also provided. There are 3 schools at the Ballarpur colliery, two Marathi and one Telugu, for the education of the children of mine operatives, while at the Ghugas coal mine there is one vernacular school conducted by the Mission and one Telugu school supported by the colliery company. In the Jubbulpore district there are 3 special schools maintained by mining companies, viz., (1) Kymore Cement Factory, (2) Katni Cement Factory and (3) Perfect Pottery Company, with an average attendance of 183. The school at Kymore is a recognized institution and gets an annual grant of Rs.100 from Government. At all other places the children of mine operatives attend the ~~near~~ neighbouring schools maintained by local bodies.

Accidents. - 132 accidents occurred during the year against 84 in the previous year. Of these, 17 were fatal (against 16 in 1932), 108 serious and 7 minor. The majority of the accidents are reported to have been due, as usual, to the negligence of the employees. Nevertheless, Government views the increase in the number of accidents with concern and is considering what steps can be taken to keep down the number. Medical aid was promptly given in all cases. 37 cases were dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Chhindwara, Chanda and Jubbulpore districts and a total compensation amounting to Rs.3,711 was paid.

Hours of Employment and Employment of Women and Children. - The hours of employment on surface workings varied from 7 to 10 and those for underground work from 6 to 9 per day. The regulations restricting the employment of women underground are being observed in coal mines. About 50 per cent of the labour force employed on surface work in the Bilaspur and the Jubbulpore districts consisted of women labourers. No cases of employment of children under 13 years of age were detected.

Receipts from Mines. - The provincial receipts from mines rose from Rs.231,889 to Rs.245,889 owing to an improvement in the coal trade. Of the total revenue Rs.36,639 was contributed by manganese mines, Rs.137,432 by coal mines and Rs.71,818 by mines for other minerals. The pit's mouth value of coal rose from Rs.3-14-0 per ton to Rs.4-7-7 in the Chhindwara district, while that in the Chanda district fell from Rs.3-7-0 to Rs.3-6-0 per ton.

(The annual review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in C.P. and Berar for the year 1932 is reviewed at pages 30-31 of the June 1933 report of this Office).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations

✓ Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, Meets Sir Frank Noyce:

Discussion re. Employment of Indians in League

Secretariats. ✓✓

A special meeting of the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, was held on 26-6-1934 to meet Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour Department with the Government of India. The opportunity was availed of by the Committee to discuss with Sir Frank Noyce various matters of interest to the ^{Chamber} ~~Committee~~. The Committee pointed out that only a very small number of ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~ was employed in the League and I.L.O. Secretariats and urged the Government to bring pressure on Geneva to employ more Indians. Sir Frank Noyce agreed with the Committee that the position in regard to employment of Indians in the International Labour Office and the League of Nations Secretariat was not satisfactory. He informed the committee that the Government of India were doing their best to press the claims of the Indians for employment in the secretariats of the International Labour Office and the League of Nations.

(The Leader, 15-7-1934)

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Workers' Organisations.

8th Half-Yearly Meeting of A.I.R.F. with Railway Board:

Results of Discussions. ✓

Reference was made at page 38 of our June 1934 report to the date and agenda of the eighth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. The meeting took place on 12 and 13-7-1934. The deputation from the Federation included Mr. V.V.Giri, General Secretary, the Assistant Secretary of the Federation and seven representatives from unions affiliated to the Federation. Mr. Giri led the deputation.

Submission of Agenda and Notes thereon by the Federation: The proceedings opened with a speech by Sir Guthrie Russell, Chief Commissioner for Railways, in which he welcomed the delegates and referred at the outset to the late submission of the agenda by the Federation and asked that it be sent in future two months in advance. The notes on the agenda submitted by the Federation contained insufficient information and it would be of considerable assistance to the discussion, if the recommendations of the Federation and the facts and arguments in support of their recommendations were explained in greater detail. Mr. Giri undertook to see that the agenda was sent sufficiently early in future and that the points to be brought up for discussion were presented in a more explanatory manner.

Revision of Leave Rules. - Regarding the new leave rules the Federation submitted: (1) that there was no provision in the new leave rules for commutation of half-pay leave into full-pay leave; (2) that inferior servants were not allowed to accumulate leave, (3) that no provisions for leave existed for inferior and daily rated staff before completion of three years' service; (4) that no provision existed for sick leave during the first 10 years of service of inferior and daily rated staff; (5) that certain literate staff like journeymen, etc., who were drawing fairly high scales of pay were treated as inferior servants for purposes of leave rules; (6) that all staff drawing more than Rs.30 per mensem should be classified as subordinate staff for purposes of leave rules; (7) that in case of workshop staff, a uniform procedure *may be* adopted in respect of paid and unpaid holidays, the practice in vogue on the G.I.P. Railway being adopted for other railways also; and (8) that running staff be paid mileage and overtime allowances during casual leave.

The Chief Commissioner for Railways mentioned that some of the items (1 to 5 and 7) referred to by the Federation were already under examination by the Board and that the Federation would be advised of the Board's decision in due course. As regards item (6)

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the Chief Commissioner pointed out that the proposal would entail considerable additional expenditure and that the Board could not admit that there was justification for treating all staff drawing Rs.30 or more as subordinate staff for purposes of leave. As regards item(8) the Chief Commissioner for Railways stated that overtime and mileage were paid for certain duties performed and as, during casual leave, those duties were not performed, overtime and mileage allowances could not reasonably be claimed.

