

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Industrial and Labour Developments in March, 1947.

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

Contents.

Pages.

1. NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.-

Government of India :

- ✓ (a) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, gazetted: Provision for Reference of Disputes to Boards, Courts or Tribunals, and Compulsory Conciliation in Public Utility Services. 1
- *X (b) Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947 gazetted: Obligation to provide Canteens. 1
- *X (c) Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1947, introduced in Central Assembly on 20-3-1947: Proceeds from Enhanced Cess to be utilised for Housing, Dispensary Services, etc. 2
- * (d) Draft Amendments to Factories Act, 1934: Non-Seasonal Factories in Chief Commissioner's Provinces to furnish Information on Average Daily Number of Workers employed, etc.

Bengal:

*X The Bengal Commercial Firms Bill, 1947, gazetted: 38-hour Week, Fixed salary and Security of Service and Provision for Leave and Provident Fund.

Madras :

Government Industrial Establishments exempted from Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

2. SOCIAL POLICY.-

- *X (a) Ceylon Public Servants and Right to join Trade Unions: Pending Final Decision Permission Withheld.
- *X ✓ (b) Bombay Government to appoint Labour Advisory Board.
- *X ✓ (c) Reconstitution of Sind Labour Advisory Board: Mercantile Bodies, Trade Unions, Railways, etc. represented.
- *X ✓ (d) Bengal Government to set up Labour Advisory Board.
- *X ✓ (e) Government of India's Labour Policy: Industrial Committees being set up.
- *X ✓ (f) Industrial Labour Disputes Court for U.P.: Labour Minister's statement on Labour Policy.

Contents.

Pages.

3. CONDITIONS OF WORK.-

Wages :

Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in Assam during 1945.

11

Forced Labour :

"Begar" abolished in Jodhpur State.

12

Industrial Disputes :

- (a) Industrial Disputes in British India during (a) December, 1946 and (b) 1946 (January-December).
- (b) Industrial Disputes in British India in 1945.

15-14
14-15

Welfare :

Welfare of Colliery Labour: 50,000 Houses, Hospitals, etc., to be built for Miners.

16

General :

- (a) Labour Conditions in Indian Mines in 1944: Report of the Chief Inspector. 17-20
- (b) Conditions of Work of Central P.W.D. Labour: Extension of Maternity Benefit, Workmen's Compensation and Health and Safety Provisions of Factory Act under consideration. 21
- (c) Working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Assam during 1945. 21-22
- (d) Dearness, Maternity and Sickness Allowances for Tea Plantation Labour: Recommendations of Indian Tea Association. 22-23
- (e) The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1947, gazetted: Settlement of Fisheries, Provisions for Fair Rent, and Prevention of Illegal Exactions. 23-24
- (f) Tripartite Industrial Committee on Coal-mining to be set up: Social and Working Conditions of Coal-miners to be improved. 24

4. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.-

- (a) Motor Transport in Madras Province to be Nationalised: Arrangements for Transition Period. 25
- (b) Lack of Raw Material, Fuel and Man-Power and Labour unrest: Conditions in Jute Industry during 1946 reviewed at Annual Meeting of Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, 21-2-1947. 26-27
- (c) Protection for Steel and Paper Industries withdrawn: Government of India's decision on Tariff Board's Recommendations. 28
- (d) Partial Nationalisation of Industries in Madras: Graded Control of Defence and Key Industries and Public Utilities. 29
- (e) Nationalisation of Passenger Transport Services in Calcutta City: Bengal Government's Scheme. 29
- (f) Research Institute for Indian Railways: Proposed for increasing Economy and Efficiency in Administration of Railways. 30
- (g) Improvement of Indian Wool Industry: Wool Survey Mission's Suggestions. 30

Contents.

	<u>Pages.</u>
4. <u>ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (Continued).</u> --	
(h) Cement Production in India to be doubled: 6 Million Ton mark by 1952.	31
(i) Central Budget 1947-48: Criticism by Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	31-32
<u>Textile Industry:</u>	
Progress of the Indian Cotton Textile Industry in 1945-46: Annual statement of the Bombay Mill Owners' Association.	33-34
5. <u>SOCIAL INSURANCE.</u> --	
(a) Working of the Maternity Benefit Act, in 1945 in Bombay Province.	35
(b) Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act during 1945.	35
(c) Working of the Central Provinces and Berar Maternity Benefit Act, during 1945.	36
(d) Working of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act during 1945.	36
6. <u>AGRICULTURE.</u> --	
(a) Movement for Agrarian Reform in Bengal: Direct Action by Peasants.	37-38
(b) Sindri Fertiliser Factory: Full Production to be reached by 1949.	39
(c) Land Reform in Patiala State: Tenants to own Two-Thirds of Land held under Occupancy Rights.	39
7. <u>NAVIGATION.</u> --	
(a) Conditions of Service of Indian Seamen: Maritime Union of India urges Government of India to appoint Committee of Inquiry.	40
(b) 3 out of 13 I.L. Maritime Conventions ratified by India: Question in Central Legislative Assembly.	40
(c) India and Seattle Maritime Conventions: Question in Central Legislative Assembly.	41
8. <u>PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.</u> --	
(a) Corruption and Bribery among Government officials: Bill for Prevention adopted by Central Assembly.	42
(b) Higher Pay for Medical Officers in Hyderabad.	42
(c) Increased pay for Bengal Primary Teachers: Trained Teachers to receive Rs. 27/- Pay and Rs. 5-8-0 Allowances per month.	45
(d) Pay of Police Constables in Madras to be raised.	45
9. <u>NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.</u> --	
(a) Conditions of Life and Work of India's 25 Million Aboriginals: Five-Year Scheme of Anthropological Survey.	44
(b) Living Conditions of Aboriginals of Bombay: Provincial Congress Committee recommends redistribution of land, Grant of Occupancy Rights, Abolition of Forced Labour, etc.	44-45

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
10. <u>LIVING CONDITIONS.-</u> <u>Nutrition:</u> India to experiment on Manufacture of Milk Powder: Scheme approved by Standing Finance Committee of Central Legislature.	46
11. <u>ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.-</u> <u>Employers' Organisations:</u> (a) 20th Annual Session of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, 3 and 4-3-1947. (b) Wage Increase conditioned by Industry's ability to pay: Annual Meeting of Indian Mines Association, Calcutta, 28-3-1947.	47-53 54-55
12. <u>SOCIAL CONDITIONS.-</u> (a) Partial Prohibition to be Introduced in Orissa from 1-4-1947. (b) Move for a Uniform Code of Hindu Law: Hindu Law Committee Report favouring greater Sex Equality Submitted. (c) The Central Provinces and Berar Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Bill, 1947: Introduced in C.P. Assembly, 24-3-1947.	56 56-57 57
13. <u>PUBLIC HEALTH.-</u> (a) Harnessing Indigenous Medical Systems for betterment of Rural Health: Madras Government's Schemes for cheap Village Medical Services. (b) 10-Year Medical Relief Plan for Kashmir: One Medical Institution for every 20,000 of Population. (c) Enquiry into Systems of Indian Medicine: U.P. Government set up Committee. (d) Improvement of Rural Public Health in U.P.: Subsidy Scheme for Doctors in Rural Areas.	58 58 59 59
14. <u>EDUCATION.-</u> The Sind Primary Education Bill, 1947, gazetted: Provisions for Introduction of Compulsory Primary Education.	60
15. <u>TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.-</u> <u>Wages:</u> Average Earnings of Factory Workers in British India during 1945: Approximately 1.6 per cent Increase over 1944 Figure. <u>Control Measures:</u> Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, gazetted. <u>Textile Industry:</u> Expansion of Textile Industry: Import licence for 2.85 Million Spindles issued.	61-62 63 64

Contents.

Pages.

15. TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE (Continued).--

Food:

Measures to augment Food Production: Madras Government's New Well-Subsidy Schemes.

65

Demobilisation and Resettlement:

(a) Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen: Co-operative Metal Works started by Madras Government.

65

(b) Resettlement of Ex-Bavin Boys: Joint Scheme to be worked out by the Resettlement and Civil Aviation Directorates.

66

(c) Education of Ex-Servicemen's Children in Madras: Central Government's grant of Rs. 18.6 Million.

66

Post-War Reconstruction:

(a) Labour in Reconstruction Planning in India: Advisory Planning Board's Recommendations.

67-68

(b) Institute of Jute Technology in Calcutta University: Cost to be borne by Indian Jute Mills Association.

68

(c) Fisheries Research: Standing Finance Committee approves Development Scheme.

68

(d) Reservation of Coastal Shipping for Indian Bottoms: Report of Reconstruction Policy Committee on Shipping.

69-70

(e) Managerial and Supervisory Staff of Industrial Establishments: Central Government's Scheme for Foreign Training.

70-71

(f) Production of Essential Commodities: Steps taken for increasing output.

71-72

(g) Impact of War and Reconstruction Needs of Far East Countries: Economic Commission for Asia and Far East to be set up.

72-73

16. GENERAL.--

(a) 500,000 Receivers by 1951: 8-Year Plan for Development of Broadcasting.

74

(b) International Conference on Trade and Employment, Geneva, 10-4-1947: Personnel of Indian Delegation.

75

(c) First Session of Asian Relations Conference, New Delhi, 23-5-1947 to 2-4-1947.

75-82

17. LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE DURING MARCH, 1947.

83-84.

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India :

Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, gazetted:
Provision for Reference of Disputes to
Boards, Courts or Tribunals, and Compulsory
Conciliation in Public Utility Services.

✓ The ~~Industrial Disputes~~ Industrial Disputes Bill, 1946, (vide pages 2-4 of the report of this Office for February, 1946) received the assent of the Governor General on 17-3-1947, and has been gazetted as the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Act No. XIV of 1947). The Act provides for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and empowers the Government to enforce compulsory conciliation in disputes involving public utility services.

The Trade Disputes Act, 1929 has been repealed and the new Act came into force on 1-4-1947.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 17-3-1947, pages 266-280).

Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947 gazetted:
Obligation to provide Canteens.

The Factories (second) Amendment Bill, 1946, (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for February, 1947), received the assent of the Governor General on 11-3-1947 and has been gazetted as the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947 (Act No. V of 1947). The Act empowers Provincial Governments to make rules for the provision of canteens in specified factories wherein more than 250 workers are ordinarily employed.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 11-3-1947, page 234).

2

Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1947, introduced
in Central Assembly on 20-3-1947: Proceeds from
Enhanced Cess to be utilised for Housing, Dispensary
Services, etc.

On 20-3-1947, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly, the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Bill, 1947, to make better provision for financing measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coal-mining industry, ~~and for such purposes~~ including housing and the provision of dispensary services, and for such purposes to impose a cess and constitute a fund. The Bill provides for the raising of the limit of the cess on all despatches of coal and coke to Re. -/8/- per ton. It is not, however, intended to levy this maximum rate forthwith, and during the year 1947-48, it is not proposed to levy a total cess in excess of Re. -/6/- per ton. Therefore, with the further progress in the housing scheme, rates will have to be increased gradually and up to the maximum of Re. -/8/- .

