

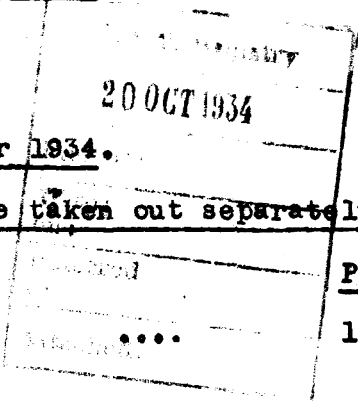
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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for September 1934.



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

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References to the I. L. O. +

The Railway Herald, Bombay, in its issues dated 1-9-1934 and 15-9-1934 publishes in two instalments the communique issued by this Office on 17-7-1934 under the caption "The I.L.Conference and Indian Railway Workers".

(For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 2 of our July and page 1 of August 1934 reports).

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The Hindu of 3-9-34 publishes the communique issued by this Office on 29-8-34 on the I.L.O.Questionnaire re. Insurance Rights of Migrant Workers.

Commenting editorially on the subject, the Hindu of the same date welcomes the Geneva's proposal for securing certain insurance rights for migrant workers. The paper points out that there are large numbers of Indian emigrants who would be beneficially affected by any convention that may be adopted on the subject.

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The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 8-9-34 reproduces the note on the last session of the I.L.Conference contained in the June issue of the I.L.O. Monthly Summary.

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The August 1934 issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a full summary of the proceedings of the 18th session of the I.L.Conference.

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The August 1934 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes

the article: "I.L.O. & Workers' Organisations; Relations during 1933" contributed by this Office.

(For a list of other papers which published the article, vide page 11 of our July and page 3 of August 1934 reports).

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The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-9-34 and the September 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish a brief summary of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's address before the Indian Trade Union Federation on his impressions of the I.L.O. After detailing his activities at the 10th I.L.Conference, Mr. Mehta declared that the I.L.O. afforded the best platform for Indian labour to ventilate its grievances and to enlist the sympathy and support of workers of other nations. He assured Indian workers that workers of other nations took a keen and sympathetic interest in their welfare and emphasised the advantages of sending to Geneva delegates who have already attended one or more sessions of the I.L.Conference instead of fresh men.

The Leader dated 12-9-34 commenting on Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's address, supports his submission that Indian labour stands to gain by participating in the activities of the I.L.O. and observes: "Long hours of work, forced labour, unsatisfactory conditions of service - these and other grievances of Indian labour would not have received the attention they have done if Indian labour had not been represented at Geneva. Conditions of work still require to be improved, but considerable progress has been made during the last ten years, and we agree with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta regarding the beneficent influence of Geneva on Governments and other employers of labour".

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The August 1934 issue of H.E.H.the N.S.Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes a brief note reviewing the work of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta at the 18th I.L.Conference in connection with conditions of labour of railway workers.

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 2-9-34 reproduces an article contributed by Sgr. Benito Mussolini under the caption "40-Hour Week". The article deals with the Italian official attitude towards the question of reduction of hours of work and the various difficulties in the way of bringing about the forty-hour week.

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The Tamil supplement of Labour Times, Madras, dated 3-9-34, publishes a Tamil translation of the communique issued by this Office on 21-8-34 announcing the formal entry of the U.S.A. into the I.L.O.

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The Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, dated 22-9-34 reproduces the note published in Industrial and Labour Information dated 27-8-34 under the caption "The United States joins the International Labour Organisation."

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The Hindu of 7-9-34 and the Hindustan Times of 8-9-34 publish a letter sent by a correspondent from Geneva on the formal entry of the U.S.A. into the I.L.O.

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The Times of India of 14-9-34 publishes an editorial article under the heading "Bowling to Russia" deprecating the action of the

League in inviting Russia to ~~k~~ join the League instead of waiting for Russia to apply for membership. The article expresses the opinion that serious difficulties would arise as a result of Russia's membership and says: "Another awkward article in the Covenant is that which states that members of the League will endeavour to secure and to maintain fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women and children both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend. When the conditions of famine in Russia were referred to recently in the House of Lords, Viscount Hailsham, a member of the Government, though stating that no official attitude on the debate could be expressed, did admit that all countries having regard to their obligations as signatories to the Covenant of the League could not ignore the conditions of peoples elsewhere to whom their commerce extended. How the condition of the people in Russia can be reconciled with the League's proposed principles is again a matter that can be left to public judgment."

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The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 23-9-34 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Russia's Triumph". The article states that the entry of Russia into the League is a triumph for <sup>the</sup> workers. It is pointed out that communists had so far denounced the League Organisations, and that the split in Indian labour ranks was occasioned <sup>chiefly</sup> by the issue whether Indian labour should participate in the activities of the I.L.O. Till recently the whole of Europe was openly hostile to the Russian experiment. The invitation extended to the U.S.S.R. to join the League consti-

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a triumph for the working classes since the Soviet Republic is a nation governed by the working classes. The hope is expressed, now that Russia has joined the League, <sup>that</sup> the fears and suspicions entertained by other countries regarding the system of government obtaining in Russia will disappear and that eventually the ban on communism itself will be removed.

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The Statesman of 26-9-34 publishes a letter dated 14-7-34 from its London correspondent in the course of which the attitude of the British Press towards the entry of Russia into the League is explained and reference is made to a letter contributed to the Times, London, by Lord Charnwood, protesting against the admission of Russia into the League. Lord Charnwood's letter refers to the Preamble to Part XIII of the Peace Treaty and alleges that the conditions of labour prevailing in Russia are not fair and human.

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The Hindustan Times of 6-9-1934 publishes the news that Mr. N.M. Joshi would be attending the <sup>September</sup> ~~forthcoming~~ meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

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The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 30-9-34 and the Times of India and the Leader of 1-10-34 publish a Reuter's message from Geneva dated 28-9-34 announcing that the Governing Body of the I.L.O. concluded its meeting on 28-9-34 after deciding to place the question of hours of work on the agenda of the 1935 session of the I.L.Conference.

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The September 1934 issue of "Insurance World", Calcutta, publishes an appreciative review of the brochure "Social Insurance in 1933 (Reprint from the I.L.O. Year Book, 1933).

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The August 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes a long and appreciative review of the brochure: "Social Insurance in 1933" reprinted from the I.L.O. Year Book, 1933.

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The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-9-34 publishes an appreciative review of the recent I.L.O. publication: "Standard Codex of Industrial Hygiene."

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The September 1934 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes a long and appreciative review of two I.L.O. pamphlets: "The I.L.O. in Brief" and "The Protection of Children and Young Persons".

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Federated India, Madras, dated 26-9-34, publishes a long review of the Book: "India Analysed" Vol. I (Victor Gollancz). The book, it will be remembered, contains special chapters on India's relations with the League Organisations. Several references are made in the review to India's relations with the I.L.O.

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Federated India, Madras, dated 5-9-34 reproduces from the July issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin the following items entitled:



"Unemployment Insurance at the I.L.Conference", "Hours of Work; Special Conditions of the Glass Industry", "A Consultative Asiatic Labour Conference", and "Japanese Competition".

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The August 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces two items; "A Consultative Asiatic Labour Conference" and "Increased Representation for Non-European Countries" included in the July 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

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The National Call of 24-9-34 reproduces the item "Japanese Competition" included in the July 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

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The Statesman of 7-9-34 publishes a Reuter's message from Rugby dated 6-9-34 giving the summary of a resolution passed at the Weymouth Session of the British Trade Union Congress urging the General Council to adopt measures to popularise the activities of the I.L.O. and to bring pressure on the government to expedite ratification of I.L.Conventions.

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The Hindu of 13-9-34 reports the proceedings of a meeting of the F.W.D.Workers' Union, Madras, at which Mr. R.S.Ramanujam spoke on the subject of "The Workers' Cause in India and other countries". The address contained several complimentary references to the activities of the I.L.O.

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The Statesman, the Hindustan Times and the National Call of 17-9-1934 and "Industry and Commerce", Delhi, dated 18-9-34 publish a brief account of a lecture delivered on 16-9-34 by Dr. S.N.Ghose of the League of Nations Secretariat on "Some Aspects of the work of the League" *at the Talkatora Club, New Delhi.*

The meeting was attended by the Director of this Office who also addressed the meeting.

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"Federated India", Madras, of 19-9-34 and the August 1934 issue of H.E.H.the N.S.Ry.Employees' Union, Secunderabad, publish the communique issued by this Office on 23-7-34 on the address of the Director of the Geneva Office before the East India Association, London, on 10-7-1934.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 7 of the July 1934 and page of the August 1934 reports of this Office).

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The August 1934 issue of H-E.H.the N.S.Ry. Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, and the September 1934 issue of Union Herald Bombay, publish a short note describing the present position in India as regards the application in Indian railway system of the Washington and Geneva Conventions re. hours of work and weekly rest. References are made in the course of the note to the application of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Indian workers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, to the Governing Body to hold an enquiry into the manner in which the Government of India is enforcing the Hours and Weekly Rest Conventions in Indian railways.)

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Labour Times, Madras, of 10-9-34, publishes the article by Mr. T.A. Ananta Aiyar on "Maternity Benefits Legislation in India" which was originally published in the Hindu of 8-8-34 (vide page 9 of our August 1934 report). The article makes extensive references to the I.L. Conventions on Maternity Benefits and to the publications of the I.L.O. on the subject.

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Federated India, Madras, of 12-9-34, publishes an article under the caption "National Economic Councils; Recent Developments in France" contributed by this Office. The article is based on a note on the subject of the reform of the French Economic Council published in Industrial & Labour Information of 23-7-1934.

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The Hindustan Times of 6-9-34 and the Leader of 10-9-34 publish a Geneva letter dated 17-8-34 under the caption "All Roads lead to Geneva; League and Statistics" reviewing the ~~last~~ proceedings of the last meeting of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations. References are made in the letter to the information supplied by the I.L.O. to the Committee on unemployment.

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The Servant of India, Poona, of 20-9-34, publishes a short editorial note under the caption "India and the League" in the course of which it deplores the scanty representation of Indians on the Staffs of the League Secretariat and International Labour Office and protests against the denial to India of a seat in the League Council.

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The Statesman and the Times of India of 7-9-34 publish a brief news-item to the effect that there is a proposal that the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, should attend the next session of the I.L.Conference.

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The Hindustan Times of 12-9-1934 publishes a news-item received by it by air mail from Geneva to the effect that Mr. Kuriyan of the I.L.O. will be visiting India during the ensuing cold season.

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The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European News Agencies were published in the Indian Press during September 1934:

1. A wireless message from Rugby dated 6-9-34 re. the resolution of the British Trade Union Congress urging the General Council to adopt measures to popularise the activities of the I.L.O.

2. A Reuter's message dated 28-9-34 from Geneva re. the decision of the September 1934 session of the Governing Body on the subject of placing the question of reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the 1935 Conference.

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Madras Maternity Benefit Bill: Report of the Select Committee. +

Reference was made at page 7 of the August 1933 report of this Office to the Madras Maternity Benefit Bill introduced in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar. Mention was also made at pages 13-14 of <sup>our May 1934 report to</sup> the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee and its efforts to obtain views of ~~the~~ representatives of owners of factories and employers of industrial labour in the Presidency as well as of representatives of trade unions on the provisions of the Bill. It is reported that the Select Committee, of which Dr. Natesa Mudaliar is the chairman, has submitted its report. The following are some of the important recommendations of the Committee:-

Maternity Benefit Claimants.- The Committee considers that in confining the benefit of this measure to factory labour and in not extending it to agricultural labour, the Bill proceeds on ~~the~~ right lines. It however agrees with the opinion of the Royal Commission on Labour that maternity benefit should in the first instance be granted only to women workers in perennial factories and not to those in seasonal factories and has made the necessary amendment in clause 5. For distinguishing seasonal factories from factories which are not seasonal, the Committee has accepted the definition of "seasonal factories" in the Factories Act, 1934, recently passed in the Central Legislature.

Women Workers in Factories.- Clause 4 contains a provision intended rather to promote the health and welfare of women workers in factories generally than to deal with any question of maternity benefit. The Committee considers that a general provision preventing a woman from working in any factory during the four weeks preceding her confinement is unnecessary. The Committee has therefore deleted sub-clause (2). In consequence of this deletion, clause 11 which provides a penalty for a woman working in any factory within four weeks of the date of her confinement has been deleted. The Committee, however, considers that sub-clause (1) which prevents an employer from knowingly employing a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately preceding her confinement is unobjectionable and may be retained.

Rate of Benefit.- The Committee has considered the question whether the amount of maternity benefit should be a flat rate of As.8 per day or whether it should be the average daily wages calculated with reference to the wages earned by the worker during the three months prior to her absence or whether it should be the rate of wages earned by her on the date of the commencement of her absence. The Committee considers that on the whole a flat rate of As.8 per day is

*one of the Members of the Select Committee*

the most advantageous, but Mr. Metherell, does not agree to this view. As regards the proviso, the Committee considers that a qualifying period of six months of service immediately preceding the date of notice of absence is too short and has accordingly extended it to a period of nine months. The Royal Commission on Labour has recommended that the period should at least be nine months and the Committee agrees with that recommendation. The Committee agrees that the maximum period for which maternity benefit should be given should be seven weeks, three weeks before and four weeks after confinement.

Notice of Absence.- Clause 6 deals with the notice of absence to be given by a woman worker entitled to maternity benefit under this Act to her employer. The Committee notes that in the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, if a woman has failed to give notice of absence to her employer, before confinement, she can do so within 48 hours after her confinement. The Committee has resolved to adopt the provision of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act instead of this clause, with the modification that such notice can be given within a week after confinement instead of within 48 hours after confinement. Sub-clause (3); The Committee thinks that the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child may not be practicable in all cases and has accordingly provided for the production of such proof "as may be prescribed".

Person to Whom Benefit Should be Paid.- Clause 7 provides for the person to whom the maternity benefit should be paid. The Committee considers that the proper person to receive the maternity benefit is the woman concerned or, in the case of her death, her nominee; and in the absence of a nominee, her legal representative.

Dismissal of Pregnant Woman Worker.- To prevent the unscrupulous employer from dispensing without sufficient grounds with the services of a pregnant woman worker who can be seen to be some 6 or 7 months in that condition, for the purpose of evading the liability for payment of maternity benefit under this Bill, the Committee by majority inserted under this Clause <sup>an additional provision</sup> ~~the~~ that effect.

Penalty for Conviction.- The Committee considers that the maximum amount of fine which can be inflicted for a conviction under this Act should not exceed Rs.250 and has accordingly substituted Rs.250 for Rs.500.

The Committee considers that the Bill as amended by it should be re-published.

The Hindu, 11-9-1934.

The Hazardous Occupations (Lead and Lead Compounds)

Rules, 1935; Proposed Legislative Measure. +

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have published the following notification regarding certain proposed rules, to be cited as "The Hazardous Occupations (Lead and Lead Compounds) Rules, 1935", in the Gazette of India, dated 22-9-1934 (Part I, Pages 1133-1135):

Notification No. L.-3050, dated 20-9-1934.- The following draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 33 of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) read with section 22 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), is published as required by section 79 of the first named Act for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 22nd December 1934. Any objection or suggestions which may be received in respect of the draft before the date specified will be considered by the Governor General in Council.

Draft Rules.

Part I.

1. These rules may be cited as "The Hazardous Occupations (Lead and Lead Compounds) Rules, 1935".
2. The operations specified in the Schedule are declared to be hazardous operations when carried on in any factory.
3. No woman, adolescent or child shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in Part I of the Schedule or, save in accordance with the provisions contained in Part II of the rules, in any of the operations specified in Part II of the Schedule.

Part II.

4. In respect of every woman, adolescent or child employed in a factory in any of the operations specified in Part II of the Schedule (~~hereafter~~ hereinafter referred to in this Part of the rules as "such person") the manager of the factory shall have in his possession a certificate of fitness issued in Form A\* by a certifying surgeon appointed under Section 12.
5. Every such person shall carry while he is at work a token giving reference to such certificate.
6. Every such person shall be medically examined by a certifying surgeon at intervals of not more than three months, and a record of such examinations shall be kept in form B\*.
7. If at any time the certifying surgeon is of opinion that such

\*Forms A and B are published at pages 1134 and 1135 of the Gazette of India, Part I, dated 22-9-1934, but are not reproduced here.

person is no longer fit for employment in any of the operations specified in Part II of the Schedule, he shall cancel the certificate of fitness of that person and that person shall not be employed in any such operation unless the certifying surgeon again certifies him to be fit.

8. Where dust or fume from a lead compound is produced in any operation specified in Part II of the Schedule provision shall be made for drawing the fume or dust away from every such person by means of an efficient exhaust draught so contrived as to operate on the dust or fume as nearly as may be at its point of origin.