Enquiry Procedure re. Punishments. - Regarding disciplinary inquiries, the Federation referred to certain recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and submitted that an employee should be given right of being allowed interview before punishment was inflicted on him and also that he should be allowed to be accompanied by a representative of a recognized union. The Railway Board, and the Government of India, it was reported, have this matter already under examination and the Federation will be advised of the decision of the Government in due course.

Concessions in Wage-Cuts. - Regarding wage cuts for short-time workers and others who have suffered loss in earnings due to retrenchment, the Federation submitted: (1) That the limit of 23 hours or more, which had been laid down for total or partial exemption of workshop employees working short-time from the wage cut, be modified so as to afford them relief from the wage cut; (2) that the wage cut should not be applied to demoted staff as they had suffered loss in their emoluments on being demoted from a higher to a lower post; (3) that running staff whose emoluments had decreased in consequence of less work be exempted from the wage cut. The Chief Commissioner for Railways pointed out that these suggestions had been carefully considered when the present wage cut was introduced, but that it had been decided that there was no justification for their adoption and that they could not be agreed to now.

Exclusion of Menial Staff from Provident Fund. - Regarding the exclusion of menial staff from provident fund membership, the Federation submitted that all staff drawing more than Rs.50 be made eligible for membership of the provident fund, it being optional for those drawing less than Rs.15. The Federation also submitted that, owing to the term "menial" not having been defined, the practice on the different railways in the matter of classification of staff was not uniform and in certain cases staff other than menials who were drawing more than Rs.20 were not allowed the benefits of the provident fund. The Chief Commissioner for Railways stated that the matter was at present under examination and a decision would be communicated in due course.

House-rent for Low-paid Staff. - As regards house rent for low

paid staff, the Federation submitted that a uniform practice was not followed on all the railways in regard to the recovery of house rent from such staff and that in certain cases staff drawing less than Rs.30 per mensem were charged rent for occupation of staff quarters in spite of the provision of the revised State Railways' Code. The Chief Commissioner for Railways said that specific instances of such ~~ways~~ cases should be furnished to the Railway Board so that inquiries might be made from the railways concerned. He also asked that a complete memorandum be submitted by the Federation bringing out any points regarding this question which they wish to raise, so that it might be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chief Commissioner in conclusion again stressed the point that detailed information should be furnished in future in regard to subjects for discussion. Mr. Giri agreed to meet the wishes of the Railway Board on this point. ~~He, then,~~ ^{He, then,} thanked the Chief Commissioner and the members of the Railway Board for the patient hearing given to the Federation and the meeting then terminated.

(The Statesman, 14-7-1934).

Communist Party Banned in India by Government. ✓

According to a notification (No.F.7/8/34 dated 23-7-34) of the Government of India in the Political Department, the Communist Party of India and its Organisations have been declared unlawful. The following is the full text of the notification:

No.F.7/8/34- Whereas the Governor General in Council is of opinion that the association known by the name of the Communist Party of India and its Committees, Sub-Committees and Branches have for their object interference with the administration of the law and the maintenance of law and order and constitute a danger to the public peace.

Now therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (2) of section 16 of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908), as amended by the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 (XXIII of 1932), the Governor General in Council is pleased to declare the said association, its Committees, Sub-Committees and Branches to be unlawful associations within the meaning of Part II of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

Gazette

(Extracted from page 899 of Part I of ~~Government~~ of India of 28-7-1934).

✓
Working Conditions of Journalists:

Demands of Institute of Journalists, Calcutta. ✓

The half-yearly general meeting, ~~1932~~ of the Institute of Working Journalists, Calcutta, was held at the Office of the United Press of India, Calcutta, on 1-7-1934 under the presidentship of Mr. Satyendra Nath Majumdar, Editor, Anandbazar Patrika. About thirty working journalists representing almost all the important dailies of Calcutta attended the meeting.

Membership.- In his report, the Secretary of the Institute pointed out that the membership of the organisation was not as large as it could be and attributed the smallness of the ~~members~~ members to the alleged hostile attitude of certain newspaper owners. He said that an assurance from employers that no journalist would either be victimised or be looked upon with disfavour because of membership of the Institute would greatly increase the membership figures.

Demands re. Conditions of Work.- The meeting then discussed and unanimously approved of the following suggestions embodied in the report of the Sub-Committee which had been appointed in March 1934 by the Institute, as being calculated to improve the lot of the Working Journalists:-

1. Six hours duty on each working day,
2. Extra work beyond six hours to be paid for by extra remuneration,
3. One day off from duty every week,
4. One month's leave with full pay every year,
5. Casual leave on full pay for 15 days in case of sickness,
6. Provident fund,
7. Regular payment of salary with the first week after the month for which it becomes due,
8. One calendar month's notice on either side before termination of service.

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9. Letter of appointment stating terms and conditions of employment,
 10. Preference to be given to a member of the Institute, as far as practicable, in filling up vacancies as well as making new appointments.

The Secretary was authorised to forward copies of these suggestions to the Proprietors of different newspapers and periodicals and place replies received from them before the Executive Committee of the Institute. It was also decided to reduce the rate of subscription for membership of the Institute to Rupee 1/. only for the rest of this year. (1934)

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
5-7-1934)

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Industrial Competition between British India
and Indian States: Employers in British India urge Solutions.

According to the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, Mr. H.P.Mody, President, Employers' Federation of India, has recently taken up with the Government of India the question of the competition between factories in British India and those in Indian States. In his representation to the Government, Mr. Mody pointed out that advanced labour legislation in British India was placing factories there at a disadvantage vis-a-vis factories in the Indian States and urged the need for early action in order to ensure that the States and British India were placed on an equal footing in this respect. The Government of India had in reply stated that the question was under examination, and that it would be of assistance to them to have particulars of industries and States in which the Federation had particular reason to fear developments that would result in a serious setback to industries in British India.