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, points out that the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance promulgated in 1944 provides for the levy of an excise duty of a rate not exceeding Re. -/4/- per ton of coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India. The proceeds making up the Fund are earmarked exclusively for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coalmining industry. The present housing conditions in the coalfields are extremely unsatisfactory. No other scheme of welfare can be given higher 'priority'. Government do not consider that the housing problem can be tackled piecemeal. In their opinion a target figure of 50,000 houses for miners should be the aim of the housing scheme in the coalfields and that provision should be made for 15,000 houses to be completed before the end of the next financial year. Careful calculations have been made in the light of prevalent costs and it is reckoned that by levy of a cess at ~~Re. -/5/4~~ Re. -/3/4 per ton of coal and coke and a subsidy of Rs. 400 per house from the general revenues, adequate funds will be forthcoming for financing a comprehensive housing scheme of 50,000 houses. The cost of construction is expected to average Rs. 2,500 per house for which the economic rent may be as high as about Rs. 14/- a month. Miners have, by tradition, occupied quarters, where provided, rent-free and it is not, at present, intended to levy a rent or at any rate more than a nominal rent from the occupants. Some provision is, therefore, necessary in order to ensure that the houses constructed by the Fund are occupied only by genuine and steady workers and that those who cease to be so, do not continue to occupy the houses rent-free or on nominal rent. The details regarding these will be discussed with representatives of employers and workers who will be associated with the administration of the Housing Fund. But as a precautionary measure provision has been made in the Bill for summary recovery of rent at full rates in addition to the liability under the ordinary law, for eviction.

There are various other welfare measures like establishment of hospitals, anti-malarial measures, public health and sanitation, adult education propaganda, anti-tuberculosis, etc., which will absorb, when all the schemes are in final form, practically the whole of the present cess of Re. -/4/- per ton. Therefore, an increase in this limit is urgently required to provide funds for the housing scheme. The Bill provides that when the rate of Cess reaches the maximum of Re. -/8/- per ton not less than Re. -/5/4 thereof will be earmarked to a separate housing fund. Colliery owners have in many cases provided dispensary

services for the benefit of the miners employed by them and the employers' responsibility in this direction is well recognised. But with the establishment of Central ~~and~~ Regional Hospitals by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund a tendency is likely to arise by which the responsibility for providing dispensary services will be shifted on to the Fund in the absence of any statutory provision requiring the employer to provide such facilities. A provision has, therefore, been made in the Bill by which employers who provide dispensary services up to standards prescribed will be given ~~the~~ grants-in-aid not exceeding ~~the amount~~ an amount equivalent to a Cess of 8 pies per ton in respect of coal or coke despatches from the respective colliery or the amount actually spent by the employer whichever is less. Where employers have not provided adequate dispensary services, the Fund will itself provide them and to ~~meet~~ meet this expenditure as well as the costs of grants-in-aid to the employers, a further levy of a cess equivalent to 8 pies per ton is necessary. This is estimated to yield approximately Rs. 900,000 a year which should ensure reasonably efficient dispensary services, the existing Cess will provide funds in addition for the larger hospital schemes.

The Bill repeals the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance of 1944.

(The Gazette of India, 29-3-1947, Part V, pages 311-318).

Draft Amendments to Factories Act, 1934: *
Non-Seasonal Factories in Chief Commissioner's
Provinces to furnish Information on Average
Daily Number of workers employed, etc.

The Government of India has published the draft of certain amendments which it proposes to make, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 77 of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Department of Industries and Labour Notification No. L.3050 dated 8-8-1935, in its application to Chief Commissioner's Provinces. Under the proposed amendment, managers of non-seasonal factories are required to furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories halfyearly returns showing the number of days worked during the half year and the average number of men and women, male and female adolescents, and boys and girls employed daily.

It is pointed out that the average daily number should be calculated by dividing the aggregate number of attendances on working days by the number of working days during the half year. In reckoning attendances, attendances by temporary as well as permanent employees should be counted, and all employees should be included, whether they are employed directly or under contractors. Attendances on separate shifts (e.g. night and day shifts) should be counted separately. Days on which the factory was closed, for whatever cause, and days on which the manufacturing processes were not carried on should not be treated as working days.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 22-6-1947.

(Notification No.L-835 dated 17-3-1947, of the Department of Labour: The Gazette of India, dated 22-3-1947, Part I-Sec.1, pages 390-391).

Bengal:

4

X X

The Bengal Commercial Firms Bill, 1947, gazetted:
38-hour week, fixed, salary and security of service
and provision for leave and Provident Fund .

The Government of Bengal gazetted on 20-3-1947, the Bengal Commercial Firms Bill 1947. The Bill seeks ~~its~~ to regulate ~~payment~~ of salary or wages, security of service, hours of work, leave, ~~and~~ holidays, provident fund, profit bonus, medical relief and other terms of persons employed in commercial or mercantile firms.

The following are the main provisions of the bill :

Scope.- "Commercial or mercantile firms" means any establishment of industrial or commercial undertaking, an insurance company, bank, broker's office or exchange, joint-stock company, an establishment in which there is conducted the business of advertising, of publication of newsprint and magazines, commission, forwarding or commercial agency, a clerical department of a factory or such other firm or class thereof as the Provincial Government may, by notification, declare ~~to be~~ ~~as~~ to be a commercial or mercantile firm for the purposes of this Act, but does not include a firm, office or establishment employing less than 20 persons. The offices of the Central and Provincial Governments, publicity concerns like tramways, conservancy and sanitation systems, and shops covered by the Bengal Shops and Establishment Act, 1940, ~~are also~~ ~~included~~.

Salary.- After a maximum period of probat^{ion} of six months, each employee shall be given a letter of confirmation of appointment in writing stating the amount of monthly salary or wages. Each employer shall in writing notify to the Labour Commissioner the minimum basic monthly salary or wages and the grade of salary he will pay to any class of employee of his firm and no change in the rate of basic salary and grade of pay shall be allowed to be made without three months' previous notice being given to the employee and the Labour Commissioner.

Payment of salary.- All salaries shall be paid within the first five working days, of the month immediately succeeding the month in respect of which such salaries or wages are payable.

Security of Service.- All dismissals shall be only with a month's notice. A person employed in a firm for more than three years ~~or~~ shall ~~be~~ be entitled to receive two months' pay for every year of service in the event of dismissal or discharge by his employer, except in cases of dishonesty and gross misconduct.

Hours of Work.- Maximum 7 hours a day and 38 hours a week, with exceptions for stock-taking, etc.

Overtime.- Overtime shall be paid at the rate of ~~and~~ double the ordinary rates.

Leave.- All employes are to get after 12 months of continuous service (a) 30 days annual leave on full pay, (b) 10 days casual leave, and (c) 15 days medical leave; annual leave may be accumulated up to 90 days.

Holidays.- One and a half days in each week, in addition to public holidays.

5

Other amenities.- The bill also makes provision for provident fund, grant of bonus from profits and medical relief.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, it is pointed out that employees of commercial and mercantile firms (whose ^{their} numerical strength is estimated to exceed 300,000) do not enjoy the rights and privileges conferred upon manual workers by numerous labour legislations enacted in India during the last two or three decades. The main object of ~~the~~ the Bill is to benefit the employees and the non-manual workers of commercial and mercantile firms, to ensure regular payment of salaries or wages, security of service, and also to prevent arbitrary or wrongful dismissal.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 20-3-1947,
Part IV A, pages 9 to 13).

Madras:

Government Industrial Establishments exempted from
Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

In ~~exercise~~ exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Governor of Madras has exempted all industrial establishments in Madras under the control of the Provincial Government from all the provisions of the said Act.

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, requires employers in industrial establishments formally to define conditions of employment under them (vide pages 4 and 5 of this office's April 1946 report).

(G.O. Ms.No. 843, Development, dated 28-2-1947:
Fort St. George Gazette, dated 11-3-1947; part I,
page 166).

6

SOCIAL POLICY.

*
X
Ceylon Public Servants and Right to join Trade Unions:
Pending Final Decision Permission Withheld.

The widespread strikes, among certain categories of public servants employed in some of the public services of Ceylon classed as essential to the life of community, which occurred in October 1946 have raised in a practical form the question to what extent should trade unionism be permitted among public servants. The position taken on the subject by the Ceylon Government, pending a final decision, has been set forth in a memorandum:

X
"Trade Unionism among Public Servants in Ceylon" submitted in December 1944 by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Ceylon.*

The more important points brought out in the memorandum are given below:

Public Servants and Right to form or join Trade Unions:
Only casual Daily-paid Labour Permitted.- The position in Ceylon in regard to public servants forming or joining the only form of lawful trade union known to Ceylon law, namely, a registered trade union, is that all public servants are forbidden to do so except certain daily paid employees who are defined as follows: "daily paid employees" means labourers who are casually employed and paid daily or at the conclusion of a particular task or at intervals other than daily intervals during a particular task; it does not include either labourers who are regularly employed and paid at a daily or hourly rate and on whom rests an obligation to present themselves regularly for work or labourers who have been so employed and paid for a period of two years and on whom there is no obligation to present themselves regularly for work."

Regular Daily-paid Labour not Permitted.- The definition quoted is an amendment of the definition previously existing and excludes from the category of daily paid employees who are permitted to join trade unions a category of industrial workers, both skilled and unskilled, who had previously been permitted to do so, namely, workers who are regularly employed at a daily rate of pay and either have qualified, or are in the process of qualifying, for certain benefits under the Pension ^{Minute}.

* Ceylon: Sessional Paper VI-1947: Memorandum by the Chief Secretary on Trade Unionism among Public Servants in Ceylon, February, 1947: To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo; price 10 cents, Pages 8, 1947.

Existing Exceptions.- Until a short time ago the opinion of the Government legal advisors was that the Registrar of Trade Unions could not refuse registration of an association of public servants who wished to register as a trade union. As a consequence of this opinion, six trade unions representing public servants who are not daily paid employees as defined above have been, and remain, registered under the Trade Union Ordinance. (These consist of two railway workers' unions and one union each of 'Public Works Department factory workers, post and telegraph workers, port commission workers, and leather factory workers; these six unions were registered between 1937 and 1945).

No Fresh Registrations pending Final Decision by Government.- The legal ~~opinion~~ opinion permitting registration of trade unions of Government servants has however been recently reversed and the Registrar will, in future, ask the Chief Secretary whether he agrees to the registration of a recognised public service association as a trade union and, until Government finally makes a decision on the question to what extent trade unionism should be permitted among public servants, the Chief Secretary will withhold consent and registration will be refused.

Giving the reasons for this interim decision, the memorandum compares and contrasts the trade union movements of Ceylon and the United Kingdom and observes:

Trade unionism is in its infancy in Ceylon: it is not possible, in its short existence, for it to have established the traditions as regards the authority of its leaders and the discipline of its members which were established so long ago in the trade unions movement in the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, the workers created the unions, ran them and, when they were well established, produced the trade union politicians: in Ceylon the process of development which is still ~~embryonic~~ embryonic has certainly been reversed. It is therefore not too harsh a criticism to say that the politicians who run them in Ceylon get at least as much benefit out of the unions as the members. Further, in Ceylon, as yet there are no conventions as to proper trade union practice, e.g., with regard to strike notices. The probability of a strike having a political as well as an industrial object is, therefore, much greater in Ceylon than in the United Kingdom and the significance of the political fund ceases to be indential in the two countries.

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Bombay Government to appoint Labour Advisory Board.

The Government of Bombay have decided to appoint a Provincial Labour Advisory Board to advise them on matters affecting the interests of labour and, in particular, on relations between employers and employees. The Minister for Labour will be the Chairman of the Board and the Deputy Secretary to Government, Political and Services Department (Labour) will be the Secretary. Besides officials, consumers and labour, industry and commerce will be represented on the Board.

(The Times of India, 7-3-1947).