9. No food, drink or tobacco shall be brought into, or consumed in, any room in which any such person is employed.

10. Adequate protective clothing in a clean condition shall be provided by the employer for and worn by every such person.

11. Every room in which any such person is employed, and all tools and apparatus used by him, shall be kept in a clean condition.

Schedule.

Part I.

1. Work at a furnace where the reduction or treatment of zinc or lead ores is carried on;

2. The manipulation, treatment, or reduction of ashes containing lead, the desilvering of lead or the melting of scrap lead or zinc;

3. The manufacture of solder or alloys containing more than ten per cent. of lead;

4. The manufacture of any oxide, carbonate, sulphate, chromate, acetate, nitrate, or silicate of lead;

5. Mixing or pasting in connection with the manufacture or repair of electric accumulators;

6. The cleaning of work-rooms where any of the processes aforesaid are carried on.

Part II.

Any other operation involving the use of lead compounds.

(The Gazette of India, dated 22-9-1934,  
Part I, pages 1133-1135).



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Amendment to Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929

- (j) date of production of certified extract from birth register
- The following amendment to the Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929, is published in the Bombay Government Gazette dated 27-9-1934 (Part II page 2036) as Notification No. 8574-II dated 20-9-1934.
- (k) date of first payment of maternity benefit and
- (l) date of subsequent payments of maternity benefit
- (m) if the woman dies, amount of maternity benefit paid and date of payment and the names of persons to whom paid; and

Notification No. 8574-II dated 20-9-1934. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 (Act No. 19 of 1929), the Government of Bombay hereby amends the Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929, published in Government Notification in the General Department, No. 1000, dated the 21st August 1929, as follows, namely:

- (1) After clause (b) of rule 2 of the said rules, the following shall be added, namely:
- "I" shall be substituted for the figure "II" in rule 3 of the said rules for the figure "II" the figure "I" shall be substituted; means a muster roll, or register or a combined muster roll and register prepared and maintained under rule 3 and shall be kept under section 35 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911."
- (2) After rule 3 of the said rules, the following shall be inserted to have been kept under section 35 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911:

"II. Exhibition of abstract of provisions of Act and Rules.

(1) The Inspector of Factories shall, for the purpose of the Act, beginning with the words 'on the day' and ending with the words 'the Inspector and the following steps shall be taken, namely: and shall enter the following particulars in the muster roll, namely:

to all persons who are an application for the same to the Inspector at Bombay, and of woman;

- (a) department in which employed and name of factory;
- (b) dates with month and year on which employed and
- (c) Schedule I of the said rules shall be re-numbered as Schedule I.
- (d) total days employed in the payment period;
- (e) in the case of factories situated in places other than the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi,
- (i) "wages" as defined in section 3(d) of the Act;
- (ii) average daily wage, calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna on the total wages earned during a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which the woman gives notice under section 6(1) of the Act;
- (g) date on which the woman gives notice under section 6(1) of the Act;
- (h) date of birth of child;
- (i) date of production of a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner certifying that

- the woman is expected to be confined within one month;
- (j) date of production of certified extract from birth register;
- (k) date of first payment of maternity benefit and amount of same;
- (l) date of subsequent payments of maternity benefit and amounts of same;
- (m) if the woman dies, amount of maternity benefit paid and date of payment and the names of persons to whom paid; and
- (n) remarks column for the use of the Inspector only.

All entries in the master roll shall be maintained up-to-date and shall always be available for inspection by the Inspector.

The employer may enter in the master roll such other particulars as may be required for any other purpose".

(3) In rule 8 of the said rules for the figure "II" the figure "I" shall be substituted.

(4) After rule 10 of the said rules, the following rule shall be inserted, namely:-

"II. Exhibition of abstract of provisions of Act and rules. -  
 The abstract of the provisions of the Act and rules in the local vernacular required to be exhibited by section 15 of the Act shall be in such form as the Chief Inspector of Factories may approve and be exhibited in such manner as he may require. The Chief Inspector of Factories may prepare an abstract and supply copies to employers who make an application for the same to the Inspectors at Bombay and Ahmedabad."

(5) Schedule I to the said rules shall be deleted.

(6) Schedule II to the said rules shall be re-numbered as Schedule I.

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Conditions of Labour.

Working of Hours of Employment Regulations on N.W.,

E.I., E.B., and G.I.P. Railways, 1933-34.\* ✓ +

Application of the Regulations. - Chapter VI A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (as amended) and the Rules made there-under, constitute the Hours of Employment Regulations, were applied by Gazette Notification to the North Western and East Indian Railways with effect from 1st April 1931 and to the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways one year later with effect from 1st April 1932. Thus the Regulations have now been in operation on the first two railways for three years and on the latter two railways for two years. All State-managed railways, with the exception of the Burma Railways, have now been brought within the scope of the Regulations, but it has to be noted that although the Regulations have not yet been extended to the Burma Railways and the Company-managed Lines, yet many of their employees have for some time been working within the restrictive limits laid down in the Railways Act. The Company-managed railways are gradually coming into line with State railways in respect of Hours of Employment.

Number of Staff Involved. - The numbers of non-gazetted open line staff on ~~the~~ 31-3-1933 on the four railways in question were as follows: North Western Railway - 107,524; East Indian Railway - 123,615; Eastern Bengal Railway - 45,700 and Great Indian Peninsula Railway - 86,270 making a total of 363,109. It is remarked that it is not possible to give definite and accurate figures as to the number of these employees who come within the scope of the Factories Act, as opposed to those to whom the Hours of Employment Regulations apply. Approximate figures which are sufficiently accurate for the present purpose can, however, be arrived at and are given below:

Railways.	Approximate number of employees coming under the	
	Factories Act.	Hours of Employment Regulation.
North Western	12,500	95,000
East Indian	25,000	98,500
Eastern Bengal	7,000	38,500
Great Indian Peninsula	9,500	76,500
Total -	54,000	308,500

Railway servants on construction also come within the scope of the Regulations but these are always inconsiderable as the greater part of such work is carried out by contract. Moreover,

\* Govt. of India - Railway Department - Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the N.W., E.I., E.B. & G.I.P. Rlys. during the year 1933-34 by Supervisor of Railway Labour. - Simla; Government of India Press 1934. pp.19

the amount of construction work which the four railways in question have had in hand during 1933-34 is negligible.

Inspection. - During the year under review 3,639 inspections were carried out by six inspectors, 1,399 in N.W.Railway, 1,017 in E.I.Railway, 826 in G.I.P.Railway and 397 in E.B.Railway.

Hours of Employment. - It is remarked that comparatively few workers appear to contravene the 60-hour or 84-hour weekly limitations, although there are certain categories of staff who still work beyond their rostered hours to a greater or less extent. Apart from these, the staff are now becoming familiar with the organization of work under their new rosters and there is a greater tendency to appreciate the advantages to be derived from the expeditious despatch of business. There are not so many cases, therefore, where staff are found on duty outside their rostered hours. Such breaches of the Regulations which come to light are generally confined to transportation staff and goods shed clerks. Assistant Station Masters continue to come on duty when they should be away. Station Masters cannot divest themselves of their responsibility in this connection. It has generally been the practice for the Assistant Station Master to be at the beck and call of his immediate superior, but it is the latter's business to see that the Regulations are not broken. Goods Shed staff also transgress the Regulations in this respect. This is particularly noticeable on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

The report remarks that in the case of essentially intermittent workers, a few cases are still being discovered of rosters which merely consist of the legend, "To work as required", or "Work not to exceed 84 hours in the week". This cannot be regarded as complying with the Rules. It is difficult to believe that the normal hours of duty of these employees does not fall within some 12 hours of the 24, either in one uninterrupted period or in the form of a split-shift. These hours should be indicated. As explained in last year's Report, a good deal of loading and unloading work is done by menial staff at stations outside their rostered hours and no means of avoiding this seems to have yet been devised. It is true, of course, that in most cases, the employees concerned derive pecuniary advantage from this work, although there is reason to believe that in many cases the remuneration is so small as to be negligible. Be that as it may, it cannot be put forward as a justification for breaking the law and sooner or later some method will have to be found of bringing this work within the Regulations. Another somewhat analogous case has now come to light. On the North-Western Railway and probably on other systems, many Station Masters perform certain duties for the Postal Department outside their rostered hours and — and in the case of those who are continuous workers — during their weekly rest.

Periods of Rest. It is stated that reports from Inspectors indicate an improvement in the way that this provision of the Act is being observed. In general, it is the same categories of staff who give trouble in respect of their hours of work who also transgress the Regulations as far as the periodic rest is concerned. These are Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters and Commercial Staff - Booking and Goods Clerks and Ticket Collectors - to whom attention was directed in last year's Report. These difficulties are gradually being eliminated and the staff now realize more fully that they must complete their week's work during their rostered hours and must not leave small matters like periodic returns, etc., to be performed during the time when they should be enjoying their weekly rest. At the same time, the difficulty with regard to Station Masters who are either not permitted or do not wish to authorize their Assistants to carry out certain duties, such as the closing of daily cash accounts, the remittance of station balances, the submission of Stock Reports, and in some cases the upkeep of priority registers, still remains, and there is the further problem of station staff working for other departments referred to above. Progress is no doubt being made by definite orders on this subject, such as those issued by the North-Western Railway to the effect that Assistant Station Masters are to be responsible for closing cash in the ~~interim~~ absence of the Station Master. At the same time, Station Masters are often found on duty during their weekly rest. Thus the criticism made in previous years to the effect that it is essential that Administrations should make provision for, and insist on, a sufficient delegation of powers to ensure that Station Masters can and do enjoy their periodic rest, still holds good. Insufficient attention is being paid to the periodic rests to which temporary staff are entitled under Rule 6.

Considering the fact that on Sundays Goods Sheds are closed as far as the transaction of public business is concerned — apart from dealing with livestock and perishables—there should be no difficulty in ensuring that Goods Clerks enjoy their weekly rest. The position with regard to this staff is particularly bad on the Eastern Bengal Railway, where a great number, if not the majority, of these employees work on Sundays for some hours, although they may not put in a full day's duty. A special investigation has been carried out by the Inspector on this Railway, but it has not been found possible to discover any special circumstances which should make it more difficult to obey the law on this system than elsewhere.

As pointed out in last year's Report, the progressive modification of rosters so as to allow employees a calendar day's rest instead of the legal minimum of 24 consecutive hours extending from one day to the next, still continues, as these responsible become more familiar with the possibilities of different types of roster. There are, of course, limitations in the extent to which this can be done, but experience which has been gained in respect of many grades of Loco-Shed Staff, Carriage and Wagon

Running Staff, and even Transportation Staff at larger stations, shows that this improvement is practicable to an extent which was formerly thought by many to be quite out of the question.

Classification of Staff. - The approximate percentages which the various categories of employees bear to the total staff are shown in the following table:-

Approximate percentage of staff in various categories under the Factories Act and Hours of Employment Regulations.

	Conti- nuous.	Essen- tially inter- mittent.	Supervi- sory.	Excluded from the Regula- tions.	Total
<b>Western Railway.</b>					
Staff	84%	11.5%	1%	3.5%	100%
excluding Workshops.	82%	13%	1%	4%	100%
<b>Midland Railway.</b>					
Staff	81.5%	13%	1.5%	4%	100%
excluding Workshops	76.5%	17%	1.5%	5%	100%
<b>Bangal Railway.</b>					
Staff	74%	20%	1%	5%	100%
excluding workshops	67%	23%	2%	6%	100%
<b>Indian Peninsula Railway.</b>					
Staff	82%	15%	1%	2%	100%
excluding workshops	76%	18%	1.5%	2.5%	100%
Approximate average (a)	80.5%	15%	1%	3.5%	100%

Temporary Exemptions to Hours of Work & Periods of Rest; Payment of Overtime. It is remarked that some progress is reported in regard to the keeping of correct records of the temporary exceptions to the provisions of the law which the Regulations allow in cases of accidents or exceptional pressure of work, although a good deal still remains to be done before complete information regarding this subject is available. Practically the only occasion on which extra-roster hours are worked at present, is on account of exceptional pressure of work caused by employees falling sick, when their duties have to be taken over by their fellow workmen until a relief arrives. There seems still to be many cases in which extra-roster hours are not reported, although supervising staff are gradually becoming familiar with the procedure adopted by Railway Administrations and overtime bills are being submitted with more frequency. Approved forms of overtime slips are now very generally distributed, so that there is now little excuse for not reporting extra-roster hours worked with a

view to seeing if overtime is payable. There is no indication at present that extra-roster hours or over-time payments in connection therewith are really excessive. Typical Divisions are found to be paying out anything from 15 to 30 rupees a month on this account. When traffic revives, a greater number of extra-roster hours will no doubt be worked, but the present depression has given supervising officials every opportunity to devise methods of limiting its amount. Labour legislation is in general directed towards restricting the amount of extra-roster hours of duty, and although there is no provision in this sense in the present Hours of Employment Regulations, it is obviously an uneconomic method of employing labour, which Administrations will, it is suggested, naturally take steps to minimise, both in their own inherent interests and those of the staff. It seems probable that the liability to pay overtime has led to more efficient administration of relieving staff, so that sick reliefs are made available in the shortest possible time. There is also reason to believe that the preliminary problems with regard to the computation of overtime earned by continuous workers has been overcome, though some temporary difficulty appears to have been experienced in paying out over-time expeditiously, due to uncertainty as to the extent to which the present "cut" in pay is applicable to these emoluments.

Display of Regulations and Rosters. - In last year's Report, it was stated that a good deal remained to be done on the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways in order to comply with the provisions in the Regulations regarding the display of regulations, rosters etc. This contravention of the Regulations has now been eliminated to a great extent, although isolated cases are still sometimes discovered on these two railways where the law has not been complied with. There is a marked improvement in regard to the display of roster at the place of work. Rosters are now found in cabins, goods sheds, gate ledges, etc., so that inspection, both on the part of inspectors and officials of the railway, is facilitated and the men themselves know their duty hours. Cases still occur of muster sheets with gangs and interlocking maintenance staff failing to show their hours of work. There is really no excuse for this, as all that is required is a rubber stamp pending the time for a new stock of forms to be printed, when the roster can be incorporated in the muster sheet. The practice of employing some special symbol on muster sheets and attendance registers to indicate the incidence of the periodic rest when this coincides with a calendar day, is now becoming general, though a few exceptions are still coming to light.

Continuous Night Duty. - There is, of course, no question of being able to eliminate continual night duty entirely as far as chowkidars and watchmen are concerned, but efforts in this direction can be directed towards ensuring that at large stations and in large yards where the number of chowkidars is considerable all these employees take their turn on the night shift. This is now very generally arranged for and the rostering of watchmen where special Watch and Ward organizations exist is very good. Apart

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from this class of employees, the most serious example of staff having to work continually at night are Assistant Station Masters at small stations. Some progress has been made in ameliorating the conditions of these employees by rostering them so that their hours of duty include the first half of the night, or the second half. Administrations still find difficulty in insisting that Station Masters should take their share of night duty. There are various reasons for this, one being the difficulty of entrusting the Assistant Station Master with the work of the station during the busier daytime which such a system involves.

Hours of Work for Intermittent Staff and 2 Spread-Over. - Subsidiary Instruction No. 13 directs that with regard to essentially intermittent workers "every effort should be made to limit under normal conditions their daily hours of duty to 12", while Instruction No. 13 lays down that employees to whom the Regulations apply "should as far as possible be given in every period of 24 hours a maximum rest period of not less than 8 consecutive hours". Neither of these instructions give trouble as far as the vast majority of railway servants are concerned. Essentially intermittent workers are rarely on duty for more than 12 hours, except occasionally when those who are working on continual processes change shifts, which may happen once a week or a fortnight or even longer. The staff concerned generally prefer this method of changing over, to that involving ~~spread-over~~ duties. The limiting "spread-over" of 14 hours is not worked to in a certain number of isolated cases, chiefly Booking Clerks, Ticket Collectors and Train staff who are on split shifts ~~applicable~~ to the requirements of the time-table. Sometimes this failure to work up to the standard set in Instruction No. 13 automatically disappears when the time-table is changed, but there is then just as much likelihood of other cases appearing at different stations. ~~It~~ It is remarked that fortunately in most instances, the conditions of work of these men are not onerous in other respects.

Hours of Running Staff. - Under Rule 3(1)(a) Running Staff have been excluded from the scope of the Regulations pending further investigation into the difficulties involved. The hours of running staff vary very greatly. Some do not approach the average of 60 hours a week, while others exceed this limit. The latter, however, do not exceed the limit for any length of time, as they are shifted periodically to services or links in which they work shorter hours. Under the present conditions of slack traffic, there is no reason to believe that the hours of work of this category of staff are unreasonable, while some of the systems to which the Regulations have been applied are now keeping records to show to what extent engine crews and guards are working to the same Rules which have been applied to other employees. Statistical data are thus accumulating which will indicate the extent to which additional staff will be necessary when it is possible to revise the Regulations so as to include this category. The above remarks apply chiefly to drivers, firemen and guards of running trains who form a large proportion of running staff. Other categories are shunters, travelling van porters, travelling van checkers, travelling ticket examiners, travelling stores delivery staff and other miscellaneous staff, who habitually work on running trains. All these are still outside the Regulations



as far as the law is concerned, but in ~~some~~<sup>many</sup> instances, they have in practice been included by classifying them and giving them resters so as to comply with the provisions of the Regulations.