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, to whom the Federation referred the question for supply of relevant information on the subject, has furnished information regarding industrial competition as in the cotton mill industry. After tracing the history of the limitations imposed on hours of work in Cotton Mills in British India, the Committee referred to the phenomenal expansion which had taken place in the Cotton Mill industry in Indian states in recent years. It was pointed out that in about

12 years, from 1920-21 to 1932-33, the number of spindles in Indian States had increased from 409,000 to 1,072,000 or by 162%. The number of looms had increased ^{during the same period in States} from 8,500 to 21,000 or by ^{147%} ~~147%~~.

In British India, there had also been considerable expansion, but the rate of expansion had not been anything like so rapid as in Indian States.

Causes of the Competition.- This rapid expansion of the industry in Indian States, in the opinion of the Committee, was due to three main causes. In the first place, the average rate of wages paid per operative had been very much lower in Indian States than in the more important centres of the Industry in British India, such as Bombay and Ahmedabad. Secondly, this advantage of low wages had been greatly increased by the delay which in many cases had taken place in introducing a working week of the same length as existed in British India. ^{The third} ~~the~~ encouragement given by the State authorities in certain instances for the development of cotton industries.

Results of the Competition & Necessity for instituting Uniform Standards. - The advantages which the Indian States ~~mills~~ possessed in the directions, added to the benefits which in certain instances accrued to them owing to their proximity to cotton growing centres and yarn and cloth consuming markets in British India, had enabled them to market their goods in British India at prices against which mills in British India had the greatest difficulty in competing, since these advantages could only be made up by a higher all-round efficiency in British Indian ~~mills~~. The attainment of this high efficiency had been hampered by the economic depression which had existed for many years; ~~and had made it~~ ^{After,} difficult for old established concerns to instal machinery of as up-to-date a character as had been installed in the more recently established mills in Indian States. As far as the Association ~~was~~ aware, no Indian State had declared its intention of amending its Factory legislation to ~~conform with~~ ^{to} the new legislation in British India, and, this being the case, it was anticipated that the ~~cotton textile industry~~ in Indian States was likely to develop in the immediate future at the expense of the ~~cotton textile industry~~ in British India, unless adequate steps were taken by the Government of India to off-set the ~~advantage~~ advantage which the Indian State ~~mills~~ would possess vis-a-vis mills in British India, by retaining a working week of 60-hours. A correct assessment of the effect on costs of manufacture which would follow on the institution of a 9-hour day was somewhat

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difficult, as it was not possible at the present time to estimate to what extent, if any, the efficiency of workers would increase when the length of the working day was reduced. An enquiry which was recently made ~~at~~ a number of mills in Bombay City and Island, however, went to show that a curtailment in hours might put up the Bombay costs of production by about 6³/₄ pies per pound in the case of Calcutta Dhoties and by about 4¹/₂ pies per pound in the case of 40s grey singles yarn. Such a difference in costs would be ~~sufficient~~ sufficient to cripple completely the trade of British Indian mills in certain lines, and it was, therefore, urged that immediate steps should be taken with the object of removing this disability which British Indian mills were suffering. ✓

6th Conference of Departments of Industries, Simla, 1934. ✓

Reference was made at pages 52-53 of our June 1934 report to the date and agenda of the Sixth Conference of Ministers and Directors of Industries of the various provinces and important Indian States. The Conference opened on 9-7-1934 at Simla under the presidentship of Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of the Department of Industries and Labour with the Government of India, and lasted till 11-7-1934. No regular agenda was supplied to the delegates and the proceedings were not open to the press, except for a brief record made available everyday through official channels.

The main object of the conference was to discuss schemes of various provincial Governments for the development of the handloom weaving industry, for which the Government of India have allotted Rs.500,000 annually for five years, and schemes for research in the sericulture industry for which the Government of India have allotted Rs.100,000 annually for five years. Another proposal before the Conference was the one to establish a Central Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau.

Two sub-committees were set up at the outset by the Conference to consider in detail the schemes submitted by the

provinces in regard to the development of the handloom and sericultural industry in British India. The following are the conclusions arrived at ^{by} the Conference:

Industrial Intelligence & Research Bureau.- The Conference adopted unanimously the proposal for the formation of an Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau. Delegates from every province and State promised their whole-hearted support to make the bureau a success.

Development of Handloom and Sericulture Industries.- The Conference adopted the reports of the handloom sub-committee and the sericulture sub-committee. In the case of handloom weaving industry, a decision was taken that grants should be distributed in the provinces, in the first year, as to one-half, in proportion to the average expenditure by the local Governments on the improvement of handloom weaving industry during the last five years and as to the other half in proportion to the consumption of yarn in the handloom industry in the provinces, and that the local Governments should be asked to revise their schemes in the light of the sums of money which they could obtain in this way and of criticisms of their schemes made by the Conference. The Conference also decided that 15 per cent of the grant should be reserved to the Government of India for distribution to minor administrations and to provinces which equitably required extra assistance.

As regards sericulture, the decision of the Conference was that the sum available for distribution was so small that it should be spent in a way which promised the most immediate benefit to the industry, namely, in increasing the supply of disease-free seed. The Conference also decided that an Imperial Sericultural Committee should be set up and attached to the Bureau of Industrial Intelligence and Research.

The Conference is expected to become ^{an} annual feature.