X

Reconstitution of Sind Labour Advisory Board:
Mercantile Bodies, Trade Unions, Railways, etc.
Represented.

~~The~~
To bring about healthy relations between labour and employers and also to advise them on the proposed Industrial Relations Bill (vide pages 4-5 of the report of this Office for December, 1946), the Government of Sind have reconstituted the advisory board for labour. The Board includes representatives of local mercantile bodies, trade unions, Karachi Port Trust and the railways. The board will function for a period of two years.

(The Times of India, 1-3-1947).

X

Bengal Government to set up Labour Advisory Board.

The Government of Bengal propose to set up a Labour Advisory Board to advise them in settling industrial disputes. Explaining the need for such an organisation to a conference of employers and workers held at Calcutta during the last week of February, 1947, the Labour Minister, Government of Bengal, said that in the near future Provinces were likely to assume full responsibility, at least so far as legislative and administrative ~~and~~ functions regarding labour were concerned. It was, therefore, proper that without further loss of time an organisation representing employers, employees and the state should be formed for the purpose of joint consultations.

The proposal was accepted by the Conference and a sub-Committee was appointed to draft the constitution of the proposed board.

(The vanguard, 1-3-1947).

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Government of India's Labour Policy: Industrial
Committees being set up.

During the discussion on the cut motion on the Government of India's Labour policy moved by Mr. H.M. Joshi (nominated, labour) in the Central Legislative Assembly on 10-3-1947, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, said that one of the major objectives of Government's policy would be to secure the highest practicable standard of living for the workers. According to him, no industry which could not afford to pay a living wage to its workers had a right to survive, and he assured the working classes that he would work with that objective in view. He explained in detail the Government of India's five-year plan to improve the condition of all categories of workers (vide pages 11-18 of the report of this Office for October, 1946).

Government's Wage Policy.- Dealing with wage policy, he pointed out that it was Government's intention to take up, in the first instance, sweated industries and to fix minimum wages for workers in such industries. As regards organised industries, he indicated that it was proposed to promote fair wage agreements and if necessary to have legislation ~~of occupational terms and wages~~ to that effect. Meanwhile, work was proceeding in the standardisation of occupational terms and wages in major industries and also in the determination of the differentials in wages as between various organisations in industry.

In the case of plantation workers, a conference would be held after a quick enquiry into the requirements of the workers was finished and, pending that enquiry, employers in Assam and Bengal tea gardens had already agreed to the grant of an ad hoc increase of dearness allowance equivalent to 25 per cent of the basic wages. It was necessary, to examine the question of wage adjustments, not merely for the benefit of industrial workers, but also of the vast mass of workers on land. As an attempt to solve this problem, which could not be tackled by the device of industrial committees, the Labour Department had circulated a questionnaire to all provincial and a number of state governments and certain select economists. After the replies were received, the questionnaire would be finalised and the enquiry would start. The Government might, if necessary, consider the question of introducing legislation to set up Wage Boards with statutory powers to fix wages.

Industrial Committees being set up.- The Labour Member also referred to Government's decision to set up, on a tripartite basis, Industrial Committees for industries like coal, cotton textiles, jutes and hide and leather. He also referred to the Health Insurance Bill, already introduced in the Assembly, and a comprehensive amendment of the Factories Act to be shortly introduced, and said that an officer had already been detailed to study questions relating to unemployment, old age and retirement pensions.

Answering Mr. Joshi's plea for the continuation of the Standing Labour Committee, the Labour Member pointed out that when the Tripartite Labour Conference was there and Government was going to have a number of Industrial Committees for various trades and industries, there was no necessity for the Standing Labour Committee. He felt that in respect of particular trades and industries, it was those persons who had specialised in them who would be more helpful in giving useful suggestions and good advice to Government.

10

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Industrial Labour Disputes Court for U.P.:
Labour Minister's statement on Labour Policy.

A statement of the U.P. Government's labour policy was made by Mr. Sampurnanand, Labour Minister, on 25-3-1947 in the U.P. Legislative Assembly, in the course of the debate of the U.P. Budget.

In reply to the criticisms of the U.P. Government's labour policy, the Labour Minister said that Government was doing its best to improve the lot of all three classes of labour—agricultural, industrial and commercial. The Interim Government at the Centre had already framed a Bill seeking to improve the lot of agricultural labour and, as soon as it was passed, the U.P. Government would fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers. A survey of agricultural wages in the province was already in progress. For commercial labour, the Government had sponsored the Shop Assistants Bill which had already come before the U.P. Assembly. Industrial labour, however, presented a complex problem. While it was true that the labour problem could be satisfactorily solved only by the socialization of industries, still within the present limitations, the Government was doing its best to ameliorate the conditions of labour and had taken a number of measures with this end in view. Capitalists and employers were at times unreasonable and used obstructionist methods; but they were few in number and Government could deal with them effectively. But workers were much larger in number and, when they became unreasonable, they were ~~difficult~~ difficult to control. Workers in the U.P. could not be altogether absolved from blame and labour leaders, instead of dissuading them, supported their unreasonable demands. However, Government had every intention of securing for labour its dues and were awaiting the decision of the Bakhale Labour Inquiry Committee before they arrived at any decision. Meanwhile, Government proposed to set up an Industrial Labour Dispute Court with a High Court judge as chairman, for settlement of labour disputes.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-3-1947).

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Wages.

Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in Assam during 1945.

The following information on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in Assam during 1945, is taken from the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Assam on the Working of the Factories Act. During 1945 the trend of wages in Assam continued to be on the upgrade. The average number of persons employed daily in the factories covered by the Payment of Wages Act was 56,399 as against 53,789 in 1944 and the total wages paid, including certain deductions, was Rs. 12,144,144-4-0 as against Rs. 10,433,424-12-0 in 1944. A sum of Rs. 55-10-0 was deducted as fines in 47 cases and Rs. 1,652-5-0 as damage or loss of goods in 394 cases. The wages roughly come to Rs. 215 per capita per annum in 1945 as compared with Rs. 194 per capita per annum in 1944 which represents a rise of about 10.8 per cent over 1944 average.

The report points out that ~~whereas~~ so far as tea factories were concerned, trade associations like the Indian Tea Association see that Government ~~and~~ Acts and rules are observed by all the members, but there is no trade association amongst rice and oil mill owners in Assam. According to the report the administration of the Payment of Wages Act and Rules has always been very difficult in rice and oil mill factories.

(Report on the Working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Assam, for the year 1945, by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Assam).

12

Forced Labour.

"Begar" abolished in Jodhpur State.

The Government of Jodhpur has abolished 'begar' or forced labour throughout the State. The repeal of the Marwar Labour-Transport and Supplies Regulation of 1944 has also been ordered by the ~~State~~ Government. Under the provisions of this Regulation, it was obligatory on the part of certain classes of villagers to ~~perform~~ perform forced labour. The villagers were also liable to heavy punishment if they did not make their camels and bullock-carts available to the jagirdars (nobles) when required.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-3-1947).

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British ^{India} during (a) December, 1946 and (b) 1946 (January-December).

According to statistics published in the February, 1947, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette, the total number of ~~stoppages~~ stoppages in British India during December, 1946, was 101 (including 29 in progress at the end of the month); the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost were 113,510 (excluding figures for 5 stoppages) and 724,314 (excluding figures for 6 stoppages) respectively. Results in respect of 10 cases are not known; of the ~~remaining~~ remainder, 19 were successful, 12 partially successful, 24 unsuccessful and 7 indefinite. As compared with the previous month, there was a decrease in the number of stoppages, number of workers involved, and man-days lost. The following table gives the figures for 1946 (January-December):-

Month and year	No. of stoppages in which wages were the principal cause.	No. of stoppages in which wages were the principal cause.	No. of workers involved.	Man-days lost.	Successful.	Partially successful.	Unsuccessful.
Dec. 45	113	48	143,536	1,027,706	13	26	38
Jan. 46	135	60	196,900	1,569,080	10	21	69
Feb. 46	130	46	144,803	403,956	10	21	53
Mar. 46	160	60	238,742	1,036,875	6	28	55
Apr. 46	185	74	313,083	1,374,432	23	29	74
May, 46	180	76	246,381	1,241,703	27	24	64
Jun. 46	157	61	169,589	872,931	24	20	41
Jul. 46	205	77	266,455	1,127,832	29	29	65
Aug. 46	194	89	152,227	646,627	33	30	62
Sep. 46	120	55	119,282	688,870	4	15	44
Oct. 46	115	41	165,948	794,604	12	17	43
Nov. 46	126	35	166,969	1,745,014	13	13	38
Dec. 46	101	35	113,510	724,314	19	12	24
	(a)	(b)	(b)	(c)			

Notes: (a) Results are not known in 10 cases and causes not known in 4 cases.
 (b) Does not include figures for 5 stoppages.
 (c) Does not include figures for 6 stoppages.

Classification by Industries and Provinces.- The table below gives the analysis of stoppages by industries and Provinces:-

Industry.	Ajmer- Her- wara	Assam	Ben- gal	Bihar	Bom- bay	C.P. & Berar	Madras	Sind	Total
Cotton									
Woolen and Silk.....	8	..	7	..	14	..	1	..	30
Jute.....	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	4
Railways....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Engineering..	..	..	16	..	2	..	..	..	18
Mines.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous.	2	1	25	1	15	1	2	1	46
Total.	11	1	49	2	30	1	5	2	101

Causes and results of disputes.— In 56 percent of the stoppages the question of wages and/or dearness allowance was the main cause of dispute. The remaining stoppages were due to causes relating to bonus, hours of work, reinstatement of dismissed personnel, recognition of unions, cut in rations and other causes. Out of the stoppages which ended during the month and of which the results are known, 50 per cent representing 65 per cent of the workpeople involved, resulted in complete or partial success for the workers, while in 39 per cent of the cases representing 15 per cent of the workpeople involved, the workers were wholly unsuccessful.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

Industrial Disputes in British India in 1945.

Number of Disputes.— In 1945 there were 820 industrial disputes in British India, excluding those in the Punjab about which statistics for the year are not available. At the beginning of the year, there were 15 disputes in progress, five in Bengal, 4 in Bombay, 2 in the C.P. and Berar and 1 each in Madras and Bihar. During the year 1945, 807 fresh disputes arose making a total of 820. Of these, 795 ended during the year and 25 were in progress at the end of year.

Provincial Distribution.— The highest number of disputes was in Bombay, being 510, followed by 217 in Bengal and 102 in the C.P. and Berar. These three provinces together accounted for more than 75 per cent of the total number of disputes. Although the ~~largest~~ largest number of disputes was in Bombay, the highest number of man-days lost was in Bengal. Among the major industrial provinces, the Madras was comparatively free from industrial unrest.

Workers involved - 747,530: Man-Days Lost - Over 4 Million.- The 820 disputes involved 747,530 workers and resulted in a total loss of 4,054,499 man-days to industry. In the previous year, 1944, the number of stoppages in progress was 658 involving 550,015 workers and resulting in a loss of 3,447,308 man-days. Thus there was an increase of 25 per cent in the number of disputes and of 17.6 per cent in the man-days lost as compared with the previous year.

Distribution by Industries.- A classification of disputes ^{by industries} shows that among the major industries, cotton, wool and silk textiles and engineering workshops were affected most by the industrial unrest. It is noteworthy that there were only 4 disputes in mines, the number of man-days lost being 9,430 only.

Causes of Disputes.- An analysis of the demands shows that about 57.3 per cent of the disputes were due to causes relating to wages (including allowances) and payment of bonus.