(The working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on N.W., E.I., E.B., and G.I.P. Railways during 1932-33 was reviewed at pages 26-31 of our April 1934 report).

✓  
Minimum Wages in Ceylon Estates;

Increase in Rates Recommended. ✓ +

A summary was given at pages 29-31 of our March <sup>1933</sup> ~~1934~~ report of the various changes in the minimum wage rates in Ceylon estates from January 1929 to March 1933. The following were the rates of wages which were in force at the beginning of 1933:

	<u>Wages (in Cents) of</u>			Additional conditions
	Men	Women	Children.	
Up-country	49	39	29 )	} with rice at Rs. 4.80 per bushel.
Mid-country	43	35	25 )	
Low-country	41	33	24 )	

Since the tea industry experienced a crisis towards the end of 1932 due to the catastrophic fall in prices of all grades of tea, a further reduction in rates of wages was announced and the following rates came into force with effect from 10-5-1933.

	<u>Wages (in cents) of</u>			additional conditions
	Men.	Women.	Children.	
Up-country	41	33	25 )	} with rice at Rs. 4 per bushel.
Mid-country	37	30	21 )	
Low-country	35	28	20 )	

In agreeing to the proposals of the Ceylon Government the Government of India stipulated that the above reductions should be treated as strictly temporary and emergent and that the revision of wages on an upward grade should be considered as soon as the industry revised. With the improvement in the prices of tea and rubber from the middle of the year 1933, estates felt the need for additional labour. The representatives of the planting community, therefore, agreed to voluntarily restore the wages prevailing prior to 10-5-34. <sup>From</sup> ~~From~~ 1-11-33 wages were, however, raised on estates to the following rates:-

	Wages (in cents) of			Additional Conditions.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	
Up-country ...	46	37	27	) with rice at Rs.4 per bushel.
Mid-country...	40	33	23	
Low-country...	38	31	22	

The question of revision of <sup>the</sup> minimum was recently considered by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, <sup>Ceylon,</sup> but the matter was temporarily shelved owing to differences with the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour. The Estate Wages boards for the various districts have again submitted proposals which have been considered by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, and it is learnt that the Executive Committee has adopted the rates recommended by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour. Following is the scale of daily minimum wages proposed:

	Wages (in cents) of			Additional Conditions
	Men	Women.	Children.	
Up-country ...	49	39	29	) with rice at Rs. 4.80 per bushel.
Mid-country ...	43	35	25	
Low-country ...	41	33	24	

The Times of India, 10-9-34 &  
The Hindu, 11-9-34.

Indians in Ceylon, 1933:

Report of the Agent of the Government of India.\* +

Immigration Figures. - According to the report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1933, the number of labourers who immigrated into Ceylon during 1933 was 32,898 as against 50,869 in 1932 and 66,337 in 1931. The year 1933 marked the lowest figure of immigration into Ceylon during the last decade. The highest figure on record was in 1927 when 159,398 labourers passed through Mandapam Camp to Ceylon. From 1927 onwards there was a steady decline in immigration and in the year 1933 it was just about a fifth of the 1927 figure. The total number of Indian labourers including dependants reported as working on Ceylon estates at the end of the year 1933 was 609,535 as against 650,577 at the end of 1932. Of these, 194,633 were men, 187,026 women and 227,876 children. The decrease of 41,000 in the total population of Indian labourers indicates the effect of the depression in the tea and rubber industries in the Island.

Departures to India. - As in previous years, the number of departures from Ceylon to India exceeded the number of arrivals from India. The number of labourers who returned to India during the year was 46,626 as against 58,157 in 1932 and 75,866 in 1931.

Nett Immigrations.- In every year from 1924 to 1929 arrivals into Ceylon outnumbered departures to India. In 1927 the excess of

\* Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1922), the Rules issued thereunder and of the Labour Ordinances of Ceylon during the year 1933 - by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon - Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1934 - Price Re.1-6-0 or 2s.3d. *11/29*

arrivals over departures was 71,917 while in 1929 the excess shrank to 3,867. From 1930 onwards, however, the flow of migration set in the reverse direction. In 1933 the actual figures by which immigration fell short of ~~immigration~~ <sup>emigration</sup> was 13,728 as against 7,288 in 1932. The excess ~~of~~ of emigration from Ceylon over immigration into Ceylon of Indian labour during the past 4 years is mainly due to the fact that, owing to the severity of the slump, many rubber estates had to be closed down and almost all the tea estates had to severely curtail their programme of work.

Repatriation. - The total number of Indian estate labourers repatriated from Ceylon to India during 1933 was 42,343 as against 14,338 in 1932 and 15,713 in 1931. Besides the two usual provisions for repatriation, namely, (1) under Ordinance No.1 of 1923 for labourers within one year of their arrival in Ceylon, and (2) for ~~rich and indigent labourers~~ under the Ceylon Government Scheme of 1931, there were two other special schemes in force during the year. These were the Special Scheme of 1930 for the repatriation of rubber ~~estate labourers~~ and the Special Scheme of 1932 for the repatriation of tea estate labourers. Under the first category, 215 persons were repatriated in 1933 as against 364 in 1932, while under the second, 11,368 persons were repatriated as against 6,948 in 1932; 3,877 persons, as compared with 6,774 in 1932, were repatriated in 1933 under the Ceylon Government's Special Scheme of 1930 and 26,895 persons were repatriated during the year under the Ceylon Government's Special Scheme of 1932.

Owing to the abnormal situation caused by the slump in the tea market, almost all the estates effected considerable reductions in their labour force. Consequently a large number of labourers were discharged from estates. Steps were taken to repatriate them. One of the conditions on which the last reduction of wages was agreed to by the Government of India was that any labourer who was unwilling to accept the reduced rates of wages should be repatriated to India together with his dependants at the expense of the Immigration Fund, provided he applied for repatriation within a period of two months from the date on which the reduced rates came into force. Accordingly a wider scheme of repatriation was introduced by the Ceylon Government on the 10th May and was in force till the 10th July 1933. In the course of May and June alone 15,459 labourers were repatriated under this scheme.

Indians other than estate labourers. ~~in~~ ~~exists~~ During the early part of the year under review there was an agitation for the

restriction of immigration into Ceylon of Indians, other than estate labourers. The State Council of Ceylon debated a motion tabled by one of its members on the subject, but it was not pressed as the Government undertook that the whole immigration policy would be reviewed in the near future. The agitation against the employment of Indian labourers was particularly directed against the Malayalees in Colombo who are employed in large numbers in the city as porters, gardeners, toddy tappers and domestic servants. The intervention of the Agent frustrated an attempt to throw out of employment and to repatriate over 200 Indian labourers employed in the Kirillapone Relief Scheme. The Municipal Council of Colombo passed a resolution that when Ceylonese labour is available, no non-Ceylonese labour should be employed, and that where retrenchment was found to be necessary, non-Ceylonese labour should be first dispensed with. Representations were therefore made to the Mayor of Colombo that there could be no justification for throwing out of employment the Indian labourers, who had served long in this country, merely on racial grounds. The hope is expressed that these representations will receive due consideration.

Recruitment. - On account of the slump, recruitment was completely stopped for rubber estates as early as 1930 and restricted for the mid-country and low-country tea estates in 1931. Towards the latter half of 1932 tea shared the same fate as rubber and the price of even up-country tea fell very low. Most estates in the up-country incurred considerable loss as their cost of production, in spite of strict economy, was above the selling price. Therefore, in November 1932, all recruitment from India was stopped. ~~The market~~ ~~in order to help the industry~~ the minimum rates of wages were reduced from the 10th May 1933. A large number of labourers who were thrown out of employment were repatriated under a special scheme devised for the relief of tea estate labourers. From July 1933 onwards, however, prices of tea and rubber began to rise, and by August 1933 there was considerable demand for more Indian labour. Recruitment from South India for estates which were clearly in need of labour was recommenced on the 1st September 1933. The total number of licences endorsed during the period was 1,302 as compared with 2,580 in 1932 and 5,181 in 1931. The number of licences endorsed in 1930 was 14,380. As usual, the Tamil districts contributed the largest number during 1933, namely, 32,602; the Telugu districts contributed 183; and the Malayalam districts 83. Out of a total number of 32,890 labourers that immigrated into Ceylon during 1933, Trichinopoly district contributed nearly half the number, namely, 14,635. Salem was second this year also with 5,705 labourers and Tanjore came third with 3,132 labourers.

Legislative Changes. - There has been no new legislation affecting labourers during the year, but a Draft Workmen's Compensation Ordinance has been published and is before the State Council of Ceylon. At present there is no legal provision in Ceylon which makes it obligatory on the employer to grant compensation to any labourer, who sustains injuries, or to the dependants of a labourer who dies as a result of an accident occurring in the course of his employment.

Minimum Wages on Rubber Estates.— Owing to the improvement in the price of rubber many of the rubber estates that had closed down were reopened for tapping from about the middle of the year. Throughout the year the rubber market was swayed by rumours as to the progress of a Rubber Restriction Scheme. The parties, who are interested, continued to spread the rumour that a system of control was imminent and that everything in the garden is going to be beautiful. The result of this optimistic statement was visible in the rising price of rubber. In the last annual report it was mentioned that the Supreme Court had held that under the Minimum Wage Ordinance the payment of pro rata wages was illegal, and that even if a labourer agreed to work for less than 8 hours, he must be paid the full minimum wage, and not a ratio thereof. Against this decision the Superintendent of Perth Estate asked for special leave to appeal to the Privy Council, but in April 1933 his application was rejected by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. (vide pages 13-14 of our May 1933 report for details). The decision in this case is of far-reaching importance. It laid down authoritatively that under the Minimum Wage Ordinance an estate labourer is entitled to a full day's wage even though the work available on the estate is for less than 8 hours.

Working of the Minimum Wages during 1933.— An exhaustive review of the changes in the minimum wages in Ceylon estates during 1933 and up to September 1934 is given elsewhere in the same section of the report under the heading "Minimum Wages in Ceylon Estates & in Rates Recommended".

Indebtedness of Indian Labourers. - The chronic indebtedness of the Tamil estate labourers, says the report, continued during the year in spite of the various measures that have been taken, such as the immunity of a labourer from arrest for debt, the abolition of the "Tandu" system etc, to reduce it. In the opinion of the Agent of the Government of India, the problem of the indebtedness of the labourer cannot be solved merely by removing all the securities for debts. The Indian estate labourer, being conservative and unthrifty in his habits, is likely to be in need of ready cash fairly frequently. What would be of great help to him in the immediate present is not provisions of law which are likely to place impediments in the way of his borrowing, but the offer of adequate facilities to save and to raise money on easy terms at the place he is employed. This could be done by starting co-operative credit and thrift societies on groups of estates if not on each big estate.

Vital Statistics. - The birth rate among Indian labourers increased from 36.6 per 1000 in 1932 to 39.4 during 1933. For the first time since 1926 the birth rate among Indian labourers was slightly higher than the rate for the general population. But there was no appreciable change in the death rate among Indians. The rates of infantile mortality show an appreciable decrease from 188 per 1000 in 1932 to 181 per 1000 in 1933. The figure is the lowest during the last 15 years. The figures for the whole population of Ceylon also fell from 162 in 1923 to 157 in 1933. The death rate

among Indian labourers was 18.9 as compared with 18.7 in 1932. The principal causes of death apart from debility were pneumonia, dysentery and ankylostomiasis.

Housing and Health of Labourers. - Owing<sup>6</sup> to the reduction in the labour force on most estates, and repatriation of labourers, the question of overcrowding did not arise at all ~~anywhere~~ during the year under review.

Though there were 84 hospitals maintained by estates during the year, it is reported that very few cases were treated at these institutions. There were 727 dispensaries maintained by the estates during the year. The general sanitary condition of the lines and their surroundings was satisfactory.

Education. - The number of registered estate schools at the end of 1933 has increased to 578 from 544 in the previous year. The increase in the number of registered schools is mainly due to the fact that the registration of several schools, which was deferred last year for want of funds, was permitted during <sup>the year</sup> ~~that year~~. The total number of children of school-going age for 1933 was 65,401 (37,338 males and ~~28,063~~ 27,563 females) of whom 34,494 (24,549 males and 9,945 females) attended school. The corresponding figures for 1932 were 70,598 (40,585 males and 30,013 females) of whom ~~37,472 (24,712 males and 12,760 females)~~ 27,472 (14,712 males and 12,760 females) attended school. Owing to depression and the consequent departure of a large number of labourers to India, there has been a reduction in the total number of children of school-going age on estates. But the percentage of such children attending schools has increased from 50.31 in 1932 to 52.74 in 1933.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for 1932 is reviewed at pages 8-14 of our August 1933 report).

Factory Administration in U. P., 1933.\* ✓

**Number of Factories.** - The total number of factories coming under the Act on the register in the United Provinces at the close of the year under report, was 531, against 505 in the previous year. This represents an increase of nearly 5.2 per cent in the number of factories, as compared with 9.54 in the previous year. The whole of the increase was in the seasonal category, and is mainly due to the registration of new sugar factories. Of the 531 factories on the register, 271 were seasonal and 260 perennial. The total number of factories that worked during the year under review was 476 (241 perennial and 235 seasonal) as compared with 456 (242 perennial and 214 seasonal) in the previous year. 55 factories remained closed during the year.

**Number of Operatives.** - The average daily number of persons employed in the registered factories, as obtained from the annual returns submitted, was 112,693, against 103,474 in the previous year; nearly 95 per cent of this is adult male labour. About 65 per cent of the total number of persons were employed in perennial factories and 35 per cent in the seasonal concerns. The increase in the number of operatives is mainly due to the registration of sugar factories, and to a small extent also to glass bangle factories. The following table shows the distribution of workers in the different classes of factories.

Class of factory.	Number of operatives.		
	1933	1932	Increase or decrease.
Government & Local Fund Factories	17,233	19,631	-2,398
Textiles.	35,588	33,991	+1,597
Engineering.	5,926	6,035	-109
Minerals and Metals	354	391	-37
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	31,914	22,408	+9,506
Chemical, Dyes, etc.	4,102	3,807	+295
Textile and Printing.	2,989	2,814	+175
Iron, Stone and Glass.	2,854	2,797	+57
Leather and Hides.	3,022	2,797	+225
Spinning and Presses	8,583	8,289	+294
Miscellaneous.	178	514	-336
<b>Total.</b>	<b>112,693</b>	<b>103,474</b>	<b>+9,219</b>

**Employment of Women and Children.** - The average number of women and children employed in factories during the year under

\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the U.P. for the year 1933 by the Offg. Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. - Allahabad: Supdt., Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1934. Price Re.1-6-0 - pp.40.



review was 5,466 and 376 respectively as against 5,618 and 586 respectively in the previous year. Of the 5,466 women operatives, 3,494 or nearly 64 per cent were employed in seasonal factories. Of these, 615 were in Tea factories, 2,734 in cotton ginning factories, and 145 in other concerns. There was a further slight drop in the number of women employed in cotton ginning factories. The decrease in the total number of women employed was less than 3 per cent as compared with 11 per cent in the previous year, and the proportion of women to the total number of employees was 4.9 per cent against 5.4 and 6.8 in 1932 and 1931 respectively. The decrease in the number of children employed last year has continued, and in the year under report was very marked, there being a further drop of nearly 36 per cent. The proportion of children to the total number of persons employed is now only decimal three per cent. 342 out of 376 children were employed in perennial factories.

Inspections. - The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 1,090 against 1,003 in 1932. 212 factories were inspected once; 135 twice, 71 thrice and 43 more than three times. 15 factories were not inspected. The number of uninspected factories was greater than in 1932; some of them were registered at the end of the year and could not be inspected before the close of the year under report. A number of special visits were made for inquiring into the cause of accidents, to verify compliance of safety orders issued and to see that the provisions of the Act in respect of fixed working hours, rest periods and the weekly holidays were being properly observed. 15 prosecutions for non-observance of the weekly holiday and for working outside fixed working hours were the result of these visits.