(The Statesman, 10, 11 & 12-7-1934)

EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment Among Anglo-Indians:

Agricultural Colony Started at Lapra.

The Anglo-Indian Community is one of the communities which has been affected very seriously by the unemployment conditions now prevailing in India. Several references have been made in our previous reports to efforts made by leaders of the community to mitigate unemployment conditions by opening an agricultural colony worked on co-operative lines (vide pages 37-38 of our February 1931, pages 47-48 of November 1931 and pages 50-53 of December 1931 reports)

According to the Times of India of 5-7-34, the agricultural colony scheme has been carried a stage further by the acquisition on perpetual lease of 10,000 acres of land at Lapra. This scheme will fulfil a double object; first, it will help a wandering and homeless community to establish a "Home" for itself, and secondly, the Anglo-Indians will get a real stake in the country, and can then claim equal Indian rights with their fellow countrymen. The present site at Lapra was ^{selected} discovered in 1933 and ^{soon after} the Society was registered under the Indian Companies' Act. On October 16, 1933, a perpetual lease for 10,000 acres of land was completed with Maharaj Kumar Nund Kishore Nath Shah Deo.

The Society began to register land in December, 1933, and the June 1934 half-yearly report of the directors states that they had expected to sell land at the rate of 1,000 acres every ^{Six} months, but once the place became known, land has been booked at a tremendous rate, and by February 28, 1934, they had sold out the first 2,000 acres. For miles of kutchra roads have already been made and with the coming of the monsoon, the settlers will be able to start ploughing and commence actual cultivation.

(The Times of India, 5-7-1934)

Social Conditions

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Criminal Tribes in Bombay Presidency:

Working of the Settlements, 1933-34.*

Population. - According to the report on the working of the settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act, in the Bombay Presidency, during the year ending 31-3-1934, the population of all the settlements ~~stood~~ on 31-3-34 was 8,123, as against 7,839 the figure of the last year. Thus there is a rise of 284 in population. During the year, 287 registered settlers with their 381 dependents were interned in settlements newly on the recommendation of the Police. 91 licensees including dependents were recalled to settlements during the year from free colonies attached to settlements, or from villages, either for breach of the conditions of license or on conviction for offences. 102 dependents of settlers living in the settlements and Free Colonies were registered and placed in settlements under section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act as their conduct was such that it was not safe to release them from settlements, or to allow them to live in Free Colonies. The excess of births over deaths in the settlements was 168. As against these causes which increased the population in the settlements, 222 registered persons with their 368 dependents were released on license to live in Free Colonies, and 62 registered persons with 93 dependents to live in villages during the year. The population of the Free Colonies as it stood on 31-3-1934 was 6,761 against 5,622 in the previous year. Thus there is a rise of 1,139.

Employment. - The report shows that employment during the year under report was not steady owing to trade depression and unsuitable agricultural^{and} economic conditions and that strenuous efforts were therefore needed to keep employment in the various settlements at its normal level. The majority of the settlers were employed in factories, railway workshops, weaving and spinning mills, and in construction work on the Nira Right Bank Canal. The rest were provided with work such as wood cutting in the forests and field work on casual labour. Most of the new settlers were either interned in the Reformatory section of the Bijapur Settlement, where they were employed in the weaving factory, tailoring shops, in chappal (sandal) making and gardening or in the Nira Project Settlement where they were employed in unskilled work. As the Nira Project will be completed by March 1935, a new construction work which will give employment to the settlers is being sought.

Health, Housing and Sanitation. - The health of inmates of the Settlements and Free Colonies is reported to have been satisfactory during the year under review. Plague was prevalent in many districts where settlements are located, but with the co-operation of the Municipal and Local Board Health authorities and the Public Health Department most of the settlers were inoculated as a result of which ~~they~~ they escaped with no fatal cases. During the year there were 351 births in the settlements as against 183 deaths, and in the Free Colonies 281 births as against 131 deaths. This corresponds to a birth and death rate per thousand ~~177.7 and 38.6~~ ~~respectively~~

*Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency -Part I -Bombay:Government Central Press-1934. Price Annas 2 or 3d.-pp.29

respectively. The excess of births over deaths is a sufficient indication of the healthiness of the life in a settlement.

The great majority of the settlers live in huts constructed at their own expense. The reasons for this are that they are accustomed to live in huts open to sun and air, and also that they are unwilling to build substantial buildings in the settlements from which they hope, by good conduct during their stay therein, to be released on license in the minimum period. Experience shows that after their release on license they are prepared to build houses on the Free Colony provided they have sufficient money for this. The practice of building substantial houses on the Free Colonies is increasing. It is pointed out that the growth of the Free Colonies and the advance in construction of the houses on them is a pleasing feature in the reclamation work of this Department.

Education. - According to the report, compulsory education is made a reality in the settlements. Attendance is compulsory in the day school in the case of both the boys and girls up to the age of 13, and also for the children working in the Mills as long as they are half-timers. Attendance up to the age of 18 years in the night schools is enforced for the boys who have left the day schools. Out of a total population of adults and children of 8,123 in settlements proper, the number attending day and night schools is 1,907 and 219 respectively. The corresponding figures for the Free Colonies are 1,229 and 187 respectively, against a population of 6,761. This shows a rate of 261.8 per thousand for settlements and 209.4 for Free Colonies. In addition, 100 children from the settlements and Free Colonies attend outside Vernacular schools and 18 children attend English schools. 109 children other than Criminal Tribes from outside attend settlement schools. Prominence is given to the manual training in many of the settlement schools. During the year under review, 81 boys were apprenticed (as against 67 in the previous year), 32 for weaving, 27 for carpentry, 4 each for masonry and agriculture, 3 each for tailoring and fitting, and 2 each for smithy, electrical work, moulding and printing.