Results.- The workers were completely successful in 154 disputes ~~or 16.9 per cent of the total~~, while in 155 cases or 19.5 per cent of the total, they were only partially successful. In 370 cases or 46.6 per cent of the total they were entirely unsuccessful.

A clear increase in the number of fresh disputes was observed after September 1945. It may be noticed that this turning point approximately coincides with the end of the war with Japan.

(The National Call, 22-3-1947).

Welfare.

Welfare of Colliery labour: 50,000 Houses, Hospitals, etc., to be built for Miners.

Recently the Government of India has decided to take a number of measures for the welfare of colliery labour. In the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, the Government has the necessary machinery for devising and enforcing measures for the welfare of workers employed in coal mines. The core of the present scheme is the construction of spread over a period of 5 years, of 50,000 houses for coal-miners in the colliery areas of Bihar and Bengal. (A brief reference to this scheme was made at page 23 of the report of this Office for November, 1946). These houses will be distributed among townships of 5,000 dwellings each. Their layout has been so planned as to afford urban amenities such as schools, dispensaries and recreation centres to all of them. Each house will have two rooms and a verandah, enjoying adequate ventilation, water supply and privacy. These houses will be given ~~free~~ free to the workers, nor will the employers pay directly for them. The scheme will be financed by the Coal Mining Welfare Fund, which will substantially be increased by enhancing the coal cess from 4 annas by 2 annas in the beginning and by another 2 annas later to 8 annas, (vide page 2-3 of this Report).

The Government has also decided to contribute 20 per cent of the cost of the first 11,000 houses, subject to a maximum of Rs. 400 per house. So long as this subsidy is available it is expected that an increase of 2 annas per ton in the cess will be sufficient to run the scheme but ultimately the cess will have to be increased to 8 annas per ton. Construction has already begun in the Jharia coal-fields (Bihar) and the Raniganj area (Bengal), where townships each with an initial strength of 500 houses are arising. It is proposed to complete 15,000 houses by the end of the next financial year. The ultimate plan is to build in each township 1,000 units, each with 5 houses. These units, which will share certain conveniences in common, will form concentric rings round a centre, thereby affording space and scope for the growth of all such urban amenities, as public dispensaries, recreation centres and schools.

Other features of the welfare scheme relate to the protection of the health of coal miners and provision of welfare facilities, especially for women workers. While the anti malarial campaign in the coal fields will continue, steps have also been taken to survey the incidence of tuberculosis on the workers. Regional hospitals will be established at Dhanbad, Tisra, Katra, Chara and Searsole. Eight pies out of the increase of 2 annas per ton in the cess will be earmarked to finance medical and health services in the coal mining areas. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee has also decided to start 40 Demonstration Centres which will carry on various welfare activities for women workers. These will include medical relief, general education, vocational training, domestic science, social gatherings, cinema shows, etc.

(The Eastern Economist, 28-5-1947;
The Statesman, dated 17-5-1947).

17

General.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines in 1944:
Report of the Chief Inspectors.

Number of Persons Employed.- During 1944, the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act (The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States) was 364,948, as compared with 349,361 in the previous year. The increase was 15,587 persons, or 4.46 per cent. Of these persons 154,471 worked underground, 94,866 in open workings and 115,611 on the surface. The number of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

	<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Underground.....	135,150	155,455	19,321	7,111
In open workings.....	60,241	56,636	34,625	32,547
Surface.....	79,860	66,867	35,751	32,745
Total.	275,251	276,958	89,697	72,403

Distribution of Workers: Coal Mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 255,364, which is 42,268 more than the number employed in 1943. Of these persons 48,429 were males employed in cutting coal, 22,254 were males employed as loaders of coal and 61,055 were women. On a selected day in February, 1945, 361,453 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 106,089 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1944. (The employment returns for February, 1945, are included in the 1944 report as they would be more than a year out of date if held over till the submission of the report for 1945).

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 109,584 which is 26,681 less than the number employed in 1943; of these, 80,942 were men and 28,642 women.

Average output of Coal per person.- During 1944 there was a general decrease in the ~~per~~ per capita output of coal. The report points out that during 1944 there was a considerable increase in surface workers. This increase was primarily due to building programmes, which were held in abeyance during the early part of the war period being undertaken in ~~1943~~ 1944. As there was so much

* Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st ~~Mar~~ Dec. 1944: Indian Mines Act, 1923; ~~Printed~~ Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi; Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta; Price Rs.3 as 8 or 5s.6d.; Pages 174.

extraneous ~~part of the work~~ ^{work} which had really ~~not~~ no direct connection with local production, it is considered that the most equitable comparison per capita output would be to ~~the~~ give the output for coal-cutters and loaders employed underground and in open workings and for the total number of persons employed underground and in open workings. The per capita output of coal cutters and loaders employed underground and in open workings (excluding those engaged in building work) declined in British India from 248 tons in 1943 to 226 tons in 1944.

Wages.- The report records that ^{there} was a general increase in the earnings of all classes of labour both in the coalfields as well as in other mineral fields in 1944 as compared to wages in 1943.

Accidents.- During the year 1944, ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 323 fatal accidents which is 55 more than in 1943, and 55 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 1,523 serious accidents, involving injuries to 1,568 persons, as compared with 1,476 serious accidents involving injuries to 1,509 persons in the previous year. The so-called "serious" accidents reported ~~to~~ are those in which an injury has been sustained which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss or injury to the sight or hearing or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days. 365 persons were killed and 1,624 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 56 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 37 more than in 1943. 311 persons killed were men and 54 were women. In one case 8 lives, in one case 6 lives, in three cases 4 lives, in two cases 3 lives and in seventeen cases 2 lives were lost. Out of the total of 1,624 persons seriously injured, 7 were permanently and totally disabled; 49 were permanently partially disabled, and 1,568 were only temporarily disabled. In addition, it was reported that 8,946 persons received minor injuries which necessitated ~~the~~ the enforced absence from work for a period exceeding forty-eight hours.

Causes of Accidents.- There was an increase in the death rate of men and women employed underground and in open workings and on the surface. The causes of the fatal accidents are classified as follows:-

	No. of fatal Accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure.....	274	85.09
Fault of deceased.....	21	6.52
Fault of fellow workmen.....	11	3.42
Fault of subordinate officials.	10	3.11
Fault of management.....	5	1.24
Faulty material.....	2	0.62
Total.	323	100.00

19

Health and Sanitation.

(a) The Asansol Mines Board of Health.— The Asansol Mines Board of Health held 15 ordinary and 8 special meetings during the year. The economic distress following on the high price level of foodstuffs and other essential commodities during the latter part of 1943 and the first half of 1944 led to under-nourishment and lowered power of resistance in the general population. There was higher incidence of fevers, including malaria, and also of respiratory diseases. The death rate was 20.1 per 1,000 in 1944, as compared with 16.1 per 1,000 in the preceding year. The infant mortality rate which ~~was~~ had steadily declined during the last five years to 76.5 per 1,000 births in 1943, rose to 115.3 per 1,000 births under the debilitating conditions of the year under report. Only the birth rate had a steadying effect—it was 16.5 as against 14.66 per 1,000 in 1943. Increased attention was paid to the prevention and control of cholera, leprosy and malaria. The Government of India took over the responsibility of malaria control in essentially colliery areas from mid-June of 1944 and a military malaria unit was placed in charge. The scheme, which is financed from the Coal Mines Welfare Fund, included within its operation 100 out of about 155 working collieries in the Mining Settlement. The Board of Health carried out during the latter half of 1944 rural anti-malaria work on a limited scale in the more endemic areas out of its own funds. As regards maternity and child welfare work, 11 maternity and child welfare centres were maintained by the Board and health visitors were gradually replaced by qualified lady doctors. There is a lady Superintendent for the supervision of the activities which include pre-natal visits to expectant mothers, assistance during confinement, post-natal supervision and infant care at morning clinics in welfare centres. Confinement wards have been recent additions to some of the welfare centres and are becoming increasingly popular with the miners' wives.

(b) The Jharia Mines Board of Health.— During the year, the Jharia Mines Board of Health held 12 ordinary and 9 special meetings. The estimated population of the Settlement was 579,931. The death rate was 15.53 per thousand, as compared with 17.69 ~~per~~ in the previous year. There was a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 80.52 per 1,000 in 1943 to 72.31 in 1944. The standard of health among the colliery population was at a higher level than that of the general population. The death rate among the colliery population was 8.55 per 1,000 during the year, as against 9.40 in 1943. The sickness rate among the colliery population was 5.01 per cent in January, the healthiest month of the year, and 14.23 per cent in August. There was a slight decrease in the birth rate from 18.36 per 1,000 in 1943 to 17.46 in 1944. The Maternity and ~~Child~~ Child Welfare work under the Jharia Mines Board of Health was carried on throughout the year. The Department of Labour, Government of India, took over the responsibility of malaria control in important colliery areas from about the middle of the year and a military unit was placed in charge. The scheme is financed from the Coal Mines Welfare Fund.

The Mines Act Maternity Benefit Act.— During the year 816 mines were visited in connection with Maternity Benefits for women workers employed at mines. The Inspecting Officers explained the requirements of the Act to some mine managements who were not fully acquainted with its requirements, and only in a few cases was there any objection to the payment of benefits to which it was considered women employees were entitled.

Labour Associations:

(a) The Indian Colliery Labour Union.- This Union is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926. The number of members on the roll was 9,107, consisting chiefly of miners, skilled and unskilled labourers at mines. The rates of subscription vary from three pias to four annas a month according to the class of worker. It is stated that the Union assisted members in wages and compensation disputes.

(b) The Indian Miners' Association.- This Association is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act. The membership at the end of the year was over 5,000. The members are chiefly miners and other menial workers of mines. The rate of subscription varies from one to four annas according to the scale of pay.

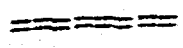
(c) The Tata's Collieries Labour Association.- This Association is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act. There were 1,600 subscribing members up to the end of March 1944. Subscriptions vary from one anna to one rupee eight annas per month according to the scale of wages. The Association conducted meetings and lantern lectures on general education, hygiene, temperance and maternity welfare schemes.

(d) The All-India Colliery Majdur Union.- This Union is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act. Its members consist of miners and skilled and unskilled labourers at mines. During the year the Union assisted members in compensation claims and wage disputes. In April 1944 Mr. V.B. Karnik, the President of the Union, went to England as the leader of the Indian Federation of Labour delegation to the World Trade Union Conference.

Inspections and Prosecutions.- During the year 2,743 separate inspections were made and 1,561 mines inspected, several of them being inspected more than once. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mine-owners, superintendents, and managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. Assistance and advice were given at a number of mines in the Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields in dealing with underground fires caused by spontaneous combustion. In the major coalfields, a large portion of the time of the Inspectors was occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwellings and roads by reason of the underground working of coal mines and in examining protective works against the risk of inundation. In addition a large number of inspections of the sanitary conditions at mines was made by medical officers as ex-officio Inspectors of Mines.

During the year 31 prosecutions were launched involving 54 persons of whom 35 were convicted. Cases against 4 persons were withdrawn while those against 9 persons were pending at the end of the year.

(The report for 1945 was reviewed at pages 25-26 of this Office's report for September, 1946).



Conditions of Work of Central P.W.D. Labour:
Extension of Maternity Benefit, Workmen's
Compensation and Health and Safety Provisions
of Factory Act under consideration.