Sanitary Arrangements and Ventilation.- The report shows that sanitary arrangements in factories were on the whole fairly satisfactory, but a number of warnings issued regarding the maintenance of the premises, drains and latrines in a cleaner and more sanitary condition and two factories were prosecuted for failing to comply with the requirements. Several factories had to be reminded that painting, lime-washing, etc, was overdue, but no prosecutions were instituted on this account. The position with regard to ventilation was much the same as in the previous year; orders were issued in a few cases for the provision of more windows or ventilating openings, and extraction fans were ordered in a printing press to increase the air movement. While there has been no further installations of ventilating and cooling plants in existing mills, it is satisfactory to note that in the new weaving department, which an existing spinning mill is constructing, it is intended to incorporate a cooling and ventilating plant. The question of adequate ventilation received particular attention during the scrutiny of all plans submitted to the department for approval.

Fencing Machinery. - According to the report, fencing and guarding was well maintained except in some of the newly registered factories, where it was found to be very inadequate in most cases. Two prosecutions were instituted for failure to securely fence and guard belts and gearings. Convictions were obtained in both cases, the fines being Rs.50 and Rs.500 respectively.

Accidents. 1,979 accidents of which <sup>which</sup> 32 fatal, 373 serious and 1,574 minor, were reported during the year, as compared with 23 fatal, 258 serious and 1,402 minor <sup>in</sup> 1932.

Housing of Factory Operatives. - 1,247 additional quarters, i.e. 916 single and 337 double, were constructed in 22 districts during the year under report. There large increase in the number of quarters provided for workmen is due to the establishment of new large sugar factories, which in the majority of cases provide living accommodation for at least some of their employees. During the year the Cawnpore Improvement Trust also built 32 "D" type quarters consisting of two rooms, a courtyard and a latrine; 4 "B" type quarters consisting of a room, a courtyard and latrine; 59 "C" type quarters consisting of a room and verandah. The model dwellings built by the Trust are much appreciated and there has been a demand from individual workmen for the purchase of quarters. To meet this the Trust have arranged to sell the "D" type quarters to individual workers on a 10-year hire purchase system at Rs.4 per month, this is appreciated as the market rent for similar accommodation is not much less than Rs.5 per month. The scheme is considered to be financially sound and will ultimately transfer the ownership to the workmen themselves. Besides the above, a large number of workmen's quarters are being constructed by private persons in the Trust areas near Anwarganj station. The report states that the suitable housing of industrial workers in Cawnpore is a long-standing problem and the progress made to provide modern sanitary dwellings is gratifying and it is hoped that it will be continued.

Health of Factory Operatives. - The health of factory operatives was generally good and no epidemic was reported during the year. For the first time some cases of industrial diseases came to light. The Allahabad Arsenal reported that four painters were found to be suffering from lead poisoning. The 29 painters employed were medically examined and it was found that 24 of them were affected; one was a serious case, three severe and the remainder affected to a lesser degree. The men were put through a regular course of daily treatment and were inspected weekly by the doctor in charge of the Fort hospital till they recovered.

Hours of Employment. - As in the previous years, the majority of factories worked up to the maximum limit allowed by the Act. The weekly hours of 64 factories were not more than 48 hours. The weekly hours of 36 factories were not more than 54 hours. The weekly hours of 359 factories were above 54 hours. There was no alteration in respect of the exemptions granted under section 30(1) of the Act. Only one temporary exemption for a short period was granted to the adult male employees of a tannery to deal with exceptional press<sup>of</sup> work.

Welfare Work.- The report shows that, the existing welfare work was continued as usual and some extension took place, particularly in the activities of the British India Corporation, and Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co. whose endeavours in this direction are outstanding features in the province. The co-operative credit society started at the Elgin Mills in the previous year, proved useful and popular; fewer money-lenders have been seen at the mill gates since the society was started. During the year a similar credit society was started for the benefit of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation workers. Recreation in all its branches is encouraged in the settlements and an attempt was made to develop athletics on modern lines. A large number of the employees residing in the settlements engaged in the various outdoor sports provided and there was also a good demand for library books. Cinema shows and dramatic performances were given as usual, including the annual sports day and dramatic performance at the New Victoria Mills, Cawnpore. Practically all the large sugar factories maintain dispensaries with medical men in charge, where free treatment is given to the workers and a number of factories have sporting clubs for their higher paid employees. Recreation clubs for the employees of the East Indian Railway workshop at Lucknow were started during the year and are said to be functioning with great success.

(The working of the Indian Factories Act in U.P. during 1932 is reviewed at pages 15-17 of the August 1933 report of this Office).

### Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives

in Baroda State, 1932-33.\* ✓ +

Number of Factories and Workmen.- The number of factories subject to control under the Factory Act during the year was 135 as against 129 in the preceding year. These factories employed between them 24,288 workers during the year under review as against 21,491 in the previous year. Of these 24,288 operatives, 20,649 were engaged in the cotton industry and 3,639 in other industries. The total number of women and children employed during the year was 4,690 and 819 respectively, as against 3,863 and 1,126 respectively in 1931-32.

\* Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State. - for the year 1932-33 - Baroda State Press 1934.

Wages. The report shows that the average daily wages for skilled and unskilled labourers showed but slight variations from the figures for 1931-32. The combined average wages for skilled and unskilled workers were Rs.0-10-0 for men, Re.0-8-0 for women and Re.0-6-0 for children as against Re.0-9-7 for men, Re.0-8-0 for women and Re.0-6-8 for children in the previous year.

Inspection. According to the report, all the perennial factories were inspected more than four times and the seasonal once and in few cases twice or oftener.

Accidents and Workmen's Compensation. The number of accidents amounted to 66 out of which 54 were minor, 7 serious and 5 fatal as against 80 out of which 49 were minor, 19 serious and 12 fatal in the previous year. There was no prosecution for violation or infringement of the provisions of the Factory and Boiler Acts. During the year, compensation amounting to Rs.2,557-2-0 were paid in cases of accidents by Insurance Companies.

Strikes. - The report shows that there was only one strike, <sup>ie, the one</sup> in the Baroda Spinning and Weaving Mills Company Ltd., Baroda; <sup>the</sup> owners declared <sup>it</sup> as a lockout. The strike was withdrawn and mill resumed work, <sup>with a</sup> <sup>was</sup> the settlement being arrived at after nearly 3 months.

Welfare Work. 12 mills in the State, says the report, provided medical relief to their operatives. Of these, 7 mills provided both "allopathic" and "ayurvedic" treatment, 4 mills "allopathic" treatment alone and 1 mill "ayurvedic" treatment alone. 15 mills provided 2,175 rooms for the housing of their workers; 9 mills provided creches for the children of their operatives; 10 mills provided cheap clothing for their workers through shops in the mill premises and 2 mills ran shops for providing cheap grain and fuel for their workers.

(The report on Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives in Baroda State during the year 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 24-25 of the January 1934 report of this Office).

✓  
Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in  
the Punjab, 1933.\* ✓ +

According to the report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1933, the total number of accidents reported during the year was 949 as against 1091 in the previous year, and the number of accidents coming within the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act decreased from 504 in 1932 to 460. The number of fatal accidents and permanent disablements increased from 6 and 26 respectively in 1932 to 10 and 36 respectively, while the number of temporary disablements fell from 472 to 414 during the year under report. The percentage of accidents coming within the purview of the Act to the total number of accidents reported increased from 46 to 48. Compensation was paid during the year in 413 cases as against 419 in the previous year which gives a percentage of 89 against 83 of last year. This, the report says, ~~indicates~~ indicates a better realization of their responsibility on the part of employers and an increasing consciousness on the part of labour to take advantage of the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The total amount of compensation paid during the year was Rs.25,653-0-9 as compared with Rs. <sup>30,897-3-8</sup> ~~25,552-0-0~~ in the previous year. Of this amount, Rs.9,557-0-4 were paid in respect of accidents which had occurred in previous years. Out of the total amount of Rs.25,653-0-9, Rs.5,790-0-0 were paid in respect of fatal accidents, Rs.14,784 for cases of permanent disablement and Rs.5,118 for temporary disablements.

\* Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1933.-Lahore; Printed by the Supdt., Govt. Printing, Punjab, 1934. Price-Rs.2-0-0 or 3s. -pp.7+1x

There were 27 accidents under the Indian Mines Act to which the Workmen's Compensation Act was applicable. Of these, 2 resulted in death, 2 in permanent disablement and 23 in temporary disablement. Compensation was paid in respect of 1 fatal accident, 2 permanent disablements and 16 temporary disablements as compared with 2 fatal accidents, 3 permanent disablements and 15 temporary disablements in 1932. Compensation was also paid in respect of 2 fatal accidents, 1 permanent disablement and 8 temporary disablements which occurred in 1932. The total amount of compensation paid during the year was Rs. 4,955-12-9 as against Rs. 2,641-7-0 in 1932.

50 fresh proceedings were filed under section 10 and 18 under section 8, with Commissioners appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. 25 cases were pending from the previous year. Of these, 48 were admitted by the employers, 16 were allowed ex-parte, 7 were dismissed for non-appearance, 2 were withdrawn, 6 were allowed and 4 were dismissed after being contested, leaving 15 pending at the close of the year. (Of these, 12 are since reported to have been disposed of.) *66 agreements were filed with the Commissioner & 19 were pending from previous year* Of these, 69 were registered as filed, 2 were registered after modification and one was not registered on account of other causes, leaving 13 pending at the close of the year. Of these, 12 are reported to have since been disposed of.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during the year 1932 is reviewed at pages 30-32 of the July 1933 report of this Office).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Madras, 1933.\* 4

Returns under Section 16.- Returns under section 16 were received from 1,476 establishments out of a total of 1,696. Of the 220 establishments which did not submit returns, 142 remained closed during the year and no returns were therefore due from them though they were not removed from the list of registered factories. The remaining 78 establishments were in commission during the year, but failed to comply with the provisions of the Act. The question of prosecuting these employers for non-submission of the returns under section 18-A of the Amending Act is under consideration.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation.- Accidents were reported in 149 returns; the rest were nil returns. 16 cases of death, 48 cases of permanent disablement and 760 cases of temporary disablement were reported in these 149 returns as against 16 cases of death, 52 cases of permanent disablement and 790 cases of temporary disablement reported during the previous year. The compensation paid in cases of death, permanent disablement and temporary disablement was Rs.6,970, Rs. 9,508-4-6 and Rs.7,578-7-1, respectively, as against Rs.3,845, Rs. 14,713-13-0 and Rs. 7,680-5-1, respectively, paid during the previous year. No compensation was paid in seven cases of death.

The usual permission was given to the Calcutta Claims Bureau to submit the returns on behalf of the employers who have insured

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\* Government of Madras (Public Works & Labour Department) G.O.No. 1538 L., 17th July 1934 - Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1933. - pp.9.

liabilities with it. The number of employers on behalf of whom the Bureau submitted returns was 59 as against 46 in 1932.

Number of Cases Filed. - The number of cases pending at the commencement of the year ~~1~~ was 18. The total number of cases filed during the year was 117, against 153 cases filed during the previous year. Of these 135 cases, 119 cases were disposed of during the year and 16 cases were pending at the close of the year. Of these 16 cases, 15 have since been disposed of.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Madras Presidency for 1928 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of the August 1929 report, that for 1929 at page 18 of the August 1930 report, that for 1930 at pages 23-24 of the September 1931 report, that for 1931 at pages 23-24 of the July 1932 report and that for 1932 at pages 36-37 of the September 1933 report).



Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

41st U.P.A.S.I. Conference, Coonoor, 1934. +

The 41st session of the United Planters' Association of South India was held from 12-9-1934 to 14-9-1934 at Coonoor under the presidentship of Mr. R. Fowke, Chairman of the U.P.A.S.I. The Conference was attended by H.E. the Governor of Madras, who formally opened the Conference, and many officials of the Government of Madras. A number of important matters connected with the tea, coffee and rubber industries were discussed at the Conference and resolutions were passed on them. The following were the principal points dealt with by Mr. Fowke in his presidential speech.

Ottawa Preference Beneficial to India.- The report on the first year's working of the Ottawa Agreement is now available. If the report is to be judged impartially, it is bound to lead to the conclusion that the value of the preferences given to India in the United Kingdom market, far outweighs the value of the preference given to the United Kingdom by India.

Tea Restriction Legislation.- As far as the tea industry is concerned, the passing of the Tea Control Act by the Assembly in November last has been the outstanding event in the year under review. The Tea Export Restriction Scheme has been in operation, and as a result, prices of tea recorded a great improvement in 1933-34 as compared with recent years. India's export allotment by sea for the financial year 1933-34 was fixed at just over 320 million pounds. For the year 1934-35 it has been increased to 330 million pounds. The total Indian exports during the year 1933-34 amounted to about 318 million pounds as compared with about 380 million pounds in the preceding year, a fall of 16 per cent. Alarm was expressed by a certain section of the smaller companies and private proprietors on the introduction of the regulation of exports, and fear was expressed that it would operate prejudicially to their interest. It is hoped that the regulation has worked smoothly and that the smaller companies and owners have benefited to a large degree, both by the increased price of tea, and the sale of quotas. The success of the scheme has been a complete vindication for its originators, and has proved the means of saving the industry at the most critical period in its existence.

Coming to the proposed legislation to regulate the production of tea in this country, with unrestricted production, and the consequent ~~fa~~ flooding of the Indian market, the price of tea will be forced down to an uneconomic level, and following the natural law of supply and demand, production will be curtailed until prices again rise due to shortage. This process will continue greatly to the detriment of the producers. To obviate these fluctuations in market prices, and to stabilise the Indian tea market, a Bill controlling production to

replace the voluntary restriction scheme now in operation is receiving the consideration of the Government of India. In view of the fact that producers of tea, to the extent of nearly 369 million pounds representing 93.6 of the industry, have given their support to the control of the output by legislation, it is to be hoped that Government will accede to the wishes of the majority, and introduce legislation before the end of the financial year. At the moment the general economic state of the tea industry is satisfactory, and will probably remain so until the end of the restriction period in March 1938. It is obvious that during the remaining three years of restriction every effort must be made to put our house in order, or we will find ourselves in the same position as we were before the introduction of restriction.

A Central Control Board in London is being formed to deal with the combined propaganda of the principal producing countries to increase the consumption of tea. As regards India, an intensified propaganda campaign is being instituted by the Indian Tea Cess Committee. This body fully realises the immense possibilities that exist in this vast country to increase consumption. In order to carry out such a campaign, increased funds are essential, and it is suggested that the amount necessary be raised by increasing the cess and bringing within the scope of the Act all tea produced in India.

Rubber Restriction.- With regard to rubber, during the year ~~under review, the proposals~~ for the regulation and control of rubber production and exports, which have been under discussion for many months, have resulted in an International Agreement. No territory ~~where there is organised~~ plantation of rubber interests has been excluded from the Agreement. An International Rubber Regulation Committee fixes from time to time the percentage of the allotted quotas which the territories may export. The Government of India expressed its willingness to implement the Agreement by legislation. The control of exports became effective as far as India and Burma are concerned as from the 1st of June 1934, by the issue of a Notification under the Sea Customs Act. Licensing Committees were formed for Burma and South India and have been in operation since that date. Legislation was introduced in the last session of the Assembly and passed.

One word must be said about the quota, which has been fixed on the average annual export of rubber during the years 1929 to 1932, plus an allowance for immature areas. In arriving at the figure, the International Committee appears to have omitted to take into account exports from Alleppey in Travancore. This omission affects prejudicially the figure of <sup>the</sup> basic quota for India (excluding Burma). There is also a further complaint that in fixing the allowance in the quota for immature areas, the acreage taken from the statistical statement of the Government of India for the year 1932 was not up to date, as far as ~~the~~ acreage under rubber in Travancore and Cochin is concerned.

Coffee.- To touch on coffee, the clouds on the economic horizon have not yet lifted, and prices of coffee have been lower than during the previous season. In the report of the Government of India on the working of the Ottawa Agreement, the following paragraph appears in regard to coffee:- "Though Empire countries as a whole have profited by the preference, India has not improved her position in the United Kingdom market". The coffee interests have now agreed

to levy a cess on exports, the proceeds of which are to be utilised for the purpose of propaganda, scientific research, and the marketing of coffee. Representations have been made to the Government of India for their assistance in the matter and it is to be hoped that a definite scheme will be agreed upon. The administration of the funds by a Coffee Board much on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee is being considered, and the matter will no doubt form a subject of discussion at this meeting.

(The Hindu, 13-9-1934)

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference:

Proposed Coffee Cess.- This Association is of opinion that the Government of India should be requested to introduce legislation on the lines of the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, at an early date establishing a Coffee Cess Committee for India for the administration of a Fund to be created by a cess on coffee exports for the purpose of the improvement and development of the coffee growing industry, and that such Committee should consist of representatives of the growers, the Governments of Mysore, Coorg, Madras, Cochin and Travancore, the shippers, the curers and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, always provided that the growers should be in the majority.

Preference on Coffee.- In view of the fact that the preference of 9s.4d. per cwt. given to Indian Coffee in the United Kingdom by the Ottawa Agreement has not resulted in any increase of Indian exports in spite of the efforts of coffee producers to exploit the advantage, this Association requests the Government of India to invite His Majesty's Government to increase the preference at an early date.