Co-operation. - The report shows that ~~the various co-operative credit and producers' societies in the settlements progressed during the year, under review.~~ the various co-operative credit and producers' societies in the settlements progressed ~~during the~~ satisfactorily during the year, under review. The deposits as they stood on 31-3-1934 amount to Rs.33,666-2-9. The staff society of the Backward Class Department made good progress, the share capital being Rs.6,955 as against Rs.6,375 of the previous year. ~~As~~ As the result of the campaign started the previous year, practically every member of the staff is a subscriber to the Provident Fund or if he is not eligible to join this fund, he has a Post Office savings account. The staff have also organized a Widows and Orphans Benevolent Fund.

Free Colonies. - The desire to build good houses in the Free Colonies is spreading and the people are beginning to look upon these places as their permanent abode and to have a personal pride

and an interest in the development of the area. Many persons who are now completely freed from the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act as they have fulfilled their conditions of license satisfactorily, remain in the Free Colonies realizing the advantages of education for their children, of the amenities of the area and of assistance in finding employment. It is intended that ultimately when the adjacent settlements are closed, the free colonies will be absorbed in the Municipal areas and their inhabitants will become ordinary members of the public.

Special Establishments. - The number of residents in the Women's Home, Hubli, as it stood on 31-3-1934 was 12 as against 14 on 31-3-1933. 17 women have been newly admitted into the Home during the year and 16 women have been discharged. The Children's Homes at Hubli, Baramati and Sholapur, closed the year with 63 inmates. 23 children have been discharged from the Homes during the year and 15 newly admitted. It is satisfactory to note that admissions in the Homes are becoming fewer. Only children of specially bad parents or who are themselves uncontrollable by their parents or who are of criminal tendencies are admitted to the Children's Homes.

(The working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 52-54 of the July 1933 report of this office).

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Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in C.P. & Berar, 1932-33.* ✓

Societies and Membership. - The report shows that owing to the unsatisfactory economic conditions of the Province, a policy of consolidation rather than expansion was followed during the year. 110 new societies were registered during the year as against 57 in the previous year and 138 societies were cancelled. The number of co-operative societies of all types thus declined further from 3,926 to 3,898 of which 3,689 were primary agricultural credit societies. The total membership also decreased from 125,937 to 118,587.

Recoveries. - According to the report the slightly better nature of the season was reflected in the increased cash recoveries during the year. The total of both principal and interest, recovered was Rs. 1,389,365 and Rs. 471,024, respectively, in the Central Provinces and Berar as against Rs. 1,192,621 and Rs. 473,779 respectively in 1931-32. There was a rise of 17 per cent on an average in the Central Provinces while in Berar the total cash recoveries were practically the same as at last year. The total demand which the central banks had to recover during the year was Rs. 13,838,570 and the actual recoveries amounted to Rs. 1,860,389, that is to say, 13.5 per cent of the demand as against 12.9 per cent in the preceding year. In addition, 5,852 acres of land were acquired by the Berar banks for lack of bidders at auctions held in the course of coercive recoveries.

Cash Advances. - In Berar, cash advances to societies by central banks decreased from Rs. 235,810 to Rs. 135,444 and in the Central Provinces the cash advances increased from Rs. 705,675 to Rs. 741,779. The increase however occurred mainly in Raipur, Bilaspur, Drug, Nagpur and Narsinghpur banks while in the remaining banks there was an actual decrease.

Outstanding Loans. - The total loans outstanding against members of societies in the Central Provinces slightly decreased from Rs. 7,023,960 to Rs. 6,913,382 while in Berar they further increased from Rs. 10,926,897 to Rs. 11,036,590. The percentage of overdues to the total dues increased from 70 to 78 in the Central Provinces and from 80 to 85 in Berar. Excluding the sum due from societies under award and liquidation, the overdues amounted to 60 per cent in the Central Provinces and 59 per cent in Berar as against 51.6 and 54.1 per cent respectively, in the preceding year.

Unlimited Liability. - The total number of rural credit societies with unlimited liability decreased from 3,738 to 3,689 of which 3,089 are in the Central Provinces and 600 in Berar. 84 societies were registered during the year under report as against 41 in the previous year, 72 being registered in the Central Provinces and 12 in Berar. 133 societies were cancelled against

218 in the previous year. ~~56 in fifteen other banks of the Central Provinces and 20 in Berar.~~ The working capital of societies, excluding those under liquidation, decreased from Rs. 16,111,338 to Rs. 15,847,717 and the loans due by members from Rs. 13,379,728 to Rs. 12,954,277. The total cash recoveries of central banks loans due from societies rose from Rs. 854,453 to Rs. 1,042,125 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 162,225 to Rs. 188,529 in Berar. Similarly cash recoveries from members increased from Rs. 1,225,819 to Rs. 1,254,999 and from Rs. 386,325 to Rs. 579,381 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively. The membership of societies other than those under liquidation fell from 55,121 to 52,630. The average number of members per society also declined from 15 to 14.