In reply to a question in the Central Assembly on 18-2-1947, about labour employed in the Central Public Works Department, Government of India, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, stated that the payment of wages in C.P.W.D. was regulated by the C.P.W.D. ~~Contractors'~~ Contractors' Labour Regulations which follow substantially the Payment of Wages Act. As regards the Factories Act, it was proposed to take powers in the revised Factories Bill to extend certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to safety, health and welfare to building operations and works of engineering. The question of giving maternity benefits to the female labour employed in the C.P.W.D. was under consideration. The question what measures could be taken to secure that compensation due under the Workmen's Compensation Act is paid properly in all cases, was being also being examined.

It was further stated that the strength of the C.P.W.D. workers in February 1947 was 61,957 whereas ~~at~~ the termination of the war there were 62,695 workers. This shows only a small reduction and it is expected that no appreciable reduction will occur on account of the post-war developments. Of the total number of workers employed now, 58,175 belong to the temporary category and 23,762 to the work-charged. A certain proportion of the latter is to be made permanent shortly.

(Indian Information, 15-3-1947).

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Working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Assam
during 1945.

Number of Factories and Operatives.- During 1945, the total number of factories on the register which were subject to the control of the Factories Act, was 851 as against 856 in the previous year. Of the 851 factories, 167 were perennial and 684 seasonal factories. It is pointed out that, as a rule, factory registrations are never voluntary. The Inspectorate has to issue registration forms in most cases and many factories escape registration for a considerable time until their existence is brought to the notice of the Inspectorate. The number of persons employed daily in factories, both perennial and seasonal, was 58,070 as compared with 55,507 in the previous year. The total number of women employed was 12,349, of whom 12,038 were employed in the factories and rice mills. During the year adolescents were employed in slightly larger number, but the employment of children showed a steady decline; of the 631 children employed in 1945, 587 were employed in food factories which are mostly tea factories. Of the 58,070 workers, 12,425 workers were employed in 167 perennial factories, and 45,645 in 684 seasonal factories.

Inspections and Working Conditions.- During the year, 172 factories were inspected; of those 14 factories were inspected twice and one factory more than three times. 646 factories remained un-inspected. The report points out that although, according to returns submitted, intervals of rest, holidays, etc., were duly given, in actual practice the weekly holidays are seldom observed in rice and oil mills. The practice in most of the rice mills is to take advantage of the material and labour whenever they are available and work at a stretch as long as possible. The mills are kept shut down when stock of materials run down or labour is unavailable. In many factories, due to scarcity of spare parts for machines and unreliable condition of engines, the factories are very frequently shut down for repair of engines. As soon as repair is effected, factories are run incessantly without much regard to the provisions of the Factories Act and Rules.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents decreased from 1684 in 1944 to 1607 in 1945; of these 3 were fatal, 76 serious and 1528 minor accidents. The report points out that the principal source of accidents was not so much running machinery as the personal element of carelessness on the part of workers. Miscellaneous and unclassified accidents were mostly due to causes like walking over sharp objects, straining oneself in carrying loads, hitting oneself against some heavy object while walking, etc. 81 percent of the accidents it is pointed out are due to causes which had no connection with factory machinery, but are attributable to the carelessness of the workers themselves. Suitable dress, covered feet and comfortable working spaces, coupled with a little propaganda amongst workers about the proper use of tools and methods of factory work, can bring down the number of these minor, but frequent accidents.

(Report on the Working of the Factories Act, in Assam for the year 1945, by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Assam).

Dearness, Maternity and Sickness Allowances for Tea Plantation Labour: Recommendations of Indian Tea Association.

Reference was made at pages 5-7 of the report of this Office for January, 1947, to the Tea Plantation Labour Conference held at Delhi on 8-1-1947, at which certain matters relating to the improvement of conditions of labour employed in Tea plantations were discussed. As a result of this Conference, the Indian Tea Association have issued a circular letter to their members recommending the grant of the following concessions from 15-2-1947:

(a) Dearness Allowance.- With effect from 15-2-1947 the following cash dearness allowance shall be paid:-

- At the rate of -/2/- per diem to adult workers.
- At the rate of -/1/- per diem to children.
- At the rate of 25 per cent of their basic pay in the case of monthly-paid labourers, e.g., chowkidars (watchmen) etc. The dearness

23

allowance is to be paid on the hazira or daily task, irrespective of any doubly or ticca work which may be done, and those workers who do not complete a full hazira or task will be paid pro rata.

(b) Maternity Benefit.-- Government had proposed that maternity benefit should be paid at the rate of -/12/- a day. With effect from 15-2-1947, maternity benefit shall be paid at the rate of -/8/- a day in cash, plus all existing food concessions (which for the purpose of this calculation have been assessed at -/4/- a day), for the actual days of a woman worker's absence, which shall include holidays and non-working days, during the period of four weeks immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery, and for such period immediately following that day as will provide the benefit for a total period of eight weeks in all.

(c) Sickness Allowance.-- With effect from 15-2-1947, every adult worker resident on the garden shall be entitled to a sickness grant at the rate of -/6/- a day in cash, plus all existing food concessions (which have been assessed at -/4/- a day), for each day of certified sickness up to two weeks in any one year.

The Association has requested all Agency Houses and Proprietary Interests to ensure that these recommendations are duly carried out.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1947, gazetted:
Settlement of Fisheries, Provisions for
Fair Rent, and Prevention of Illegal
Exactions.

The Government of Bengal gazetted on 20-3-1947 the Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1947. The Bill seeks to regulate the settlement of fisheries, fix a fair rent for fisheries and grant occupancy rights to those tenants who hold the same fishery for twelve consecutive years. The Bill further prohibits proprietors of fisheries from exacting any sums of money or a portion of the catches from a tenant in excess of the actual rent. Interest on arrears of rent has been fixed at 6¼ per cent per annum.

The following information about the fishermen of Bengal and the conditions necessitating the present legislation is taken from the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill. The Bengal Tenancy Act, 1938, relieved to a great extent the sufferings of Bengal tenants, but no legislation has so been adopted to protect the interests of the fishermen of Bengal who number about 5 million. Even in normal times, the earnings of the fishermen have been very low. In addition they are now subject to a number of illegal exactions from the proprietors who lease fisheries to them and from the proprietors' agents. The bill enumerates some twenty varieties of such exactions; the chief of them are: (1) forcible exaction of three to four times of the legal rent of fisheries, (2) fishing for the proprietor without remuneration, one day in the week, (3) compulsory sale of catches at low prices to proprietor and his agents, (4) prohibition of fishing for six months even though rent is paid for this period also, (5) compulsory contribution for the maintenance of the proprietor's office, etc. The bill seeks to abolish these illegal exactions and to protect the interests of fishermen by the fixing of fair rents for fisheries and by conferring occupancy rights to certain classes of fishermen. (The Calcutta Gazette 20-3-1947, Part IVA pages 14 to 18).

Tripartite Industrial Committee on Coal-Mining
to be set up: Social and Working Conditions
of Coal-miners to be ~~improved~~ improved.

X7

Reference was made at page 1 of the report of this Office for December, 1946 to the Government of India's proposal to set up an industrial committee on coal-mining. According to a Government press note issued in the second week of March 1947, an industrial committee on coal-mining representing workers, employers and the Central and provincial Governments and States concerned, will be set up by the Government of India shortly. It will consist of eight Government representatives, representing the Central Government departments, provincial and State Governments in whose areas coal-fields lie, four representatives of employers and four representatives of workers. It will be quite distinct from the Coal-Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee but the two will work in close co-ordination with each other. There will be complete co-ordination between the Indian Tripartite Labour Conference and the industrial committee. The proceedings of the industrial committee will be laid before the Indian Labour Conference for such action as the Conference may decide to take. It is proposed to call a meeting of the Committee some time in the middle of 1947.

Functions.- The committee will discuss all questions relating to the improvement of the social and working conditions of those employed in the coal mining industry. The deliberations of the committee would form the basis of administrative and legislative action on the part of Government or collective agreements between employers and workers as the case may be.

This committee will also act as the national counterpart of the International Industrial Committee on Coal-Mining. It will provide an opportunity for the Indian representatives to the International Committee to meet together and consult one another on problems coming up before the International Committee so as to be able to present a co-ordinated Indian point of view before the International Committee and try to influence the discussions and mould the decisions to suit conditions obtaining in India.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-3-1947).

It is understood that the Government of India is proposing to set up similar Industrial Committee for the jute, textile and plantation industries.

(The Hindu, dated 27-3-1947).

~~Enquiry into the Labour Problems of Government of India~~

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Motor Transport in Madras Province to be Nationalised:
Arrangements For transition Period.

A Press Note on the question of the nationalisation of road transport in Madras, issued on 15-3-1947 by the Director of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras, states that Government has been actively considering for some time the question of nationalising road motor transport services. The following steps have so far been taken:- (1) Sanction of a scheme involving the running of a limited number of buses in the City of Madras; and (2) Formation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to formulate proposals for bringing under State control the public transport services in Madras province.

State to take over Passenger Services: Government's Decision.-
The Government is aware that transport concerns during the war years have worked under considerable difficulty and have been of the greatest service to the public as well as to the administration. After very careful consideration, however, Government has decided that in the interests of ^{the} public and ^{the} administration it would be advisable for the State to take over ~~the~~ passenger services in the first instance. The process of transferring services will, of course, take some time and probably ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ a few years will elapse before it is complete. Transition will be made as convenient as possible for the transport operators, and a regular plan will be drawn up specifying the services to be taken and how far gradually. The Sub-Committee will bear in mind the apprehensions and grievances of the existing operators with regard to the termination of their services and consequent loss (vide page 42 of the report of this Office for February 1947). The Government will naturally take into account legitimate claims for compensation for current permits as well as for vehicles which are in satisfactory condition, and would consider as far as practicable the employment of the maximum number of efficient personnel from the existing companies. The Government has also decided to issue only temporary permits of 4 months duration to transport operators during the transition period, instead of for 3 years as before. The reason for this is, that until all details for running of State transport services and the order in which they are to be taken over have been settled, it cannot be said which permit-holder will be left undisturbed for a period of three years. It may be possible later to grant permanent permits over such routes as ~~these~~ which are not likely to be taken over by the Government during the ensuing three years.

(Government of Madras, Public (Information and Publicity) Department, Press Note No. 69, dated 15-3-1947).

Lack of Raw Material, Fuel and Man-Power and Labour
unrest: Conditions in Jute Industry during 1946
reviewed at Annual Meeting of Indian Jute Mills
Association, Calcutta, 21-2-1947.

The present position of the Indian jute industry and its future were reviewed by Mr. I.G. Kennedy, Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association, at the annual general meeting of the Association held in Calcutta on 21-2-1947. The following is a brief summary of Mr. Kennedy's address:

Lack of Fuel: Industrial Pool: Requisitioning of Property.- In comparison with 1944 and 1945, the supply of coal improved considerably in 1946. Apart from a short period in March 1946, when supplies fell off badly, the industry was not seriously embarrassed by lack of coal during the year, and no shortages of any magnitude occurred, although stocks both in the dumps and in mills' premises were not at any time, of an order which could be characterized as safe. The industrial pool, designed to mitigate the effects upon the industry of requisitioning and fuel shortage, (vide page 52 of the report of this Office for October, 1946), was wound up on 31-3-1946. The work of auditing its accounts and making preparations for a final disbursement of the funds was well in hand and would soon be completed. Many valuable mill buildings and premises still remained requisitioned, although it was more than eighteen months since the war against Japan has terminated.