Motor Transport Restrictions.- This Association approaches all other possible interested parties in South India with a view to protesting as strongly as possible against the intolerable conditions imposed on Motor Transport in India in general and South India in particular.

Rubber Control Bill.- No efforts be spared by this Association in endeavouring to obtain for South India an equitable export quota under the Rubber Control Bill. (The Planters' Chronicle, 22-9-1934).

Commenting on the injustice done to India in the matter of the allocation of the rubber quota, the Hindu, <sup>dated 13-9-1934</sup> in the course of a leading article, observes:-

Another aspect of the restriction question is the injustice done to India in regard to the allocation of the rubber quota. This allocation is supposed to have been made on the basis of the average annual export of rubber during the years 1929 to 1932 plus an allowance for immature areas. As a matter of fact, however, the fullest allowance has not been made either for exports from India or for immature areas. We do not know the result of the negotiations, which have been set on foot by the aggrieved parties, with the Government of India and what the result of the latter's intervention will be. That a great injustice has been done to Indian producers is, however, obvious and one can only hope that it is not beyond remedy.

(The Hindu, 13-9-1934 and the Planters' Chronicle, dated 22-9-1934 (Vol. VII, No. 18)).

Workers' Organisations.Bengal Congress Socialists' Conference, 1934. +

References were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the formation of an All-India Socialist Party and of provincial <sup>Socialist</sup> parties throughout the country (vide pages 44-46 of our May 1934 and page 39 of June 1934 Reports). The Bengal Congress Socialists met in conference at Calcutta on 9-9-34 under the Presidentship of Mr. Amarendranath Ray. Three hundred delegates from the various districts of the Presidency attended the conference.

Professor Amrendra Prasad Mitra, formally declaring the conference open, traced the genesis and the immediate history of the Congress Socialist Party. He showed how the national movement had until now been based on an unreal, idealistic plane and had taken its stand on a supposed united front of all classes, interests and parties which actually meant hiding the real nature of the movement. He also pointed out how no attempt had hitherto been made to "politicalize" the struggle of the peasantry and of the petty bourgeois masses. The birth of the Congress socialist party was the result of <sup>a</sup> the growing realization on the part of the lower middle class, poor intellectuals, artisans and the peasantry that their economic demands, immediate and remote, could not be <sup>realised</sup> met except under a completely independent socialist state, which alone was in a position to liberate the forces of production and bring about conditions of production which would assure the masses a decent standard of living, reasonable hours of work and sufficient leisure. The speaker concluded by observing that the object of the present

Conference was to form an Organising Committee which <sup>is to</sup> ~~could~~ be entrusted with the task of forming Congress Socialist Committees in the districts.

The President of the Conference made a short speech analysing the present political situation in the country and pointing out the necessity of forming <sup>a</sup> the Congress Socialist Party. He said that it was necessary to give a correct interpretation to the <sup>longue</sup> resolution of the Independence so that the masses may be drawn into the struggle for freedom and their interests may be safeguarded. He advocated strongly the adoption of an economic programme based on the immediate demands of the workers and peasants.

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference:

1. National Independence. - This Conference reaffirms the Independent's Resolution passed by the Labour Session of the Indian National Congress and points out that complete independence implies the convening of the Constituent Assembly, elected by adult franchise on a functional basis, excluding the antinational elements and the absence of all participation de jure and de facto of the British Parliament in the framing of the constitution.

2. Organisation of Workers and Peasants. - As the present programme of the Congress is not in conformity with the economic demands of the masses, this Conference calls upon the different committees of the Congress Socialist Party to participate in the day-to-day struggle of the workers and peasants for their immediate economic demands ~~with a view to successful realisation of their ideas and to lead them in a movement for national independence.~~

3. Protest Against Government's Repressive Measures. - This Conference strongly condemns the repressive policy adopted by the Government towards the Congress organisations, the Communist Party of India, the trade unions and the Students and Youth organisations and demands the repeal of all repressive laws and the release of all political prisoners including the detainees.

4. Organisation of the Party. - This Conference appoints an Organising Committee with Messrs. Atul Bose and Ajay Mukherjee as Joint Secretaries to form local Committees in the different districts and the sub-divisions of Bengal as soon as practicable. The Conference authorizes the Organising Committee to send delegates to the All India Congress Socialist Conference, which will be held in Bombay ~~in the different districts of the Province and which have not been organized.~~

(The Indian Labour Journal, 16-9-34)

Labour Conditions in Travancore;

Quilon Labour Union Demands Inquiry. +

A special session of the Quilon Labour Union, Travancore, was held on 16-9-1934 at Quilon under the presidentship of Mr. Changuna-Cherry K. Parameswaran Pillai, B.A., B.L., retired Judge of the Travancore High Court and the leader of the Nationalist Party of the Travancore Legislative Assembly.

The president in his address<sup>ed</sup> laid stress on the need for proper organisation among the labourers of Travancore. The view held by some people that proper remedy for all the existing <sup>labour</sup> evils was the handling ~~of~~ over of factories to labourers, he added, was impracticable at the present time. Proper legislation in the matter, he believed, would do a good deal. Provision should be made for the education of the labour class<sup>es</sup>. Incidentally he referred to the question of strikes which, he added, could be used with effect only if workers had enough funds. He advised the labourers to register their Association, and thus make it a strong institution. Speaking about the representation of labour in the State legislature, he said it was indeed lamentable that they were not represented in the <sup>Assembly</sup> or in the Council. After the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms provision was made in the British Indian legislatures for the adequate representation of labour. It was high time that such a move was initiated in Travancore as well. He concluded his speech with an appeal for conjoint action for the welfare of the workers.

Resolutions.- The following resolutions were adopted at the Conference:-

The first resolution adopted requested the Government to make provision in the legislative rules for the representation of labour in

the State legislatures. A second resolution urged that <sup>suitable</sup> Labour legis-  
 lation should be introduced in Travancore. Another ~~was~~ resolution  
 congratulated the Government on the proposed repeal of the breach of  
 contract regulation now prevailing in Travancore. A fourth resolu-  
 tion requested the Government of ~~India~~ <sup>Travancore</sup> to appoint a non-official  
 committee to inquire into labour conditions in Travancore. It was  
 also resolved to hold an All-Travancore Labour Conference at Quilon in  
 the near future.

(The Hindu, 19-9-1934).

Unions of Government Employees;

Registration under Trade Unions Act Permitted. +

According to a newspaper report from Madras, the Local Govern-  
 ment has lifted the ban hitherto placed on unions of government  
 employees from seeking registration under the Trade Unions Act, as  
 far as unions of employees in Government industrial undertakings  
 are concerned. This question had been engaging the attention of  
 the Government of India for some time past and from the Local  
 Government's order it is presumed that the Government of India has  
 now sanctioned the registration of such unions under the Trade  
 Unions Act.

(The Hindu, 17-9-1934).

Economic Conditions.

✓  
Protection for Shuttle-making Industry in India:

Tariff Board Enquiry Ordered. +

The Government of India have referred to the Tariff Board the question of the desirability of the removal of the tariff inequality between imported shuttles and wooden blocks required for their manufacture in India. The duty at present on shuttles imported into India is 10 per cent whereas the duty on wooden blocks used for the manufacture of shuttles is as high as 25 per cent.

It has been represented to the Government by the interests concerned, that the development of the industry for the manufacture of shuttles in India is hampered owing to this glaring tariff inequality, and it has, therefore, been suggested that either the duty on finished shuttles imported into India should be increased to 25 per cent or more, or, if that may not be possible, the duty on wooden blocks for the manufacture of shuttles should be abolished.

At present there is no factory in India where shuttles are manufactured, and they are imported chiefly from Japan, England, Italy, Germany and France. It is estimated that over 10,000 gross shuttles are imported into the country every year.

The Government of India, it is understood, have already come to the conclusion that in their existing financial condition they are unable to consider the question of the removal of the duty on wooden blocks required for the manufacture of shuttles. The Tariff Board is therefore to consider the question of the desirability of increasing the import duty on shuttles from 10 to 25 per cent or more in order to enable a shuttle manufacturing industry to be established in the country.

(The Times of India, 11-9-1934)



Coal Out-put Restriction Scheme: Government's Position

Explained.

References were made in the previous reports of this Office to the crisis through which the coal industry in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa is passing and to the various schemes sponsored by mining interests to bring about a coal-output restriction (vide pages 46(a) 46(c) of October 1933 report; page 56 of November 1933 report; pages 50-62 of January 1934 report; pages 54-55 of February 1934 report; pages 54-56 of April 1934 report and pages 53-54 of May 1934 report). On 9-8-1934, the following resolution was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. A.H.Ghaznavi:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that immediate steps be taken to appoint a Committee to inquire as to how far the present abnormal depression in the Indian Coal Industry is due to the working of the State-owned Railway Collieries and the present surcharge of Railway freight on coal and other causes and to suggest ways and means for its improvement."

It was argued on behalf of the Government that the main objection to the adoption of any scheme of restriction was the adverse effects it will have on the interests of the consumers, who, as Sir Frank Noyce explained in the Assembly, "do not <sup>like</sup> take the idea of restricting an essential raw material of trade and industry". As regards railway collieries, the Government regretted its inability to close them in order to help the coal industry (Legislative Assembly Debates of 9-8-1934). In order that provinces other than Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, which are interested in the problem only from the consumers' point of view might express their opinions on this question, a conference of consumers and others interested in

the problem, represented by 14 non-official Assembly members, was arranged and met at Simla on 29-8-1934. It was attended on the Government side by Sir Frank Noyce and Sir Guthrie Russell. The following is a summary of the views expressed at the Conference:

Consumers' View point. - The general view expressed by consumers' representatives was that while they were not opposed to any scheme which might improve the present condition of the coal trade, they thought the real remedy lay in the abolition of the surcharge on coal freight. Reference was also made to the desirability of restricting the output of collieries run by company-managed railways, as was done in the case of State railways. Some members present were, however, opposed to any scheme of restriction of output in so far as it might result in the increase of prices. Collieries which have ceased working for sometime were also mentioned, as in their case legal liability to pay royalties to landlards would continue though they would be precluded from producing coal.

Government's Attitude. - Sir Frank Noyce promised to bear all the points mentioned in considering any action that might be justified in the light of opinions received from Provincial Governments, which have been addressed on the subject. The preliminary view of the Government of India, as stated in their last letter to local Governments, meanwhile, stood with one exception — that later information had shown that there were likely to be very serious difficulties in working satisfactorily the restriction scheme, without the cooperation of the Indian States interested in the coal industry. So far as the consumers were concerned, their protection from excessive rise of prices must be the focal point in any scheme of restriction.

Surcharge not to be immediately removed. - Sir Guthrie Russell pointed out how, despite the present surcharge on coal freight, the volume of traffic was being well-maintained. There was, therefore, no justification for the removal of surcharge though the Government had already announced that its abolition would be one of primary reliefs whenever railway finances improved.

(The Hindu, 30-8-1934).

Mr. Syed Munawar, a prominent labour leader of Bombay, introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 16-3-1934 a Bill, called the Bombay Money Lenders' Bill, 1934 (Bill No.VII of 1934), for the purpose of regulating ~~the~~ business carried on by persons as money-lenders. The Bill was read <sup>for</sup> the first time in the Council on 18-8-1934 and has been published in the Bombay Government Gazette (dated 23-8-1934, Part V, pages 108-119) for eliciting opinion thereon. The following is the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill:

Despite the steady growth of the co-operative movement in the Bombay Presidency, professional money-lenders known as sawkars flourish in every town and village of the Presidency. Except for a small proportion of them who are honest, a very big number has acquired a reputation for dishonesty, usury and other malpractices easily practised on the illiterate, poor and labouring classes. It is common knowledge that interest at unconscionably high rates ranging from 24 to 300 per cent. is charged by many such money-lenders who induce people to borrow, deduct first month's interest from the principal before issuing the loan and recover the dues under threats of violence. ~~Now~~ No doubt the Usurious Loans Act, passed by the Imperial Legislature in 1918, provides a legal remedy, but this applies only to such cases of usury as are referred to courts of law. Many of the money-lenders manipulate accounts of loans in such an ingenious manner as to evade the provisions of the Usurious Loans Act. Numerous cases of substantially unfair transactions, however, do not come before courts of law not merely for economic reasons but because the poor, helpless people are afraid of harassment and victimisation by their creditors. Consequently, thousands of people belonging ~~to~~ to the agricultural and labouring classes remain in life-long indebtedness almost invariably to the same money-lenders.

This Bill is thus a necessary adjunct to the Usurious Loans Act. Its purpose is to exercise a legal check upon unscrupulous money-lenders as also upon reckless borrowers who habitually indulge in the delight of borrowing.

The Bill is thus designed to control the profession of money-lending which has admittedly assumed a menacing aspect in this Presidency, and this fact justifies the early introduction of this measure of social legislation.

The Bill provides for the creditor maintaining simple but orderly account in the forms and numerals prescribed by the Government and to send to every debtor a periodical extract from these books showing the debit and credit items separately in respect of principal

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and interest charged and the balance due. The underlying object of this procedure is to <sup>serve</sup> as a means of reminding the debtor of the dues and of enabling the creditor to recover the dues before they swell into a big amount.

Debt Conciliation in Mysore State;

Establishment of Conciliation Board Being Considered. +

Reference was made at page 66 of the August 1934 report of this Office to the appointment of an Agricultural Enquiry Committee by the Mysore State Government and to the terms of reference of the committee.

It is reported that the Committee has considered several representations with regard to ryots' debts and are now considering the establishment of debt conciliation boards in the State. It is understood that among the questions for consideration by the Committee are the following: Whether conciliation should be voluntary or compulsory; what should be the conditions for settlement; utilization of co-operative organisations and setting up of land mortgage banks.

It has been suggested that a possible effect of the scaling down of debts may be that the moneylender's services in providing the short-term credit necessary for agricultural operations will be curtailed, if not refused altogether. The conciliation scheme should therefore include measures for the provision of short-term credit for the agriculturist. The data for the Conciliation Board scheme in the light of which the committee propose to formulate their plan have been obtained from the Debt Conciliation Board schemes of the Punjab, United Provinces, Bombay, Madras and other Governments.

(The Statesman, 5-9-1934).

Mysore Board of Industries and Commerce:

Orders for Revival Issued. +

The Government of Mysore have issued orders on 11-9-34 reviving the Board of Industries and Commerce. This organisation was ordered to be kept in suspension since 1931 as ~~one of the~~ <sup>a</sup> measures of retrenchment. Since 1931 economic development work was entrusted to the heads of the departments concerned and such development of industry as has recently taken place has mostly been initiated and carried out by departments. Government now observe that the time has come, having regard to present economic conditions in Mysore, for the revival of the Board of Industries and Commerce and have accordingly ordered its reconstitution.

The Board will advise Government on all questions of industrial and commercial importance which might be referred to it or might be taken up for consideration on its own initiative.

(The Statesman, 15-9-34).

Measures to Alleviate Rural Indebtedness

in Sandur State. +-

As a result of representations made by the agriculturists of the State of Sandur, South India, the ruler of the State has issued a proclamation on 15-9-1934 staying the execution of decrees passed by Civil Courts till after the ensuing harvest in May 1935. He has also passed orders directing that steps should be taken

immediately to appoint a committee to inquire into and report upon the nature of agricultural indebtedness in the State, and also to suggest measures which should be <sup>taken</sup> ~~concocted~~ for the relief of the agriculturists from their indebtedness. It is understood that, with a view not only to remedying the past indebtedness of the ryots, but also to preventing them from falling again into the clutches of the money-lender, the Durbar contemplate fixing a certain extent of land as an 'economic holding' which the Civil Courts will not be allowed to sell in execution of their decrees against cultivators. The State is also reported to be contemplating ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> licencing money-lenders in order to see that loans are advanced to the ryots mainly for productive purposes and at reasonable rates of interest.

(The Times of India, 17-9-1934)

Combating Rural Indebtedness in N.W.F. Province:

Proposed Legislative Measures. +

During the forthcoming autumn session of the North West Frontier Province Legislative Council three legislative measures designed to relieve rural indebtedness and ensure relief for agriculturists are coming up for consideration. These measures are the N.W.F.P. Regulation of Accounts Bill, the Usurious Loans (N.W.F. P.) Amendment Bill and the N.W.F.P. Redemption of Mortgages Bill. These bills were circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion during the last session of the Council.

The purpose of the first of these three measures is to ensure that debtors receive a rendition of accounts regularly. The reason for introducing the second bill is that under the Usurious Loans Act there has always been a certain amount of doubt as to what usury is and what it is not. The bill seeks to fix limits within which a loan will be considered to be within reasonable bounds. The third bill aims merely at providing a summary means of redeeming agriculturists' mortgages which do not exceed Rs.1,000 and in respect of holdings of less than 30 acres. It is believed that this summary procedure will give relief to small agriculturists.