Central Banks. - The number of central banks remained the same as before, viz., 35, but the total working capital decreased from Rs. 24,604,946 to Rs. 24,284,117. The share capital also declined from Rs. 1,816,643 to Rs. 1,756,848; it fell from Rs. 1,139,023 to Rs. 1,103,570 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 677,620 to Rs. 653,278 in Berar. The reduction in share capital is due to redemption of shares held by members of societies brought under liquidation. Reserve and other funds, however, increased from Rs. 3,428,323 to Rs. 3,717,654. Of these, Rs. 2,675,311 are earmarked as provision for bad and doubtful debts. Bad debts amounted to Rs. 878,008 and Rs. 1,832,588 in the Central Provinces and Berar and doubtful debts to Rs. 375,443 and Rs. 53,468, respectively, ~~while in Berar bad debts~~ Bad and doubtful debts increased in the Central Provinces by Rs. 163,358 and Rs. 3,166 respectively, while in Berar bad debts increased by Rs. 882,503 and doubtful debts decreased by Rs. 429,392. Deposits from individuals fell from Rs. 13,158,626 to Rs. 12,900,538 for the whole province. They increased in the Central Provinces from Rs. 4,652,578 to Rs. 4,908,452, but decreased in Berar from Rs. 8,506,048 to Rs. 7,992,086.

Reserve Funds of Societies. - The reserve funds of central banks and societies increased from Rs. 5,089,360 to Rs. 5,429,978. Of the total amount the Provincial Bank owned Rs. 215,050, the central banks, Rs. 1,161,442, the primary and other agricultural societies, Rs. 3,872,991 and other kinds of non-agricultural societies, Rs. 180,495. The figures include the reserve funds of societies under liquidation which stand at Rs. 540,353.

(The Progress of Co-operative movement in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 59-61 of the July 1933 of this Office).

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Women and Children.

Exploitation of Labour of Women and Children: Legislation
to stop Abuse Contemplated in Ceylon. ✓

Some time ago the Ceylon Government appointed a Committee for enquiring into the exploitation of women and children by servants' agencies and kindred matters and make recommendations to prevent abuses. The Committee is reported to have ~~submitted~~ ^{finished} its report.

It is understood that the Committee recommends the institution of compulsory education, which, it is felt, will solve the majority of ^{the} problems of child labour and cruelty to children. Regarding ~~the~~ orphanages, the Committee expresses the opinion that if the Government are unable to establish such institutions, they should at any rate contribute handsomely to well-recognised homes. The Committee also recommends that adopted children (vide pages 54-55 of our April 1929 and pages 26-27 of March 1930 reports for details regarding practices connected with the system of adoption of children in Ceylon, some of which have been described as forms of child slavery) be registered and be visited from time to time by qualified officers and also that new legislation be introduced to give legal sanction to genuine cases of adoption.

The existing law regarding compulsory education is considered adequate, but it is urged that sufficient accommodation be provided in schools to enable all children of school-going age to be educated up to the maximum compulsory age. This last recommendation is to be obligatory on the part of all persons who have the custody and care of ~~the~~ children.

Recommendations are also made for ^{the} stricter and closer supervision of servants' employment securing agencies.

(The Hindu, 14-7-1934).

Industrial Education in U.P. & Berar, 1933.* ✓

The following information regarding the progress of industrial education in C.P. and Berar during 1933 is taken from the Report on the working of the Department of Industries of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1933.-

Industrial Schools. - According to the report, the demand for industrial education continued to be keen in the Central Provinces and Berar, but new schemes were held up owing to financial difficulties. The number of government and Government Aided schools remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 3 and 6 respectively. During the year an extended three years' course in both carpentry and smithy was introduced in the remaining three schools, namely, those at Nagpur, Amraoti and Chandametta. The total number of pupils in all the schools at the beginning of the year was 489. The number admitted to and the number passed out of the schools was 74 and 183, respectively. At the end of the year the number of students in the schools was 306. Of the students that passed, 72 were carpenters, 45 smiths and 5 tailors. The progressive total of students passed out of the schools at the end of the year was 1,106 carpenters, 618 smiths and 8 tailors. The expenditure on scholarships during the year was Rs.30,315 against Rs.32,005 in the previous year. The mining class at Chandametta which was temporarily closed in 1932 was revived during the year owing to the improved condition of the coal trade. 28 apprentices from the coalfields are undergoing training in this class.

Reformatory School, Jubbulpore. - The number of boys in the school at the beginning of the year was 78. During the year 28 boys were admitted and 14 released, leaving 92 boys at the end of the year. 44 boys were taught carpentry, 25 gardening and 23 tailoring. 87 boys were examined by the Inspector of Industrial Schools in the trades examination and 48 passed. 80 boys appeared for the examination in literary subjects held by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Jubbulpore Circle, and 59 passed. The health of the boys was satisfactory.

Scholarships. - The report shows that owing to financial stringency no new scholarships were awarded for training in institutions outside the province or abroad. A proposal for the grant of Government scholarships to 15 pupils of the mechi class attached to the Government school of Handicrafts, Nagpur, was under the consideration of the Government at the end of the period under review.

(The Progress of Industrial Education in U.P. & Berar during 1933 is reviewed at pages 62-63 of the June 1933 report of this Office).

* Report on the working of the Department of Industries of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1933. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1934. - Price Annas Nine. - pp.16

Migration.