Need to Recapture Pre-War Markets: Production reduced by 48-Hour Week.- The industry had planned to launch a great drive aimed at recapturing and consolidating markets abroad which were denied to the industry owing to the war, but in 1946, even the Indian demand could not be met fully due to lack of the three indispensable elements of production—raw jute, fuel, and man power. Other important factors which had a bearing on the general decrease of trade were decontrol of prices of raw jute and manufactured goods, the discontinuance of the 54-hour week and the introduction of the 48-hour week from 1-8-1946 when the amended Factories Act came into force. It was of course, open to mills to run an additional shift provided that no worker exceeded the statutory 48 hours of work per week, but shortage of workers prevented double shift working. Mr. Kennedy emphasised that the jute industry had a very important bearing on food distribution for, unless adequate supplies of bags were available, grain could not be easily transported. The small additional area required to grow sufficient jute for world needs would not affect seriously the production of food grains in India. During 1946, the industry was successful in producing 1,034,600 tons of goods against an estimated forecast of 1,198,700 tons.

Increased Labour unrest: Higher Wages possible only with Higher Efficiency.- A notable feature of the war years up to end of 1945 had been the absence of any serious labour unrest in the jute industry, but throughout 1946, sporadic strikes of greater or lesser extent occurred and a total of 33¼ million man hours were lost through stoppages which affected practically all mills in membership of the Association. More than 60 per cent of these strikes were attributable to dissatisfaction with wages or with the quality of the food supplied through employers' shops and many of them were marked by attempts to intimidate the management by mobbing single individuals. The general discontent and restlessness which was so prevalent among industrial workers was mainly due to the fact that living costs and wage levels were not in line.

It was true that jute mill workers received subsidised food, and could purchase their cloth rations in the mills' shops at strictly controlled rates, but these were necessities and there are many other articles which come into family budgets. The sooner a sound constitutional trade-union movement developed in India the better it would be for industrial peace. He asked the members of the Association, in their own interests, to help moderate labour leaders who definitely had labour welfare at heart by according recognition to their unions and discussing with them matters affecting the interests of their members.

Discussing the workers' demands for higher wages, he said that it was not possible to give higher pay for less work and shorter hours and urged the industry to concentrate on securing higher efficiency of labour.

The labour force employed in jute mills was generally inefficient and higher working efficiency demanded for its accomplishment good conditions both in the factories and in the workers' homes. Much more attention, therefore had to be paid to such questions as adequate lighting and dust extraction, for it was useless to concentrate upon the improvement of operational skill unless the physical factors which militate against it are corrected. The workers' dwellings left much to be desired and though there were planned building schemes whereby improved types of houses would be ~~made~~ available for the workers at modest rents, there were many difficulties in the way of making these projects become concrete facts in the near future.

Referring to the laying of the foundation stone of the Institute of Jute Technology at Calcutta, (vide page 68 of this report), he said that it had long been an anomaly that the jute mill industry in Bengal had no means whereby Indians could receive the training in jute technology which would fit them for the higher supervisory posts in mills. This deficiency was now being made good and he hoped that soon its laboratories, lecture rooms and workshops would be preparing the present generation of Indian youths for useful careers in the jute industry.

Mr. M.P. Birla was elected chairman of the Association for 1947.

(The speech made by the chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association, at the annual Meeting of the Association held on 21-2-46 was reviewed in at pages 15-16 of this Office's report for March, 1946).

28

Protection for Steel and Paper Industries withdrawn:
Government of India's decision on Tariff Boards
Recommendations.

The Government of India's resolutions on the Indian Tariff Board's reports on Protection for the Iron and Steel Industry, the Antimony Industry, the Aluminium Industry, the Caustic Soda and Bleaching Powder Industry, the Paper and Paper Pulp Industry, the Bicycle Industry, the Sewing Machines industry and Woodscrews industry have been published. (For terms of reference of Tariff Board, enquiry see page 23 of the report of this Office for April 1946). The Government of India's decision on the more important of the Tariff Board's recommendations are given below (for fuller details see the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 22-3-1947 pages 287 to 293):

Steel: Protection Withdrawn.- The Board considers that the Iron and Steel Industry which has been a protected industry since 1924, is not in need of protection any longer, and has recommended that the existing protective duties should be allowed to lapse and be replaced by revenue duties, pending the results of a detailed enquiry. However, alloy, tool and special steels, high silicon, electrical steel sheets and high carbon and spring steel wires are to continue to enjoy the benefit of the existing protective duties. The recommendations have been accepted.

Paper and Paper Pulp Industry: Protection Withdrawn.- The Board considers that the Indian Paper and Wood Pulp industry, which has been enjoying protection since 1925, has failed to substantiate its ~~base~~ claim for continuance of protection. The Board has accordingly recommended that the existing protective duties should be allowed to expire with effect from 1-4-1947, and thereafter revenue duties should be imposed on the protected varieties on purely budgetary considerations. The recommendation has been accepted.

Antimony, Aluminium, Bicycles, Sewing Machines, and Wood Screws Industries.- The Board accepted the claims of these industries for protection and recommended varying degrees of protection for them. The Government has accepted the Board's recommendations in respect of these industries.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 25-3-1947;
The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 22-3-1947, pages 287-293).

29

X

Partial Nationalisation of Industries in Madras:
Graded Control of Defence and Key Industries and
Public Utilities.

The Government of Madras have had under consideration the question of formulating a planned economy in regard to industries. They have divided industries into three classes, namely, Defence Industries, Key Industries and Public Utilities.

In regard to the Defence Industries, the Government have decided that they should be State-owned and controlled by the State. Some key industries requiring large capital like iron and steel, tractors and fertilizers will be State-owned. In other cases there would be only State-control. Public Utilities will be owned by some organ of the State. Where State-control is to be exercised, the Government may take a major part of the shares or impose, before granting any assistance, such as mining leases, and assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act, all, or any of the following conditions, which will bind the heirs, assigns and transferees of the concern:

(1) The promoter of the Company must agree to hand over the industry to the Government either at the book value or at the replacement value at the time of transfer to the State, whichever is less. No separate value or compensation will be allowed for goodwill. (2) No compensation shall be payable to the managing agents or management of the industry for the termination of their services. An undertaking to this effect will have to be provided in the agreement of the Company with the managing agents or other servants of the Company. (3) The Company shall undertake to supply any of its products, if so required, for consumption on works belonging to or subsidized by Government at the market prices or the cost of production plus a profit of 5 per cent on the capital utilized for production, whichever is lower. (4) The Government will have the right to nominate one or more directors, if they consider it necessary. (5) The working conditions of the labour should conform to the standards recognized or to be laid down by the Government. (6) The Company shall train free of cost apprentices nominated by the Government.

(Press Communiqué dated 17-3-1947 of Government of Madras (Public Information and Publicity Department)).

+ Nationalisation of Passenger Transport Services
in Calcutta City: Bengal Government's Scheme.

Replying to a question in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 15-3-47, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Commerce Minister, Government of Bengal, said that the Bengal Government had worked out a scheme for the formation of a Calcutta Passenger Transport Board to take over all passenger transport services in the city and that the necessary legislation for the purpose was under consideration. The Government, he said, had decided to exercise as from 1-1-1950 its option of purchase with regard to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation and other allied concerns.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-3-1947).

30

Research Institute for Indian Railways:
Proposed for increasing Economy and
Efficiency in Administration of Railways.

The immediate establishment of a high grade control laboratory and technical research institute for the Indian Railways to help in increasing economy and efficiency in the administration of railways is under consideration of the ~~Rail~~ Railway Board. The proposed laboratory, which will be called the Central Scientific Research Institute for Railways (India), will be run on the lines of the other national laboratories ~~being~~ being set up by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India.

(The National Call, 17-3-1947).

Improvement of Indian Wool Industry:
Wool Survey Mission's suggestions .

The Wool Survey Mission sent to India by the International Wool Secretariat (vide page 19 of the Report of this Office for December, 1946) which spent four months in the country and visited Bombay Presidency, Madras Presidency, Mysore, Sikkim, Hyderabad, Bengal, the U.P., Kashmir, the NWFP, Bikaner, Jodhpur and the Punjab, has on its return to England in March 1947, made a number of suggestions for the improvement and development of the wool producing and consuming industry in India. The more important of these are noticed below:-

The Indian cottage industry in wool required to be greatly improved, particularly in the implements used and selection of correct types of wool they wanted to turn out. Many centres of production were still in the transition stage between war and peace. Wool was not being made available to the rural industry in adequate quantities, mainly because of transport difficulties, exorbitant prices and unsuitability of many of the Indian wools for their present uses. Good work was being done in ~~breed~~ breeding farms, but they were still in the experimental stage. Indigenous breeds required improvement, and this applied to growing and ~~marketing~~ shearing. The conditions in which wool was ~~up~~ packed, for both internal use and export, were unsatisfactory and the demand for a better quality of mill-made goods was much wider than in the pre-war days. Considerable improvement could be effected in Indian wools by judicious bleaching and this would lead to greater inter-provincial trade in wool.

In most places both individuals and organizations were interested in erecting new woollen mills to meet the shortage of woollen and worsted yarns and cloth in India. Many of these would-be manufacturers were unable to secure suitable advice from trained personnel to enable them to further their objects. About 200 million out of India's ~~are~~ 400 million population need woollen clothing for at least four months of the year. Of this number, only about 20 per cent are able to obtain what they need. Before the war the remainder could not afford such luxuries. Now when they can afford them, cloth is unobtainable. It was impossible to assess the amount of wool at present used in India, since most of the production was carried on in cottage industries, but, if an additional 150 million Indians need approximately four yards of woollen cloth per year, the additional amount of wool that could be imported from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and South America would be considerable.

(The Statesman and Dawn; 27-3-1947).

31

Cement Production in India to be doubled:
6 Million Ton mark by 1952.

A plan to double the ^{annual} ~~annual~~ production capacity of cement in ^{India} ~~this~~ ~~country~~ by 1952 and make it available to the public in adequate quantity at ~~high~~ & cheap rate is now being studied by the Government of India. The present capacity for production is about 3 million tons a year. It is expected that by 1952, 19 new cement factories will be set up and that out of the 25 existing ones 15 will be expanded. The new production will amount to 3.5 million tons.

The expansion envisaged is planned on the basis of regions comprising of one or more provinces and States grouped according to the availability of raw materials and the anticipated demand for cement. It is estimated that the civil demand for cement in 1952 would amount to 4 million tons and that the construction of dams and other projects would require over 1 million tons.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-3-1947).

Central Budget 1947-48: Criticism by Committee of
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in a statement on the Budget of the Government of India for 1947-48, issued to the press on 2-3-1947, has pointed out that the levy of a special tax of 25 per cent over profits in excess of Rs. 100,000, increase in the corporation tax and the proposed tax on capital gains are bound to have serious effects and repercussions on the entire economic structure of the country and will, in the ultimate analysis, affect the mass of people who are vitally interested in the whole mechanism of production. The Committee, however, has welcomed the assurance of the Finance Member that he will do his ~~supporter's~~ best to improve the lot of the common man and, therefore, supports his proposals to abolish the salt tax and increase the taxable limit for income-tax ~~tax~~ from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500. The Committee also shares the desire of the Finance Member to reduce the disparity in the distribution of wealth in the country.