(The Times of India, 22-9-1934)

Efforts to End Freight-War in Indian Coastal Traffic:

Agreements arrived at. +

During the last few years, complaints were being made in India regarding the freight war in Indian coastal traffic between British and Indian Steam Navigation Companies and <sup>some time back</sup> ~~recently~~ an effort was made to end the war, as a result of which an understanding was arrived at that there should be no competition between the "conference" lines, <sup>the principal of them being</sup> ~~that is, between~~ the British India, the Scindia and Turner Morrison lines. This year the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company kept out of the renewal of the contract and offered freight war, the rates varying from day to day.

Recently a conference was summoned in London between the Asiatic Steam Navigation and the British India Steam Navigation principals with a view to explore avenues for arriving at an agree-

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in all the waterways where the Asiatic and British India are competing. ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Chairman of the Schindia Steam Navigation Company, attended the conference on behalf of the Indian Company to discuss <sup>problems of</sup> ~~the~~ Indian coastal traffic trade. Information is now to hand that the London conference decided that there should be no freight war in the Indian coastal traffic.

A tripartite agreement having been signed, ~~Mr. Walchand's~~ ~~returning~~ discussions are now going on between the principals of the Asiatic, the British India and other steam navigation companies regarding other coastal and mid-ocean traffic.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-9-34).

Future of Jute Industry: Restriction Plan  
Announced by Government. +

At pages 50-51 of our March 1932 report and in subsequent monthly reports of this Office references were made to the serious dislocation in the Jute industry in Bengal caused by over-production. In order to devise measures to solve the problem a Committee was appointed by the Government of Bengal early in 1933. A summary of the report of the Committee was given at pages 38-42 of our February 1934 report. ~~The~~ Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, also appointed a Committee, a summary of the report of which was given at pages 48-50 of our June 1933 Report. The Government of Bengal



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have now issued a Communique announcing a jute restriction scheme to control jute production in 1935. A summary of the Government communique is given below:

Compulsory Restriction not to be Resorted to.- The Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal in 1933 to go into the problem recommended against measures for compulsory restriction of the crop under legislative enactment, and for the crop of 1935, the Government accept the opinion of the Committee on this point. They also accept the recommendation that the measures adopted during the past two or three years for encouraging a voluntary reduction of cultivation shall be improved and intensified. During the last two years the Government have conducted propaganda on a large scale among the growers of jute in the hope of inducing them to restrict their crops but the response has not been adequate. They consider that the time has now come to prescribe a reduction in the area under jute in the Province such that, if each cultivator complies with it, there will be grounds for a reasonable expectation of some improvement in the demand for and in the price of the fibre. It is expected that the Government will be in a position to announce this percentage of reduction about the beginning of January, 1935.

Appointment of Special Officer.- ~~Appointment of~~ The Government have also decided to appoint a special officer for the control of jute cultivation. It will be the duty of this Officer generally to inspire and co-ordinate the propaganda in each district. In particular, he will be expected to furnish the materials on which propaganda can be based and to disseminate regularly such details as are available of prices, world stocks, mill consumption and supply and demand. The Government will also expect him to tour in the jute-growing districts as much as possible and to organize and take part in intensive propaganda during such tours.

Appointment of District Officers.- Under the special officer's advice and with his assistance the propaganda in each district will be conducted by the District Officer, and in order that it may be effective, the Government intend to post to the heavy jute-growing districts additional officers, so far as they may be available, in order that one officer may be set free to devote his whole time to this work. It will be the object of the district jute cultivation control officer to ensure that the jute-growing areas are all reached by effective propaganda, and with this object it will be his aim to divide the district into 'charges' for each of which a 'jute cultivation control charge officer' will be responsible. These charge officers will be mostly non-officials, and the Government are confident that in carrying out this scheme the local officers will receive the full co-operation of all local non-official bodies and individuals.

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Cultivators' Co-operation Solicited. - It will be of the greatest assistance if in each village the cultivators organize themselves into voluntary associations pledged to the restriction of jute cultivation under the direction of their own headmen. The efforts of non-official workers will be encouraged, supervised and supplemented not only by the district jute cultivation control officer and the union board circle officers but also by Government servants of all ranks serving in any department in the district. The Government believe that a campaign for the restriction of jute cultivation offers scope for co-operation between officials and non-officials of all parties, and they hope that, with a view to organizing effective public opinion, committees may be formed in which officials and non-officials can work together in close touch with the district officer and local bodies.

Finances for the Scheme.- The cost of carrying out the scheme is expected to be in the region of Rs.50,000. The Government propose to sanction expenditure up to this amount.

(The Statesman, 25-9-1934).

Indo-Japanese Business Combines:

Statement by Japanese Consul General.

During the second week of September a report gained currency in the Indian press to the effect that two Indo-Japanese business combines were to be brought into existence in India for the production of steel. The special correspondent of the Times of India at Calcutta writing to his paper on 17-9-34 gave the following details about the proposed ventures.

The first combine, a new steel works, is to be started at Belur, near Calcutta, in the middle of 1935 with a capital of Rs.5 million. Mr. Agarnath Agarwalla, a Marwari merchant and proprietor of an iron foundry at Tatanagar, and Mr. M.Senda of Messrs Senda & Co., a well known Japanese firm of Calcutta, are to be the principal partners. The second combine, also a steel works, will be of more modest size and is to be established at Bombay. The Japanese owners will be the firm of Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha, Ltd., of Bombay, with whom will be associated a group of Indian industrialists. With the facility given by the Government of India for the importation of billets free of duty in order to assist the industry in India the Indo-Japanese combines which will own the new works, though

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they hope to purchase their raw material whenever possible from Tatas, will, if the prices are found to be too high, import from Japan and other countries.

(The Times of India, 19-9-34)

Mr. Miyake, Consul General for Japan in India, interviewed by the ~~Statesman~~ Simla correspondent of the Statesman on 21-9-34 stated:-

"It is neither the desire nor the intention of Japan to compete and oust out Indian industries and trades by opening up a series of factories all over India. The new company at Belur would be but one other depending for its profits, like other subsidiary firms, on Tata's - so that competition in the real sense of the word would be out of the question. He welcomed the idea of a joint management between Indian and Japanese "in the mutual interests of both countries".

Discussing the possibility of there being any rush of Japanese capital ~~to~~ finance such combines, Mr. Miyake said that it was not likely that Japanese businessmen would seriously take up the idea of opening different factories in India and adduced the following reasons for arriving at such a conclusion:

"First of all, the economic situation in India did not attract capital and, unless the demand increased and the present depression lifted, it would not be possible for Japan to think of investing in foreign countries. Moreover the rate of interest in India was very much lower than in Japan. Then again there would be the language difficulty in handling Indian labour, which would neither be so very cheap nor would it possess the same standard of efficiency as Japanese labour. Fourthly, it had never been at any time the intention of the Japanese Government to encourage the starting of factories in foreign countries and even were that so Japanese business men would not be likely to respond to their Government because they found that there was more profit to work a factory in Japan—and incidentally to develop her export trade— than there would be in venturing outside Japan." He added; "Japanese business men on their own now and again venture out only when it is profitable to do so. Usually this is not the case as ventures in foreign countries which are burdened with their own peculiar problems afford more risk than safety. Fifthly, an economic invasion would be "technically impossible" because of the law of supply and demand. In such industries as cotton and iron and steel there was hardly any room for expansion in India and if Japan ever opened up factories they would be bound to be subsidiary ones, intended mainly to supply a demand from within the country."

(The Statesman, 23-9-34)

Central Industrial Intelligence & Research Bureau:

Scheme Sanctioned.

References were made at pages 52-53 of our June and pages 66-67 of July 1934 reports to the decision of the 6th Conference of Departments of Industries, held at Simla from 9 to 11-7-1934, to establish a Central Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau. It was then laid down that the Bureau's functions might be "somewhat as follows":-

- (a) The collection and dissemination of industrial intelligence.
- (b) Collaboration with provincial Directors of Industries and industrialists in all matters relating to industrial research.
- (c) Publication at intervals of bulletins relating to industrial research and other matters connected with industrial development.
- (d) Assistance to industrialists in India by giving advice and making suggestions as to the directions in which research should be undertaken.
- (e) To collaborate with the various organisations of the Central and Local Governments with a view to ensuring that specifications prepared or issued by them provide as far as possible for industrial standardization.
- (f) To assist in the organization of industrial exhibitions in India.

The scheme, <sup>which</sup> was welcomed by the Industries Conference, and ~~was~~ approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 31-8-1934.

(The Statesman, 2-9-1934)

Indian Sugar Marketing Scheme;  
Marketing Board Constituted.

References were made in the previous reports of this Office to the rapid development of the Indian Sugar industry in the last few years as a result of Government protection. The question of marketing Indian sugar so as to shut off sugar from outside entering India has been engaging the attention of the sugar mill owners for some time past and the question occupied a prominent place in the discussions at the annual meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, held at Cawnpore on 26-8-34. Another Conference attended by representatives of over 85 sugar mills in India was held at Calcutta recently to consider this question. No scheme for a suitable marketing organisation has been found necessary so far, as the production of Indian sugar has been very small as compared with the total demand. The production of sugar in the current year, however, will be practically equal to the requirements of sugar in India.

Details of Scheme.- As a result of these discussions a scheme has been put forward arranging for proper distribution during the 12 months. The crux of the problem is to prevent imports of sugar as far as possible now that the production of the country has increased up to the consumption level - about 900,000 tons per year. If the import of sugar is to be stopped, it has been suggested that factories should send their sugar to ports and sell there at four annas less than the price of imported sugar. This will secure a large portion of the market for the manufacturers without giving any chance to foreign countries to secure a portion of this demand. The pressure being thus relieved from the local market, it is expected that prices will go up on account of the increased production of sugar being attracted to places where it never went in the past.

The proposal is that about 30 per cent of the total production of sugar manufactured in U.P. and Bihar (total production estimated at about 600,000 tons) should be sent to the ports of Rangoon, Madras, Bombay and Karachi, in quantities equivalent to the imports at these ports during the last year. If this is done through a common marketing agent, factories will have no difficulty as they can draw about 85 per cent of the value at the outset. Factories will be free to sell their balance of sugar as they like

and in view of the fact that from the very commencement imports will be shut out and the quantity of sugar available for consumption in the country will be equal to requirements, prices for the remaining 70 per cent of the sugar will automatically adjust themselves to the highest possible level.

It was decided at the annual meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association held at Cawnpore to constitute a Central Sugar Marketing Board under the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(The Times of India, 28-8-34 & the Leader 23-9-34).

Rural Indebtedness in Baroda State;

Appointment of an Enquiry Committee.

It is reported that with a view to investigating <sup>conditions relating to</sup> ~~into the~~ rural indebtedness, the Baroda State Government has appointed a Rural Insolvency Committee which will make an endeavour to find out ways and means to liberate the peasantry from the grip of indebtedness.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-9-34).

Employment and Unemployment.

Unemployment in Kapurthala State;

Kapurthala Municipal Committees to Prepare Lists.

With a view to ascertaining the extent of unemployment prevailing among the educated people and to devise proper means and ways to cope with it, the State Government had issued orders some time ago to the Municipal Committees in the State to prepare lists of the educated unemployed. But, due to certain unavoidable causes, the orders were not carried out. It is understood that the lists are now being prepared. It is believed Government may open factories to provide employment.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-8-34)

1st Conference of Educated Unemployed

of Tanjore District, Kumbakonam - 1934.

The first Conference of the educated unemployed of the Tanjore district was held on 23-9-1934 at Kumbakonam under the presidentship of Mr. K. Bashyam Iyengar, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Madras. There was a very large and representative gathering present.

Dr. M.K. Sambasivan, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in the course of his welcome address said:-

The problem of unemployment has now reached an acute stage in almost all countries, but a peculiar feature of the situation in India was the high degree of unemployment among educated youths. The kind of education imparted in India, besides being costly, was unfitted to the country's needs and tended to deprive youths of the quality of self-reliance. Facilities for technical education were limited, but even for those that qualified in technical lines the



avenues of employment were closed. The rapid increase in the birth-rate in the last two decades, the unprecedented economic depression and the fall in prices of commodities—all necessitated a speedy solution of the problem. The first condition for a successful solution was the setting up of a Government responsible to public opinion; secondly, an active public opinion to combat unemployment should be created; thirdly, vernaculars should be made the medium of education; fourthly, college education should be limited to a fixed minimum, say, 15 to 20 per cent of the students out of schools, the rest being diverted to technical schools; fifthly, a number of the present arts colleges should be converted into schools of technology; and, sixthly, education should be planned as to infuse into youths a spirit of service and sacrifice and a willingness to lead simple lives.

Mr. K. Bashyam, in his presidential address, dealt at length with the unemployment problem as it affected India and emphasised that the enforced idleness of men who wished to work was a dangerous social symptom. Referring to the system of doles and unemployment insurance, he said that unless social machinery was revolutionised, these systems, started originally as temporary expedients, will have to continue as a permanent feature of all governments. Such methods are uneconomical; it was better to utilise available funds for raising wages than to give charity to the unemployed. Other points brought out in the address were:-

Unemployment among Educated Classes.- Mr. Bashyam described the acute conditions of unemployment among the educated classes to the obvious and glaring defects of the existing educational system which tended to create "a champagne appetite with a bear income", to the trade and commerce of the country being practically monopolised by Europeans, and to employment possibilities having reached saturation point in law, medicine and government services.

Back to the Land Movement. - The speaker held that with stocks of paddy and wheat rotting, as at present, in granaries, the old-time emphasis on "making two blades of grass where one grew before" was a trifle out of place. In India middle-class unemployment could not be adequately solved by a back-to-the-land programme alone. The country was purely agricultural and the land had enough burdens to bear upon it. Further, agricultural operations required a certain amount of capital and credit not easily commanded by the unemployed. Agriculture does not keep the cultivators busy throughout the year. However, if it was possible to devise ways and means for the cultivation of commercial crops such as cotton, sugar-cane,

oil seeds & groundnuts and then finding a sale for them at remunerative prices. The "back-to-the-land" programme might be useful; but here competition was so severe that the Indian agriculturist would be beaten. The only solution seemed to be to create new wants in the community and employ young men in the new occupations that must necessarily come into existence to supply those wants.

Rural Reconstruction. - Discussing the possibilities of rural reconstruction work providing work for educated unemployed, Mr. Bashyam was afraid that those who advocated such schemes have not gone thoroughly into the financial aspect of the question. As regards cottage industries, it was not possible to compete with the village artisans unless fresh and modern methods were employed. But it was possible to introduce in some of the villages where there were facilities new types of village and cottage industries such as spinning, making laces, brass screws, if cheap and easily portable machinery could be devised for that purpose. In this connection a survey of the cottage industries, such on the lines invented by the All-India Swadeshi Sangh, must be undertaken and schemes devised for encouraging and regulating them. Domestic service could not also be put out of consideration in dealing with this problem. People did not realise the extent of the eatables imported into this country from foreign parts. Bread-making on a large scale and manufacture of biscuits afforded a large field for employment. The sphere of prepared goods might usefully be investigated. But each one of the suggestions made, required considerable outlay. Unless the Government with its extensive powers and unlimited resources took the initiative nothing could be done.

How Government could Help.- Mr. Bashyam, indicated the following ways, among others, by which Government could help to reduce the incidence of unemployment: (1) The scope of government service, despite its limited possibilities, could be increased. Through compulsory retirement of elder officers, a reasonable number of educated unemployed young men could be given work. (2) In the subordinate services admission might be refused to men with private resources and the more needy might be accommodated. It would serve as a measure of compulsion on well-to-do young men, who now get government jobs through influence, to undertake experiments to discover new lines of remunerative work. (3) By Indianising all the services large numbers of those unemployed at present could be absorbed into work. (4) The Indian Army and Navy should be Indianised at a more rapid pace than hitherto. (5) More Indians should be taken into the merchant navy. Government will do well to pass a measure that all merchant ships visiting Indian ports and benefiting by trade with India should carry a certain percentage of Indians as officers. (6) Banks and commercial firms can be similarly tackled and a certain percentage of employment for Indians provided for by law.

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

Government Action Urged.- This Conference of the educated unemployed of the Tanjore District, notes with great concern the increase of unemployment among the educated classes and calls upon the public and the Government to tackle this problem in a serious and earnest manner before it reaches alarming and uncontrollable proportions. While deploring the apathy of the Government in the matter, this Conference desires to impress on it, the imperative necessity of taking, in its own interest, the necessary measures to deal with this vital problem which reacts terribly on, ~~and~~ impairs the vitality and clouds the outlook of the cream of the youth of the country—the educated youngmen—who much against their will are going through prolonged periods of enforced idleness.