Indians in Zanzibar:

Legislation to Curtail their Trade Rights. ✓

On 24-6-1934 the Indian National Association, Zanzibar, sent the following cable regarding certain enactments of an anti-Indian character the early adoption of which the Zanzibar Government were considering:

"The Local Government have published the draft of bills which they propose passing into law on 28th instant. These bills are most revolutionary, racial and un-British in character and are calculated to prevent Indians from acquiring land and ~~deprive~~ them of their ancient rights of dealing in the only important local industry, viz., cloves, thus threatening the very existence of the whole community numbering 15,000. Conjointly they also practically deprive Indians of about 8 million rupees being the capital invested in bonafide business with and mortgages of Arab and Native properties. We applied to the Local Government for the postponement of these measures but that has been refused. The relations between Indians, Arabs and Natives have, so far been most cordial and intimate. The proposed legislation is sure to create friction and racial bitterness. Great consternation, panic, and fear prevail amongst Indians." (The Hindustan Times, 25-6-1934)

According to the latest census figures there are 15,246 Indians in the Island, out of a total population of 220,000. Over 60 per cent of the Indians are permanent residents of the Protectorate. The majority of the Indians are merchants and the chief occupation they are engaged in is the financing of the production and marketing of cloves. There are 48,000 acres of land under cloves with about 3,500,000 bearing trees. The Indians in the Protectorate have invested nearly Rs.10 millions in the industry. What ~~the~~ ^{of the} two measures which the Government are about to bring into operation will do is, firstly, to prevent Indians from acquiring land and, secondly, to deprive them of their right to deal in

cloves. In other words, if the Bills become law, Indians will find their occupation gone and with it most of the money they have invested in the Island.

The following are the Bills against which Indians in Zanzibar have protested:-

1. "A Decree to Restrict Alienation of Land in Certain Cases and to Make Special Provision for Evidence and Procedure in such Cases." This Bill passed the second reading by the close of June last and has been enacted into law by the second week of the month under review. By the enactment of this Bill, Indians will be deprived of their right, which they have hitherto exercised, to acquire agricultural land. It may be mentioned that the Indian settlement in Zanzibar is as old as that of Arabs.

2. "A Decree to Establish and to Regulate the Clove Growers' Association." This attempts to create a monopoly of export trade in cloves and copra in the hands of a Government guaranteed agency. If this Bill becomes law it will, along with a new Decree, impose licence fees of about Rs.5,000 for any one who wants to be an exporter. This is expected to be the death knell of Indian trade in Zanzibar.

3. "A Decree to Prevent Adulteration of Produce". This is said to arm the authorities with unprecedented powers.

4. "A Decree to Provide for the Inspection and Grading of Agricultural Produce to be Exported from the Protectorate." This will prohibit the exportation of cloves and copra until they have been "inspected, graded and branded". According to the new measures, "no suit or other proceeding shall be brought against the Director or any Inspector, Examiner or other Officer acting in good faith....." and "no compensation shall be made by the Government to any person in respect of any loss or damage to any agricultural produce while the same is upon Government premises..."

These measures have created a great stir in India and meetings have been held in many parts of the country protesting against these measures and representations have been made to the Government of India to intervene and safeguard the rights of the Indians. It was reported by Reuter in a cable dated 4-7-1934 that owing to protests of Indians, who regard the legislation as ^{being prompted by} racial discrimination,

nd as likely to drive Indians from Zanzibar, the Acting Resident, in a reassuring speech to the Legislature, declared that the Government did not desire, and did not intend, to prevent suitable persons, other than Africans and Arabs, from obtaining landed property. He pointed out that the legislation merely provided breathing space for the consideration of the problem of indebtedness and did not relieve the debtor of responsibility for paying interest during the moratorium year. (The Hindu, 4-7-1934). This ~~Reporter's~~ message has, however, been contradicted by the Indian National Association, Zanzibar, which states that there are no such provisions in the law and that the whole matter is left to the entire discretion of the British Resident in the Colony. (The Times of India, 11-7-1934)

As the result of an interpellation on the subject in the Legislative Assembly on 19-7-1934, the following statement was elicited in reply from Mr. G.S. Bajpai, Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands:

"The Government of India had no previous notice that such legislation was before the Zanzibar Legislative Council, nor were the texts of the various decrees before them when the first representations were received. Government could therefore only suggest the postponement of legislation. This request was not successful. The text of five of these decrees as published in the Zanzibar Gazette has recently become available and certain representations have already been made to the Secretary of State on receipt of the detailed comments of the Indian community in Zanzibar on the measure. Further representations will be made if necessary. I can give an assurance that the Government of India will do whatever lies in their power to safeguard legitimate Indian interests."

(The Statesman, 20-7-1934).

Colonisation Enquiry Committee's Report:

Details of Findings. ✓

Reference was made at pages 74-76 of our February 1934 report to the report of the Indian Colonisation Enquiry Committee appointed by the South African Union Government to explore the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries and to report as to the country or countries in which further investigation as to the successful operation of such a scheme might advantageously be made, having regard to the political, climatic and economic conditions in such country or countries. The report was released for publication by the Government of India early this month. ^{The report} A summary of ~~which~~ is given below.

Present Position of Indians in South Africa. - There is a steady decrease in the number of Indians employed on sugar estates, coal mines and railways, while the number engaged in agriculture remains stationary. In industry, where the Indian has secured a place in semi-skilled work, the number employed is less than it was some years ago. In the municipal services, there has been a slight increase. There is a considerable amount of unemployment amongst the Indian community, but the closer bonds of Indian family life, which entail a wider distribution of financial responsibility throughout the family group, have the effect of rendering the stress and hardship of unemployment less obvious than it would be in the case of Europeans.

It is clear to the Committee that avenues of Indian employment are gradually closing in all unskilled occupations. The Indian is giving place to the native in semi-skilled and better paid occupations. There has been no expansion of Indian employment, nor, owing to the White labour policy, is there any immediate prospect of further expansion. Meanwhile the Indian population of Natal is steadily increasing. The natural inference from these facts would be that the economic pressure, which is now throwing the Indian more and more on his own resources, would sooner or later compel him to seek fresh avenues of occupation either in Natal or elsewhere.