Effect of New Profits Tax on Industries.— Asserting that the increase in the corporation tax would have a deleterious effect on Indian industries, the Committee ^{points out that as a result of the} ~~points out that as a result of the~~ newly proposed taxes, what may be ^{hardly sufficient to maintain a} ~~hardly sufficient to maintain a~~ reasonable return ~~on~~ on capital employed in industry. But to make industries, which are in their early stage of growth in India, to pay 9 annas 3 pies in the rupee by way of taxation is to kill private enterprise and to mortgage India's industrial future. The levy of the special tax would create conditions which would not only hamper production, continue the scarcity of goods, increase the cost of living to the millions of the consumers of the country and create unemployment but would tend to bring about deflationary forces the prevention of which should be the primary concern of Government ~~and~~ and the public alike.

32

Criticising the Finance Member's decision not to formulate any long-term economic or financial plan, the Committee expresses disappointment that the Finance Member has made no detailed reference to the numerous difficulties with which the country is faced, such as, lack of capital goods, lack of materials for housing and difficulty in obtaining coal.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-3-1947).

Textile Industry.

Progress of the Indian Cotton Textile Industry
in 1945-46: Annual statement of the Bombay
Mill Owners' Association.

The annual statement for 1945-46 (1-9-45 to 31-8-46) of the Bombay Mill Owners' Association on the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills in India (including Indian States) was received in this Office on 24-3-1947. The more important items of information presented in the statement are given below:

Number of Mills.- There were 421 cotton textile mills in the whole of India on 31-8-46 (excluding 32 which have either been registered or are in course of erection) as against ~~41~~ 417 on 31-8-45. Bombay Island with 65 mills, and Ahmedabad with 74 reported no change from the previous year; whereas in the rest of the Province one new mill was installed in the course of 1945-46, thus making a total of 210 mills for the whole Province. The number of mills in Madras rose by 3 to 72; all other Provinces and States remained stationary. Bengal had 57 mills, U.P. 50, Central India 17, Rajputana 9, Mysore and Punjab 8 each, Central Provinces 7, Delhi Province and Hyderabad State 6 each, Berar 4, Pondicherry 3, and Travancore and Bihar and Orissa 2 each.

6 mills were idle during the year, of which 5 were in Madras, 2 in U.P. and 1 in Delhi.

Number of Spindles and Looms.- There were 10,305,169 spindles and 202,814 looms as against 10,238,131 spindles and 202,388 looms in the previous year.

The number of spindles in Bombay Island increased by 29,124 to 2,882,530 and the number of looms decreased by 216 to 65,948.

The position in the different Provinces and States was as follows:

Province or State.	No. of Spindles.		No. of Looms.	
	1945-46	1944-45	1945-46	1944-45
Bombay.....	5,951,281	5,906,875	156,252	156,256
Madras.....	1,569,136	1,560,804	7,700	7,489
U.P.	774,204	764,594	12,251	12,034
Bengal.....	476,432	479,694	11,267	11,275
Central India.....	402,478	398,894	11,121	11,105
Central Provinces...	299,754	300,634	5,305	5,275
Mysore.....	163,288	163,288	2,843	2,820
Rajputana.....	127,776	129,056	2,956	2,981
Hyderabad.....	120,188	120,188	2,462	2,463
Delhi Province.....	114,240	110,560	3,332	3,332
Punjab.....	114,012	114,924	2,851	2,826
Pondicherry.....	85,576	82,076	1,969	1,968
Berar.....	68,448	69,048	1,470	1,468
Bihar and Orissa....	26,024	25,040	745	786
Travancore.....	12,532	12,656	310	310
India.....	10,305,169	10,238,131	202,814	202,388

* The progress of Cotton Textile Industry in 1944-45 was reviewed on pages 27 and 28 of the Report of this Office for March, 1946.

Bengal, Central Provinces, Rajputana, Punjab, Berar and Travancore State reported slight decreases in the number of spindles; Hyderabad ~~as~~ remained stationary; in other areas there were increases, Bombay and Madras topping the list. All Provinces and States registered increases in the number of looms except Bengal, Rajputana which reported slight decreases and Hyderabad, Delhi and Travancore the number remained almost stationary.

Number of Hands.- The average number of hands employed daily fell from 505,562 in 1943-44 and 509,778 in 1944-45 to 495,456 in 1945-46. Here again Bombay and Madras led the rest with 272,234 and 66,658 respectively.

Cotton Consumed.- The total consumption of raw cotton was 15,924,762 cwts in 1945-46 as against 17,182,599 cwts in 1944-45 and 16,955,920 cwts in 1943-44.

(Summarised from the Statement relating to the Progress of the Cotton Textile Industry in India in 1945-46, received from the Mill Owners' Association, Bombay).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Maternity Benefit Act, in 1945
in Bombay Province.

During the year 1945 the average number of women employed daily in factories subject to the Maternity Benefit Act in the Province of Bombay was 54,793, as compared with 54,224 in 1944. During the year under review 5,628 women claimed maternity benefits and the number of women who were paid benefits for actual births were 5199; in 3,327 cases pre-maternity benefits were paid while 29 other persons received maternity benefits under Section 7 of the Act. Although the average daily number of women employed in 1945 showed an increase over the 1944 figure the total number of women and other persons receiving benefits decreased to 5,228 from 6,071 in 1944. The total amount of maternity benefit paid in 1945 was Rs. 212,598 while claims paid per 100 women decreased from 11.20 in 1944 to 9.54 in 1945. The average amount per claim increased Rs. 40.6 from Rs. 39.87 in 1944. During 1945 returns were received from 728 factories out of 779 amenable to the Act; 47 did not furnish information, whilst 4 were closed.

The lady Inspector continued her efforts to ensure ante-natal and post-natal examinations and the better understanding of the value of protective foods and more balanced diets among women workers. Though the employment of women in non-seasonal factories in the Province did not show a decline, the number of claims for maternity benefit went down appreciably probably due to the "playing off" in the Reeling Departments and a tendency on the part of the women to migrate to the villages.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act
during 1945.

During 1945, in Madras Province, out of 2,626 non-seasonal factories registered under the Factories Act, 1,921 factories employed women. Annual returns were not received from 159 factories. The average number of women employed daily in 1,762 factories, which submitted annual returns, was 49,110 as against 46,301 in 1944. 2,184 claims were made during the year as against 2,190 in 1944; 1,705 claims were paid to the women concerned and in 18 cases to their nominees. The total amount of benefits paid was Rs. 47,836-3-9 as against Rs. 51,756-15-0 in 1944.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

36

Working of the Central Provinces and Berar
Maternity Benefit Act, during 1945.

In the Central Provinces and Berar the average daily number of women workers in factories subject to the Maternity Benefit Act during 1945, was 5,195; of these 4,361 were employed in textile factories and 754 in cement and pottery works. During 1945, 664 women claimed and 637 women received maternity benefits. The total amount of benefits paid was Rs. 21,185. It is stated that most of the Textile mills in the Province voluntarily paid maternity benefit at rates 50 per cent higher than those prescribed by the Act.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

Working of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act
during 1945.

In the United Provinces, during 1945, 184 concerns employing an average number of 2,929 women workers were subject to the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act. 209 women workers claimed maternity benefits and 192 women were paid benefits for actual births, while 11 women received benefits for miscarriage. The total amount of benefits paid was Rs. 11,857.

(The administration of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act during 1944, was reviewed at page 26 of this Office report for January, 1946).

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

AGRICULTURE.

Movement for Agrarian Reform in Bengal:
Direct Action by Peasants.

During the last few months there has been a strong movement for agrarian reform in India directed to conserve the interests of the small peasant and the land-less worker. In more than one province, the zemindari system is under investigation (vide page 26 of this office's November 1946 report for land tenure reform in Orissa; pages 31-34 of December 1946 report for bill for abolition of zemindari system in Bengal; page 38 of the January 1947 report for questionnaire regarding abolition of zemindari system in U.P.; and page 46 of the February 1947 report for motion in the Madras Legislative Council for changes in the land tenure system of the province) and steps are being taken to effect such needed reforms in land tenure system. The problem is perhaps most acute in Bengal where the peasantry has already resorted to direct action in taking for themselves what they consider to be an equitable share of the produce of the soil which they cultivate for zemindars. The developments in Bengal and the circumstances which have led to them are reviewed by a writer in the Statesman dated 24-3-1947. The main points brought out in the review are briefly noticed below:

Sub-tenures and Inequitable Division of Crops.- The movement for agrarian reform in Bengal is the result of the complex land tenure system of the province. The main feature of the system is that the zemindar owns the land and pays revenue direct to the Government. But he cannot cultivate all his possessions, so he settles some of it with tenants (jotedars) who pay him rent in cash. This can be as low as Rs. 3 per acre. But the jotedar also cannot cultivate all his land and lets it out to adihars on a crop sharing basis. The adihar (who usually has an uneconomic holding of his own) generally meets the entire cost of cultivation and the share-out is on a 50-50 basis, but it is weighted more heavily in favour of the jotedar if exactions are taken into account. These exactions were very heavy a decade ago.

High Interest Rates.- Today jotedars' exactions centre on loans of paddy taken by adihars during lean parts of the year. Instances have been recorded of interest being charged at 90% per cent. The statutory rate is 9 per cent for secured and 10 per cent for unsecured loans, and the customary rate 25 per cent. Peasants awakened to the injustice of this scheme of things less than a decade ago when by agitation, they got rid of the most blatant illegal exactions. But the interest on paddy loans still remains

and the adihar has no tenancy rights. He has to renew his contract with the jotedar each year and then land-hungry peasants bid against each other for the "right" to cultivate the land. The 50-50 share-out has its basis not in law but in custom and can be modified by the jotedar, usually to his own advantage. It gives him, in these days of high agricultural prices, an enormous unearned return on the money he has invested in the land.

Cultivators Seize 2/3 of Crops.- This year, however, the adihars of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Rangpur, districts of North Bengal, where the agrarian movement is strongest, lost patience. Egged on by agitators and the rising costs of cultivation many of them took the paddy from the fields to their houses (instead of to the jotedars) and told the jotedars to come there for their share of the crop which would be one-third (Tebhaga) instead of a half. Some adihars went further, they removed new paddy already stored in the jotedars' stacks to their own for the share-out. It was an attempt to alter custom by force, but it is doubtful if it amounted to a criminal breach of the law and observers wise in the ways of the country say it is an exaggeration to describe it as "looting". But the jotedars, lodged charges of dacoity against the guilty and as dacoity is a cognizable offence the police intervened, attempted to make arrests, were resisted and even attacked on occasion and had to use their rifles. Most of the "looting" took place in Dinajpur district where there were, consequently, five peasant-police clashes between the last week of December 1946 and the last week of February 1947 in which 31 peasants and one constable are reported to have been killed.

Communist Inspiration.- Spontaneous in origin, the agrarian movement in North Bengal is furthered by the Communists. It is apparently the Communists who were behind the seizures of paddy that brought the police in on the side of the jotedars. But the Communist case is that only by thus getting possession of the paddy could the peasants hope to change custom, get two-thirds of the crop and keep from starving. The Bengal Bargadars Temporary Regulation Bill, 1947, under which a bargadar (peasant who cultivates a zamindar's land on a share basis) can retain for his own use half the produce of the land ~~that~~ he cultivates, in cases where manure, plough-cattle, ploughs and other agricultural implements are supplied by the owner of the land, and two-thirds of the produce in cases where such assistance and facilities are not provided by the owner, has recently been gazetted by the Government of Bengal (vide page 47 of the February 1947 report of this Office), but the peasants doubt the sincerity of the intentions of Government.