Need for Unemployment Survey. - This Conference suggests to the Government that the following measures be taken for immediate investigation, adoption and work towards solving the problem of unemployment among the educated classes in the Presidency:- Immediate survey and investigation of the problem of the unemployment and the devising and creation of fresh avenues of escape of the unemployed; formation of a Government department specially charged with the duty of such investigation and the formulation of schemes for the relief of the distress among the unemployed; reorganisation and, if necessary, the overhauling of the Industries Department of the Province with a view to exploring the possibilities of starting new industries in the Province ~~and~~ absorb the educated unemployed ~~unemployed~~; the consideration of the claims of the educated unemployed in the appointment of village officers; cutting down, if necessary, the high salaries now being paid to Government officers and servants and economising on ~~other~~ unproductive departments of Government and utilising the funds thus created towards relieving the distress of the educated unemployed; restriction of the hours of labour of Government servants and ~~other~~ employees in quasi-governmental institutions with a view to absorbing more of the educated young men in the services.

Reduction of Hours of Work.- This Conference also urges upon the Government the necessity for immediate legislation restricting the hours of work of the ministerial and other clerks in non-governmental and commercial institutions and businesses. ~~and rapid~~ <sup>at a rapid</sup> Indianisation of all Government services such as the Army, the Navy, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> affording facilities to young men to get trained as officers of the mercantile marine and enforcement by the Government of a rule, legislative or otherwise, requiring the employment of persons so trained in their merchant vessels trading in this country.

Encouragement of Swadeshi.- This Conference is distinctly of opinion that with a view to relieving unemployment, it is essential that all should pledge themselves to swadeshi and buy articles made in this country and requests the Government to go in for indigenous products in purchasing their requirements.

Technological Training.- This Conference requests the Madras and the Annamalai Universities to give effect to the recommendations of the Inter-Universities' Conference by making provisions for the basic technological training which should form an increasingly part of University education ~~and by supplementing by offering training in special industries by means of demonstration plants and later on in factories and workshops.~~ This Conference requests the Central and Provincial Governments to give all possible help to the Universities towards this end.

Prohibition of Private Practice by Government Doctors.- As an inducement to the educated unemployed to enter the medical profession where the Conference believes there is a wide field for employment for them, this Conference requests the Government and other public bodies not to allow medical practitioners in their employment to engage themselves in private practice. Similarly, this Conference requests Government and other public bodies to give preference to engineering graduates in assigning contracts of public works.

(The Hindu, 24-9-34)

The Hindu of 24-9-34 commenting editorially on the resolutions adopted by the Kumbakonam Conference observes:-

On some of these resolutions opinion is bound to differ. To introduce short-time working in Government offices and spread the available work among a larger number of persons is a practice which has been resorted to in certain industries. But it is by no means the best possible method. The defect of this method is that it does not serve to provide a greater volume of work which, really speaking, should be the goal of any sound policy meant to deal with unemployment. The proposition, however, that the State should step in and adopt an active programme of public works which will provide work for the unemployed is one which will find general support.

Advocating the framing of a budget providing generously for public works, the paper quotes extensively from Mr. Jan Rosner's (of the I.L.O) recent study of the unemployment policy of Poland, to show that the Government of India will be well advised to initiate action on the lines adopted by Poland.

(The Hindu, 24-9-1934)

Unemployment in Madras City:  
✓ Survey by Oriental Culture Academy.

The Oriental Culture Academy, Madras, has recently undertaken a plan to conduct a civic survey of the educated unemployed in Madras City, with a view to suggest lines for planned action to combat unemployment, after having collected the needed data on the subject. The plan is to take the different municipal divisions of the City in turn and to conduct the investigations in each such unit. Responsible leaders of public opinion like Mr. Satyamurti and Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (the former is the Congress candidate from Madras City for the ensuing election to the Indian Legislative Assembly and the latter is his rival in the election) are associating themselves with the inquiry.

On 22-9-34 the survey in the Triplicane division of the City was inaugurated by Mr. Satyamurti. Mr. Satyamurti in his opening address said that nine-tenths of the adult population in the city was unemployed. Only by combined efforts of the authorities and the public could they hope to succeed in their efforts. At the <sup>present</sup> ~~present~~ time, the conditions of the money market were favourable and materials were cheap for any large engineering or building schemes to be undertaken. Human labour was also very cheap. A responsible Government would take the opportunity to float large loans and embark on schemes both protective and productive, but until the country was free, the problem could not be solved.

On 24-9-34 the survey in municipal divisions 10 & 12 of the

of the City was inaugurated. Dewan Bahadur Ramaswamy Mudaliar in his speech on the occasion said:

The problem of the educated middle-class unemployment had not received the attention it deserved at the hands of the Government. For a solution of that problem, the slogan "back to the land" is not enough. In the first place, the kind of life people are living in the cities made them unfit for such work. Secondly, young men have been brought up to a certain standard of living and they have been educated with a view to their keeping to that standard. Thirdly, agriculture was not paying, and they were painfully aware that many agriculturists were keeping acres of land uncultivated because the price of produce had fallen below the cost of production. The view that schools and colleges should be closed was not right. The youths were unemployed, not because of their education, but in spite of it. The solution of the problem of unemployment was a liability of the Government. It could not be solved by private and philanthropic agencies. For this as for everything else data was required. The survey undertaken by the Oriental Cultural Academy was therefore a step in the right direction.

Dealing with the question of how the Government could tackle the problem, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar said that the extreme form of

Governmental relief was unemployment insurance, in the form in

which it existed in England. Another was for the Government to undertake capital works on the lines of the famine relief schemes.

The third way in which unemployment could be solved was by the revival of trade and industry. In this connection, they should bear in mind the fact that the present was the age of machinery and they should expect and countenance competition. Attempts at going back to the pre-machine age would prove to be futile.

(The Hindu, 24-9-34)

Bombay Corporation's Scheme for Relieving

Unemployment; Proposal Declared Impracticable. +

Reference was made at page 55 of our May 1934 report to a proposal under consideration before the Bombay Corporation to raise a loan of one million Rupees for the purpose of undertaking capital works with a view to relieving unemployment in the City. Mr. I.H. Taunton, Municipal Commissioner, has recently submitted a report to the Corporation on the scheme in which he says that the scheme is impracticable for various reasons. The following is a summary of his report:-

Unemployment Relief no Legal Obligation in India. - The proposal in question is presumably made on the analogy of public relief works started either by Government or local bodies for the relief of the unemployed in Western countries. The sponsors of the proposal, however, seem to have overlooked the fact that in most of these countries capital works are an alternative to pensions or doles to the unemployed which have been made payable by statute. In India, however, unemployment relief does not at present constitute a legal obligation on either the State or the local authorities, and therefore any proposal to start capital works for the relief of the unemployed must be considered from its financial or economic aspect alone. It may also be mentioned that though the policy of undertaking relief works of a capital nature was advocated by economic theorists, it proved a failure in practice in Britain even when supported by Government, and this would, be more so here, in India where the relief works are proposed to be started not in lieu of any obligatory payments but as an ordinary capital venture without even Government assistance.

Not Fully Beneficial to Indian Labour.- The analogy of other countries where capital works are undertaken by the State to relieve unemployment is misleading. Where the State starts such works, the benefit is diffused over the whole country, and all the industries connected directly or indirectly with the works benefit. But if a local, like this Municipality starts, for instance, building, they will have to import bricks, mortar, cement, steel and iron, timber and fittings, all from outside and local labour will not benefit by this expenditure.

Nature of Unemployment in the City.- It is necessary to ascertain, if possible, the character and extent of unemployment in

the city, and how far the proposal in question is likely to mitigate it. It is generally conceded that unemployment is most acute among mill workers owing to the closure of a large number of mills in the city. But it may be pointed out that since the proposal was made, some mills have been re-opened and although unemployment among mill operatives is still acute, it is less pronounced than it was. Further, it is believed that there is also great unemployment among dock workers owing to the fall in imports and exports. But the existence of unemployment among the middle classes seems to have been lost sight of. <sup>Distress among this class</sup> Distress among this class, though less vocal, is even more widespread. The extent of unemployment in all these classes is, however, difficult to assess in the absence of reliable statistics, and the Director of Information who was referred to was unable to supply any.

The Present Scheme will not Solve the Problem. - If what is desired is to render immediate help to the unemployed, slum clearance would seem to offer no solution. Any such scheme cannot be taken in hand until the properties situated in the area have been acquired after approval of the scheme. Further, in any such scheme, the cost of acquisition would come to 75 per cent of the total, and out of the remainder about 20 per cent would be absorbed by materials, tools and plant, leaving only 5 per cent for being spent on wages. The bulk of the money would thus go into the pockets of the landlords and the employment provided would be for a comparatively few labourers. Far from giving any appreciable relief to the unemployed, this scheme would put a premium on the ownership of slums.

~~Similar~~ Similarly, the construction of school buildings would not seem to offer a ready solution, for in all constructional work the bulk of the money (nearly 80 per cent) goes on materials, and most of the remainder towards the wages of skilled labour, like masons, carpenters, fitters and other artisans, leaving a very small percentage for the unemployed to whom it is proposed to give relief. In both these cases the workmen that would be benefited are those in the building trade which is already booming while the class of persons for whom relief is needed would be scarcely affected.

Other Objections to Scheme. - Other alternatives have been considered in this connection but the inherent defect of any such schemes is that there would be no immediate return for the outlay; while the Corporation's present financial situation is such that no works, however, desirable in theory, can be undertaken unless they are productive of immediate revenue, at least to the extent of the interest and sinking fund charges on the loan proposed to be raised. It is pointed out that the annual charges in respect of interest and sinking fund on a loan of one million rupees would come to about Rs.62,000, and in the present circumstances it would be impossible to shoulder this burden without a corresponding return. Any relief scheme to be undertaken therefore should ~~be~~ at least satisfy the



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above primary test. Thus the question of excavation and filling should also be dropped on this score, especially as there is no prospect of any lands so reclaimed being sold at an early date.

The Commissioner's report was considered by the Standing Committee at its meeting on ~~September~~<sup>14-9-1934</sup>. The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the Corporation in terms of the Commissioner's report.

(The Times of India, 17-9-34)

Public Health.

✓ Slum Clearing in Madras: Comprehensive Scheme

Drawn up by Housing Committee of Corporation. ✓ +

Reference was made at pages 66-67 of our report for December 1933 to a comprehensive scheme of slum clearance in Madras City, which was under consideration of the Madras Corporation for some time past. In order to enquire into the housing conditions in the city, with special reference to over-crowding, slum clearance and housing of the poorer classes and to evolve a comprehensive housing policy for the city and report what legislative and administrative action is, in the opinion of the committee, necessary to remedy existing defects, a Housing Committee was appointed by the <sup>Council of the</sup> Corporation on 15-8-1934. It is understood that the ~~Council of the~~ Housing Committee has recently submitted its report to the Corporation. A summary of the report is given below.

Slum Improvement.- On the question of slum improvement, the Committee is of the view that the construction of plinths by the Corporation in the future should be discontinued and that the Government should be asked to contribute the necessary funds ~~is~~ for improving the cheris belonging to them. The cost of improvement and complete reconstruction of slums in the city is estimated to be roughly Rs. 10,000,000. This amount, the Committee suggests, should be got from the Government, half by way of grant and half by way of a loan spread over a period of ten years. The Harbour Trust land should be taken up as the first item of slum improvement.

Improvement Trusts to be Created.- An Improvement Trust should be constituted to construct and look after both slum dwellings and middle class housing. Houses should be let on a definite principle of monthly earnings of dwellers. A Welfare Superintendent should be appointed for each improved area. No sub-letting, alteration, partition or keeping of cattle should be allowed in houses. All open spaces in the city should be acquired at once and excessive open lands round bungalows and houses should be specially taxed to encourage the construction of buildings. Adyar should be included within the city limits.

Middle-Class Housing.- On the question of middle class over-crowding existing in the city, the Committee finds that as a result of the census taken, it may be roughly estimated that the total number of over-crowded houses is about 22,500, i.e., approximately 40 per cent. of the total number of smaller houses. A minimum increase of 40 per cent. of the number of overcrowded houses is required to relieve congestion. It means 10,000 houses with an average of six rooms each to accommodate two families consisting of six persons. The Committee recommends that 10,000 houses should be constructed at a cost of Rs. 22.6 millions. Model houses should be built for exhibition and these may be sold later on.

Housing Legislation.- On the question of legislation, the Committee recommends that the standard of housing accommodation should be fixed for middle class houses making over-crowding illegal and that the City Municipal Act should be suitably amended and a special chapter on slums be incorporated on the lines of the Calcutta Municipal Act. Beggar legislation should be enacted. Immigration of homeless people into the city should be controlled by legislation. To prevent profiteering by middle-men, the City Tenants Protection Act should be amended. A Rent Restriction Act is not considered to be necessary at present.

(The Hindu, 4-9-1934).

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Co-operation.

✓  
The Bihar & Orissa Co-operative Societies Bill, 1934.

The following is the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Societies Bill, 1934, which is proposed to be introduced in the 1934 autumn session of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council.

The development and working of co-operative societies in the province has revealed a number of defects in the existing law and the Committee on Co-operation came to the conclusion that the time had certainly come to replace the All-India Co-operative Societies Act of 1912 by a provincial Act, with such alterations as may be necessary. Bombay, Burma and Madras have already got their local Acts and this Bill has now been drafted to meet the special requirements of this province.

Widening Scope of Movement. - The Bill widens the scope of the movement by allowing registration of societies having as their object the promotion of the common interest of members in accordance with co-operative principles. It seeks to foster the growth of self-governing institutions by making provision for delegation of powers to a financing bank or federation. Financing banks are immediately proposed to be given powers of inspection, while provision is made for compulsory affiliation of registered societies to a federation.

Improvement of Finances. - The Bill aims at improving the finances of the movement by enabling suitable regulations to be placed on borrowings and on the grant of loans. Collections will be facilitated by the conversion of the present lien on assets created or developed by co-operative loans into a charge and by the provision of a speedier process of realisation in the district of Sambalpur. Provision is made to prevent fraudulent disposal of property by a borrowing member pending dispute or liquidation proceedings. Recovery will be facilitated by enabling central banks to realise their dues by an award against all or any of the members of a registered society subject to the limit of their liability. Reserves will be strengthened by a higher percentage of profits being carried to the reserve fund. Audit will be made more adequate and the liability disclosed by audit or inspection for acts done to the detriment of the society, will be enforced by a provision for surcharge on the lines of the Local Fund Audit Act. The supersession of a committee has been provided as an intermediate stage between normal working and liquidation in order to give the society an opportunity to improve the management.

Check on Abuses. - The Bill seeks to check abuses and inculcate a healthy sense of responsibility by making control more effective and by making certain acts or omissions punishable in a criminal court. Safeguards are, however, provided to prevent indiscriminate prosecutions. The honest worker in the field of co-operation has no reason to be afraid of the provisions for surcharge and penalties which are necessary to purge the movement of its undesirable elements and ensure sound co-operative progress.

Advantage has also been taken of the opportunity to effect various other minor improvements in the Act.

(The B. & O. Gazette, <sup>dated</sup> 15-8-1934, Part V, pages 63-106.)

Co-operation in Hyderabad State, 1932-33.

Number of Societies and their Membership.- According to

the annual report of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in H.E. H. the Nizam's Dominions during the year 1341-1342 Fasli (the year ending 6-7-1933), there were 2,554 societies of all kinds working at the end of the year as compared with 2,431 in the previous year. They consisted of a Dominion Bank, a Central Co-operative Union, 35 Central Banks, 2,130 Agricultural Credit Societies, 365 Non-Agricultural Societies, and 22 Societies in the British Administered Areas. Notable increases were 2 in the number of central banks and 116 in that of agricultural societies. The membership of the movement increased by 3,471 from 72,125 to 75,596. Similarly the working capital went up from Rs. 22,931,089 to Rs. 23,118,934 the net increase being Rs. 579,351.

Agricultural Credit Societies. - Agricultural Credit Societies newly registered during the year numbered 122, while those <sup>removed from the register</sup> ~~which were disregistered~~ were six. The number of working societies at the end of the year was 2,130 as against 2,014 of last year. The membership of agricultural societies increased from 42,100 to 43,631 and their working capital went up from ~~Rs. 8,887~~ Rs. 8,687,468 to Rs. 8,813,145.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - The report shows that the number of non-agricultural societies was 365 as against 363 of last year, their membership ~~of~~ 17,262 as against 16,640 and the working capital Rs. 2,942,651 against Rs. 2,719,694. Salary earners' societies worked on steadily without feeling the disturbing influence of the economic depression. The number of such societies was 221 as compared with 217 last year, and their membership 12,534 as against 12,014.