In this connection the Committee refers to the strong

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opposition of South African Indians to participate in any colonisation scheme and recommends that in order to attract settlers full publicity must be given to advantages of colonisation abroad. It has appeared to the Committee that British North Borneo, British New Guinea and British Guiana are countries in which further investigation as to the successful operation of the Colonization scheme might advantageously be made and the Committee, therefore, recommends that the attention of the Joint Commissioners should be directed to those countries, in the order mentioned.

Character of Scheme. - The Committee state that two types of colonisation should be aimed at, viz., (1) settlement on land of a large number of persons under a scheme financed by the Governments of India and of the Union and supervised by an organisation, specially set up by those Governments and (2) a more ambitious scheme, having as its objective the creation of an Indian colony overseas, which would be chiefly developed by Indian enterprise. It is declared that the objective visualised in the Round Table Conference Agreement is the foundation and establishment, in some undeveloped or but little developed territory under proper control and with adequate financial support, of a pure Indian colony. As the basis of this colony would be land settlement, a sufficient tract of land would have to be acquired as the first step, either by the colonizing Governments or by private corporations approved by them. Although such a colony would probably begin on a small scale, the prospect of its ultimate growth and territorial expansion would always be kept in view by its founders. In a settlement of this nature where the majority of the new colonists would be Indian peasants, many others skilled in industry, commerce and administration would be required and it is reasonable to suppose that a place would be found for such South African Indians as desire to take part.

The requisite land for settlement could be obtained by purchase either from private owners or from the Government of the country selected and the purchase might be made either by the Government of India or by some colonising Corporation, approved by that Government. It is conceivable that a company might be formed for the purpose, to which extensive powers would be given by a special charter from the Indian Government. It is also conceivable that the sovereignty of the selected territory might be acquired ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~and transferred to~~ the Government of India ^{and transferred to} the chartered company, which, in such event, would have entirely a free hand in regard to schemes for settlement. As the territory would be undeveloped and sparsely peopled, an administration set up by the ~~the~~ Government of India or the chartered company would become the custodian of the rights of aboriginal inhabitants and would be able to deal with all proprietary claims made by them.

Indian Nationalists and Liberals, including men like Mr. Rt. Hon'ble ^c V. Srinwasa Sastri and Sir K.V. Reddi, both ex-Agents of the Governor-General in South Africa, have expressed definite

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hostility to the recommendations in the report. Pandit Hridaynath Kunzru of the Servants of India Society comments as follows about the report:-

The Union Government should realise that the only way of settling Indian problems is to treat Indians as a permanent and integral part of the population of South Africa and give them full opportunities for self-development. The Colonisation Committee, to judge from the summary of its report, has not a word to say, with regard to the moral responsibility of the Union Government, under the Cape Town Agreement, towards the Indian community. It appears to proceed on the assumption that Indians are aliens, who have ever been a curse to South Africa and for whose moral and material advancement no opportunities will be provided in South Africa. But, it is the duty of the Government of India to remind the Union Government that they are in honour bound to carry out the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement and to use all means at their disposal to bring about conditions, which will enable Indians to develop themselves.

(The Hindu, 7-6-1934)

Indian Labourers in Siam: Government Investigation

~~int~~ on the Conditions of Unskilled Indian Labourers. ✓

The conditions of employment of unskilled labourers in Siam leave much to be desired, to judge from the reports appearing from time to time in the Press. Tamil labourers, it has been alleged, are being sweated by their Chinese employers, in the absence of any labour legislation worth the name. It will be recalled that Dr. Lanka Sundaram, when he visited Siam last year, made representations to the British Legation there, as also ^{to} the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok, concerning the plight of immigrant labour from India (vide page 74 of our June 1933 report). A suggestion was made to the Government of India that they should depute their Agent in Malaya to proceed to Siam and make an investigation on the spot.

The Government of India have, it is understood, accepted this suggestion and appointed Rao Sahib A.K.Mukundan, the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya, to investigate the conditions of employment of unskilled Indian labourers who have emigrated to Siam despite stringent immigration rules. It is understood that Rao Sahib Mukundan has already left for Siam.

(The Hindu, 12-7-1934)

Note on Indians in Siam. ✓

✓ According to Siamese official statistics, there were 379,618 Indians in Malaya, and 32,385 Burmese in the Kingdom of Siam in the year 1929. The number of Indians who arrived in Siam by land and sea were 2,048, 2,737, 1,834, and 1,115 respectively for ~~years~~ each year from 1929 to 1933, making a total of 9,067 for 5 years, the departures during the period being 8,121. In ~~common with the immigrant~~ Indians all over the world the immigrants to Siam were preponderantly male; for instance in 1932 out of the 1,333 arrivals only 89 were females and the other 1,244 were males.

Unlike the Indians who arrive in Malaya the immigrants to Siam are not chiefly of the labouring class. Out of the 1,834 arrivals in 1931, only 33 arrived for the purpose of finding work as labourers; 787 came for personal and domestic reasons, and 568 Indians declared their purpose to be commercial. In 1932 out of 1,333 arrivals, 583 came for commercial reasons, 371 for private and domestic reasons and 8 for labour. 74 per cent of the Indians in Siam live in the Pattani Circle and 16 per cent in the Nagor Sri Dharmaraj Circle and the rest in Krung Dev Circle.

(Summarised from a report published in the Hindu dated 12-7-1934 from its Singapore correspondent).