General. - Dealing with the general economic conditions in the State in relation to Co-operation, the Registrar remarks:-

"The steep fall in the price of farm produce has taken away from the small peasant the only means which can keep his productive activity going as a business proposition. In many cases his repaying capacity has been reduced to the vanishing point, with the result that even with the best of intentions the financing institutions cannot long delay his elimination as an independent unit of production. In many cases societies have to submit to his expropriation in order to save themselves from financial ruin. There are hardly any signs of recovery in Indian trade which can be regarded as of lasting significance. Boiled down, the peasant's difficulty resolves itself into one of putting more money into his hands. The method which has been adopted by other countries of achieving this object through the manipulation of currency being one which is ruled out in India, there remains hardly any means of alleviating his difficulties except carrying on an intensive campaign for the adoption of better methods of agriculture and animal husbandry. There is now-a-days a stir among those who are interested in rural economics for the adoption of a comprehensive scheme of rural reconstruction. The co-operatives in Hyderabad also are taking keen interest in it.

(The Hindu, 3-8-1934)

(The progress of Co-operation in Hyderabad State for the year 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 66-67 of the September 1933 report of this Office).

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Co-operation in Baroda State, 1932-33\* +

The Co-operative year was changed from January 1st to August 1st so that it may synchronise with the official year of the other departments. The report therefore covers a period from 1st January 1932 to July 31st 1933, and figures read for 19 months.

General Progress. - The period under review was marked by an abnormal slump in the prices of agricultural produce, which told heavily on the financial conditions of the agriculturists; ~~in~~ in spite of ~~the~~ which the Co-operative Societies in the State showed steady progress. During the period under report only 95 societies were registered, 11 societies were dissolved. The total number of societies on register is 1147 as against 1065 <sup>last year</sup> showing a net increase of 84 over the last year. The membership also increased in total from 39,552 to 43,488 with a commensurate increase per society from 37.2 to 37.9. A little shrinkage is seen in the working capital from Rs. 7,672,691 to <sup>Rs.</sup> 7,340,113. This is due to the contracted operations of the Banks and their consequent refund of matured deposits and refusal to accept new ones. The share capital, reserve and other funds, member deposits etc., increased from Rs. 2,815,394 to <sup>Rs.</sup> 3,125,436 i.e. from 36.7 % of the working capital to 42.6. The loans outstanding at the end of the period under report were Rs. 5,782,044 against <sup>Rs.</sup> 5,881,452. <sup>the previous year</sup> Considered with the amounts of loans granted during the period of 19 months, there is not much appreciable difference. The percentage of overdues on demand increased from 26.5 to 30.7. This is primarily due to low level of prices of agricultural produce and the consequent inability of <sup>the</sup> peasantry to meet their demand in terms of money.

Classification of Societies. - The 1,147 societies at the end of the period under review consisted of one Co-operative Institute, 4 Central Banks, 3 Union Banks, one Land Mortgage Bank, 1 Supervising Union, 4 Banks belonging to rural reconstruction and development associations, 935 agricultural societies and 198 non-agricultural societies. Of the 935 agricultural societies, 767 were primary credit societies, 66 consolidation of scattered holdings, 31 cotton sales societies, 15 rural reconstruction and development associations, 15 provision supply societies, 12 milch cattle societies, 9 seeds supply, 7 power pump, 6 fodder and other societies 5 cattle breeding societies, 1 water-work and 1 milk production society. The 198 non-agricultural societies consisted of 165 primary credit societies, 6 provision supply, 6 housing, 20 students' store societies and 1 mutual help society.

Central Institute and Central Banks. - The Shree Sayaji Sahakar Sevak Institute completed its seven years existence during the period under report. The member-societies decreased from 492 to

\* Annual Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State. - For the year 1932-33 ending 31st July. - Baroda State Press 1934. - Price Re. 1-15-0. *11.101*

459. The individual membership however <sup>increased</sup> ~~gained~~ from 29 to 41. The number of Central Banks and Banking Unions increased to seven while a Land Mortgage Bank was registered during the year raising the total number of banks to 8.

A financial survey of these institutions reveals an increase in the owned and decrease in the borrowed and working capital. The turn-over, when judged in relation to the time the figures stand for, diminished. The membership of the Banks increased from 1,320 to 1,518. The share capital, working capital and reserve funds of these 8 Banks were Rs. 291,959, Rs. 1,778,833 and Rs. 189,126 respectively, as against Rs. 281,272, Rs. 2,169,307 and Rs. 189,126 respectively during 1931.

Agricultural Societies. - The number of agricultural societies rose from 871 to 935. The rise is spread over all districts. Among these 935 agricultural societies, the prominent are 767 primary credit societies, 66 land consolidation, 31 cotton sale and 15 development societies in villages and four associations for the talukas; a new feature of the Raj for the last two years. The membership of these 935 societies was 27,582, the average membership per society being the same as in the previous year. The share capital, reserve funds and working capital of these societies during the period under review were Rs. 75,734, Rs. 870,175 and Rs. 3,415,389 respectively. Fresh loans advanced amounted to Rs. 1,210,255 as compared with Rs. 738,856 in 1931 and the deposits from members increased from Rs. 515,582 in 1931 to Rs. 531,083 during the period under report.

Cotton Sale Societies. - At the end of the period there were 31 of these societies as against 29 in the year 1931. The two new ones were registered from the organised working Cotton sale groups of last year. Only 18 of these societies worked successfully. The membership of these 18 societies was 980 and they ginned 13,064 Bhars of cotton (1 Bhar = 924 lbs.) against 7,072 Bhars in the previous year. The total proceeds from lint and seeds amounted to Rs. 1,346,595.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - The total number of non-agricultural societies increased from 184 of last year to 198 at the end of the year. They <sup>comprise</sup> ~~comprise~~ of 165 of credit societies including 9 thrift societies, 6 supply stores, 6 housing societies, 20 students stores, and one mutual help society. The membership of these societies was 14,354 and their share capital, reserve funds and working capital were Rs. 317,282, Rs. 98,666 and Rs. 2,145,891 respectively. The membership, deposits owned and working capital, all show an increase. The amount of loans outstanding at the end of the year remained pretty nearly the same. ~~Overdues however increased from 66,155 to 125,367.~~ In relation to the demand the percentage of overdue has doubled from ~~5~~ 5.4 to 10.2.



Credit Societies.- The 157 credit societies in non-agricultural areas worked well. They were likewise affected by the general depression and low purchasing power of its members. The societies include 14 employees societies, 18 Urban Societies, 8 Bhangis and 42 weavers and 13 Chamars, 56 flood relief societies and 6 miscellaneous. The weavers societies, originally started with the idea of Co-operative buying of materials of production and sale of output of cottage industry of members, worked only to satisfy the financial needs of their profession. Under keen competition from foreign and native mill and factory products, cheaper, as a result of mass production and of better finish, there is not great scope for rough hand woven Khaddar and other materials, the weavers are used to. The weavers are gradually declining in profession and there is a general trend of shifting to towns to work in mills and other established machine driven industries. The chamars societies do not seem to have met with better luck. Both the weavers and chamars societies have restricted their operations to financing the members only.

Employees' Societies.- The Employees' Societies which numbered 14 worked well. They had an advantage in honorary intelligent, efficient management over societies in villages. Out of these 14 societies, 7 are classed more important. These 7 societies had a membership of 2,086 and their share capital, deposits, reserve funds and working capital were Rs.56,982 Rs.184,803, Rs.11,973 and Rs.253,731 respectively.

Co-operative Propaganda and Village Reconstruction. - Mention was made in the previous year's report to the organisation of refresher ~~xx~~ classes for village school teachers in various places. At these refresher classes village school teachers were instructed in Co-operation by a series of class room lectures by officials of this department. At the Kosamba Rural Re-construction Centre lectures were arranged and training in Co-operation work given to candidates present. Besides lectures and demonstrations at Panchayat week gatherings, attempts were made by the staff to introduce home industries in several villages. The students in the Agricultural class were also given lessons in Co-operative organisation. Useful literature on Co-operative subjects was published in simple Gujarati language from department designed to reach all classes of people.

Co-operation and Women.- During the period under report, there were 20 thrift societies of women with a membership of 437 as compared with 14 in the previous year with a membership of 257. Their savings and reserve funds amounted to Rs.6,646 as against Rs.4,070 in 1931. The report remarks that the creation of healthy spirit of thrift among women members in villages which are ~~however~~ known for backwardness, illiteracy etc. bears a good testimony to ~~its futurity. The movement's future.~~

(The Progress of Co-operation in Baroda State during 1931 is reviewed at pages 56-58 of the May 1932 report of this Office).

Indians in Fiji: Annual Report of the Secretariat  
for Indian Affairs, 1933. ✓ +

Indian Population in Fiji. - According to the report for 1933 of the Secretariat for Indian Affairs, Fiji, the estimated Indian population <sup>in Fiji</sup> on 31-12-33 was 80,991, an increase of 2,016 during the year. The birth rate per 1,000 was 38.67, the death-rate 11.37 and the number of registered marriages rose from 911 to 1,071. The migration figures show that while 269 persons returned to India, 361 entered the Colony.

Economic Conditions. - A feature of the economic condition of the Indian population during the year, it is stated, is that there was no unemployment. No change occurred in the rates of wages of plantation and other labour. Economically, approximately 60 per cent of the agricultural community continues to be dependent for its livelihood directly or indirectly on the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. Despite the fact, however, that the sugar industry is and will continue to be the mainstay of the agriculturist, the Agricultural Department has been engaged in seeking remunerative markets for other products and there are prospects of new avenues of employment being opened up.

Housing and Health Conditions. - Housing conditions were better than they ~~even~~ were before and there has been a marked improvement in the sanitation of Indian homes. The result has been that on the whole the Indian community enjoyed remarkably good health and it has also been observed that <sup>Fiji-born Indians</sup> ~~generations born in Fiji~~ are of a higher type both mentally and physically than their ancestors.

Political Situation. - The political situation underwent a change when, in the October session of 1932, the two Indian members withdrew the franchise motion and remained in the Council while awaiting a reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to certain representations made by ~~it~~ them. The reply was announced in March, 1933, and shortly afterwards one of the members resigned while the other retained his seat. The former was, however, subsequently returned by a sweeping majority at a by-election held in July and from that date onwards the Indian elected members remained in the Council. Although no motion on the common franchise was introduced, the Indian members have not renounced their adherence to the principle of a common roll.

(The Statesman, 5-9-34)

Indians in South Africa, 1933;

Report of the Agent of the Government of India\*

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Commission.- References

were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the passing of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill by the South African Union Legislature and to the appointment of a Commission to enquire into individual titles of occupation of Asiatics in proclaimed land in the Transvaal before any action is taken under the Act. A memorandum was submitted to the Commission by the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, a summary of which was given at pages 72-74 of our December 1933 report. Memoranda were also submitted by the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association and by Indian Associations in other towns. It is stated that the Commission have throughout given a courteous and patient hearing to the Indian case as presented in the different towns and the evidence that has been given has been on the whole satisfactory from the Indian point of view, this being particularly true of the evidence tendered by the police and public health authorities. The police have consistently characterised the Indian community as peaceful and law-abiding and the medical authorities, though at times referring to the existence of unsatisfactory conditions, have also borne testimony to efforts made by the Indians to improve their conditions so far as their circumstances permit and have attributed insanitary conditions mostly to the presence of natives.

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\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for the year ending 31st December 1933.-Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. - Price Re.1-10-0 or 2s.9d. -pp.30.

Reference was made in the Agent's Report for 1932 to an important case bearing on the subject called the Roodepoort Case, (vide pages 71-72 of August 1933 report of this Office for details). The case came before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in March 1933 and the important point whether a municipality has any locus standi to sue for the enforcement of provisions of the restrictive sections of the Gold Law was decided in favour of the municipality. That decision created a position which would have been extremely serious for the Indian community in the Transvaal, but for the potential and, in a sense, accidental protection afforded, in spite of its unfortunate restrictions, by the Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the appointment of the Commission under that Act. In anticipation of such an eventuality, the Agent had addressed the Union Government and had suggested that it would be reasonable for municipalities to hold their hands in all such cases until the Commission had reported, the point being that Indian traders now in illegal occupation of proclaimed land might, owing to the Commission's recommendations, subsequently find their occupation legalised and that it would be an undue hardship in such cases to evict a man for a short period. The Union Government replied that they were unable to interfere in a matter which fell entirely within the powers of a local authority to decide. The consent of the Municipalities were, however, secured to preserve the status quo till the Land Tenure Commission had reported through the efforts of Mr. Feetham, the Chairman of the Commission.

It was anticipated that the Commission would prepare an interim report with regard to the areas to be exempted in Johannesburg.

No such report has, however, been issued so far and it is understood that during their investigations into title in some townships in Johannesburg the Commission have discovered legal anomalies, some of which may call for legislation in the near future.

The Colonisation Enquiry Committee.- It was agreed at the Cape Town Conference in 1932 that the Government of India and the Union Government would cooperate in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for Indians both from India and from South Africa. In order to explore the possibilities of settling Indians in South Africa outside the colony, a committee was appointed in June 1933 (Details of <sup>the work of this Committee are</sup> ~~which were~~ given at pages 70-71 of our June 1933 report). Reference is invited to the ~~in~~ succeeding reports of this Office for details regarding the attitude of South African Indians towards the enquiry (vide page 78 of September 1933 report) and of the findings of the Committee (vide pages 74-76 of February and pages 79-81 of July 1934 reports).

Unemployment.- Reference was made in the Annual Report for ~~for~~ 1932 to the efforts made by the Agent to secure some relief for the Indian unemployed (vide pages 73-74 of our August 1933 report) After the interviews which the Agent had with the Minister of Labour and other Ministers, the Union Government agreed to subsidise the employment of distressed Indians in Durban and in Pietermaritzburg subject to a maximum and to certain other conditions. An attempt was made by the Durban Municipality to pay only 2 shillings to Indian workers instead of the normal wages of 3 shillings, <sup>the rate</sup> but <sup>made by</sup> was not actually put into practice as a result of representations ~~of~~ the Agent. The Durban Municipality gave employment to 300 Indians

and the Pietermaritzburg municipality to 50 Indians. The latter municipality also gave three annual grants of £100 towards the relief of distress among Indian unemployed and gave permission twice for a flag day to collect funds on their behalf.

The report shows that although signs are not wanting that the worst of the economic depression is past, it is not possible to say that the position regarding unemployment among Indians has materially improved. There is still much distress. This is to some extent borne out by the figures regarding Indians who have taken advantage of the Assisted Emigration Scheme. The majority of those who have gone are of the artisan and labouring classes and, while it is true that there has for many years been a small but steady flow of aged persons belonging to these classes returning to end their days in India, it is also clear that as the percentage of Colonial-born Indians increases the number of these cases must steadily diminish. There can be little doubt according to the report that economic causes have to a large extent been responsible for the figures remaining as high as they are.

The Provincial Finances Commission.— A Commission was appointed by the Union Government on the 4th July, 1933, to examine the relations existing between the Union Government and the Provincial Administrations. It was at first doubtful how far they would be interested in receiving representations from the Indian community, but from the evidence given before them by various individual Europeans and European interests it became clear that they would receive memoranda on almost all subjects connected with Provincial Administration. The South African Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress submitted memoranda and sent deputations to the

Commission.

Durban Corporation Ordinance.— An Ordinance was drafted in the first part of the year for introduction in the Natal Provincial Council to be known as the Durban Corporation Extended Powers Ordinance, 1933. It dealt with a large number of subjects affecting the Corporation, but two clauses in particular aroused the suspicions of the Indian community. They dealt with the transfer of property and, though no specific mention was made of Indians or Asiatics, they appeared to be capable of being directed principally against Indians. The first clause prevented the creation of "any servitude or the transfer of any sub-division in respect of either of which the approval of the Council is by this section required" without a certificate from the Town Clerk. The second clause empowered the Town Clerk to register notarial declarations from the owners of any two or more contiguous areas of land "restricting the future transfer of their land to persons of a class to be specified in such declarations". The two clauses read together appeared to make it possible for owners of land in Durban to declare in perpetuity that their land should not be transferred to Indians or to any other class of persons specified.

The Ordinance was introduced in September 1933. The objection petition of the Natal Indian Congress was then presented and taken into consideration by the Council. The Congress pointed out that the two clauses embodied the principle of segregation and were therefore objectionable in principle. It was also explained to the Council that the provisions can easily be evaded by the formation of companies since in law a company has no "class". After some discussion



the two offending clauses were deleted.

Assisted Emigration.— The total number of assisted emigrants during the year was 1,493 (Indian born 776 and colonial born 717) as compared with 2,688 in 1932, of these male adults over 16 years of age numbered 718. The decrease is substantial and it is remarked that the figures reflect to a small extent improvement in trade and living conditions. The decrease is partly due to the fact that the number of those who are willing to go is diminishing.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for 1930 is reviewed at pages 76-81 of our August 1931 report, that for 1931 at pages 72-75 of our September 1932 report and that for 1932 at pages 69-75 of our August 1933 report).