Legality of Police Action.- Another pertinent aspect is that certain quarters doubt the legality of police intervention on the side of the jotedars following reported seizures of paddy which, these quarters say, is a civil offence to be dealt with by the courts and not criminal action calling for direct police intervention. The ending of agrarian unrest in North Bengal does not lie, as many seem to believe, in the round-up there of Communists and agitators, but in legislative action in the capital.

39

Sindri Fertiliser Factory: Full Production to
be reached by 1949.

Reference was made at pages 57-38 of the report of this office for September, 1945, to the progress made in connection with the project for establishing a Fertiliser Factory at Sindri, in Bihar.

The factory is estimated to cost Rs. 107.6 million and produce annually about 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and 100,000 tons of cement. It is anticipated that pilot production of ammonium sulphate would start early in 1949 and that full production would be established by the middle of 1949. A considerable amount of plant and all the structural steel work will be made in India.

(Indian Information, 15-3-1947).

Land Reforms in Patiala State: Tenants To Own
Two-Thirds of Land held under Occupancy Rights.

According to an announcement made by the Ruler of Patiala State, occupancy tenants in the State are granted full proprietary rights over certain portions of land held by them under occupancy rights. In certain cases the division of land between tenants and land lords will be in the proportion of two-thirds and one-third, and in certain other cases it will be three-fifths and ~~one-fifth~~ ^{two-fifths} and instructions have been issued for the employment of special revenue staff for effecting the necessary partition and for completing the work of partition and consolidation of holdings wherever possible within one year. Between 300,000 to 400,000 occupancy tenants are benefited by these concessions.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-1947).

NAVIGATION.

Conditions of Service of Indian Seamen:
Maritime Union of India urges Government
of India to appoint Committee of Inquiry.

Miss Maniben Kara, Vice-President of the Maritime Union of India, Mr. D.S. Mungat, General Secretary, and Mr. S.A. Azad waited in deputation on the Commerce Member Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, and the Transport Member, Dr. John Mathai, on 13-3-1947 and discussed with them various aspects of the conditions of service of Indian merchant navy officers and seamen.

They urged that the Government of India should appoint a committee to inquire into the conditions of service and recruitment of seamen, and report to the forthcoming meeting of the Asiatic Labour Conference. The Government were also requested to invite ILO officials from maritime services to visit this country. They also urged Government to give pilots and other harbour service personnel the right to organize themselves into trade unions, and to inquire into certain cases of "racial discrimination" in harbour services, particularly in Cochin State. The Transport Member was requested to continue the railway concession rates given to Merchant Navy officers during war-time, as other countries were doing.

(The Statesman, 14-3-1947).

3 out of 13 I.L. Maritime Conventions ratified
by India: Question in Central Legislative Assembly.

In the Central Legislative Assembly, on 12-11-1946, Miss. Maniben Kara, (nominated, labour) asked how many I.L. Conventions concerning maritime workers have been ratified by the Government of India, and whether, in view of the dissatisfaction among Indian maritime workers at the non-ratification and non-application of many of these Conventions Government proposes to take steps to speed up the ratification of maritime Conventions and make their application effective.

In reply, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member, pointed out that 3 out of 13 Conventions, excluding those adopted by at the Seattle Conference in June, 1946, have already been ratified by Government; the ratification of the remaining Conventions was under consideration. He also gave the assurance that the opinions of seafarers' organisations considered before ratification.

(Legislative Assembly Debates Official Report, 12-2-1946, Vol. VIII-No.1, pages 847-848).

41

India and Seattle Maritime Conventions:
Question in Central Legislative Assembly.

In the Central Legislative Assembly, on 12-11-1946, Miss Maniben Kara (nominated, labour) drew the attention of the Government of India to the Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions concerning the conditions of life and work and of maritime workers adopted by the International Labour (Maritime) Conference, held at Seattle in June, 1946, and asked whether, in view of the fact that the Indian Government delegate voted for them, it was Government's intention to ratify the Seattle Conventions and what steps Government proposed to take to speed up action on them.

Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member, in reply said that it was the aim of Government to ratify or accept as many of the Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the Seattle Conference as possible, after consultation with the various interests concerned. They were being examined departmentally and would, in accordance with the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, be placed before the Legislature as soon as practicable.

Miss Kara drew Government's attention to the very strong protest made at the Seattle Conference by Mr. Mungat, Adviser, Indian Seafarers' delegation, against the most inhuman conditions of life to which large number of Indian seafarers are subject.

In reply, Mr. Chundrigar assured that Government was greatly ^{but} desirous of improving the conditions of life of Indian seafarers, since such betterment would necessitate a number of changes, the matter was being carefully examined.

Mr. Manu Subedar, in a supplementary question, asked for an assurance from Government that it would take the precaution of not ratifying International Labour Conventions in advance of their ratification by other and competing countries which possessed greater resources. It was his opinion that there was no reason why India should—as she did some 15 years ago—ratify labour conventions in advance of countries which were competing with her like Japan, Belgium, etc.

The Commerce Member replied that India would have to study ~~to~~ her own conditions and take such action as was necessary; Government could not always act on the lines adopted by other countries.

(Legislative Assembly Debates Official
Report, 12-11-1946, Vol.VIII-No.1,
pages 848-849).

42

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Corruption and Bribery among Government officials:
Bill for Prevention adopted by Central Ass embly.

On 3-2-1947, the Central Legislative Assembly passed a bill sponsored by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Member, Interim Government, for the more effective prevention of bribery and corruption among Government employees.

Speaking on the bill, the Home Member referred to the unanimity of opinion in favour of effective measures to eradicate corruption and bribery and said that the extent to which the evils existed had been disclosed by the work of the special police. By the end of December 1946, they had investigated nearly 1,100 cases and 700 officers and servants had been ~~sex~~ either departmentally or judicially dealt with. Of these, as many as 30 were gazetted officers and 16 commissioned officers. The total amount involved was Rs. 56.5 million. Typical instances were conspiracy to cheat Government, criminal breach of trust and illegal gratification. These statistics demonstrated the real need for the measures contemplated in the bill, especially as even the end of the war had brought no decline in these offences. So long as the after-effects of the war continued and controls and licensing systems had to be maintained, many opportunities and temptations came in the way of officers and it was, therefore, necessary for some time to come to continue the existing machinery for detection and prevention of corruption.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 3-2-1947).

Higher pay for Medical Officers in Hyderabad.

The Nizam's Government have sanctioned revision of salaries of both gazetted and non-gazetted personnel in the Medical and Public Health Departments of the State, as they feel that the inquiry and report by the State's pay and Services Commission might take some time and the present conditions of living necessitate an immediate revision. The Government have now sanctioned a uniform grade of Rs. 150-10-450 for Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons; those with M.B., B.S. qualification will be given an extra initial pay of Rs. 50.

(The Hindu, dated 8-3-1947).

Increased pay for Bengal Primary Teachers:
Trained Teachers to receive ~~Rs. 27/-~~
Rs. 27/- pay and Rs. 5-8-0 Allowances per
month.

The Government of Bengal has decided to revise the scale of pay of primary school teachers. The revision will have retrospective effect from 1-10-1946 and is estimated to cost Rs. 6.4 million a year. The new scales will be : (a) trained matriculates Rs. 27/- per mensem as against Rs. 16/- per mensem as at present; (b) untrained matriculates or trained non-matriculates Rs. 19/- per mensem as against Rs. 12/- per mensem as at present; (c) others Rs. 15/- per mensem as against Rs. 10/- per mensem as at present. In addition, all the three categories of teachers will continue to draw the existing dearness allowance of Rs. 5 from Government plus Rs. 2/8 per mensem from district school boards.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 20-3-1947).

pay of Police Constables in Madras to be raised.

The Government of Madras is planning to increase the scales of pay of police constables and to effect an appreciable improvement in the amenities now granted to them.

The proposal is to enhance the basic pay to Rs. 30 per month. The basic pay and the allowances together will amount to a minimum of Rs. 52 per month.

(The Hindu, dated 29-3-1947).

44

NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Conditions of Life and Work of India's 25 million Aborigines:
Five-Year Scheme of Anthropological Survey.

At a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature held at New Delhi on 15 and 19-2-1947, approval was accorded to the Government's five-year scheme for the organisation and development of the Anthropological Survey of India. The scheme was prepared by the Directors of the Anthropological and the Zoological Surveys of India and includes the establishment of a Bureau of Anthropology. Great importance is attached to the work of the Bureau as the study of anthropology and the dissemination of a knowledge of the various races and tribes that form the population of India is likely to affect favourably the unification and the gradual welding of the variegated and diverse components into a unified whole. Such an effect, it is pointed out, has already been fully exemplified by the results achieved in the U.S.S.R., where a conglomeration of tribes and races of diverse languages, origin and customs has been welded together into a single unified nation.

The impending changes in the social and administrative services in India will, it is also considered, require expert guidance from a properly developed Anthropological Survey Department, if India is to assimilate about 25 million of the aboriginal and tribal people in a healthy manner into her general system. The conditions of life and the standard of living of these aboriginal people are now much below the low standards of the rural population of India, and it is hoped that increased knowledge of the conditions of tribal and aboriginal people will tend to an improvement of these conditions.

(Indian Information, 15-3-1947).

Living Conditions of Aborigines of Bombay:
Provincial Congress Committee recommends
Redistribution of Land, Grant of Occupancy
Rights, Abolition of Forced Labour, etc.

Reference was made at page 42 of the report of this office for December, 1946, to the spread of communist influence among the aboriginal communities (mostly Warlis) of Bombay, and resulting in serious disturbances of the peace. A special committee was recently appointed by the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee to inquire into the disturbances.

The committee, in its report, suggests a number of reforms.

After describing the "appalling conditions in which the Warlis live" it suggests that government should take over lands from the present landlords and distribute them among the Warlis who are landless and that the Warlis, who are now cultivating some of the lands of the landlords, should be treated as permanent tenants not liable to eviction. It also recommends that lands which originally belonged to the Warlis, who lost them on account of debts, should be restored to the original proprietors by Government. The committee further recommends that the practice of exacting forced labour from the tenants should be abolished.

45

by law and such exaction should be made a cognisable offence. The Recovery either in cash or kind, in excess of the rent fixed should also be treated as a cognisable offence. Other recommendations relate inter alia to the organisation and recognition by law of Warli Tenants Association, abolition of the present system of auctioning forest timber and entrusting the work of cutting timber to co-operative societies and the fixing of a minimum living wage by Government. With regard to immediate relief, the committee recommends that Government should undertake the advancing of small loans, either in cash or kind, to the Warlis to enable them to tide over their present difficulties.

(The Times of India, 27-3-1947).

Nutrition.

India to experiment on Manufacture of Milk Powder: Scheme approved by Standing Finance Committee of Central Legislature.

A scheme for the experimental manufacture of milk powder in India was approved by the Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature at a meeting held in New Delhi on 22-5-1947. There are areas in India where milk is abundantly produced, but, owing to transport difficulties and inaccessibility, the milk cannot be transported in fluid condition to the consuming areas. It is felt that if such milk can be made into milk powder on the spot by establishing factories for the purpose, it will not only provide for a more lucrative return to cattle-owners, but ~~supply it to areas away from the~~ also ensure supply in areas away from the source of production. The ~~total~~ total expenditure involved is approximately Rs. 85,000 non-recurring and Rs. 105,000 recurring for two years.

(The Hindu, dated 24-5-1947).

47

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

20th Annual Session of Federation of Indian Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, 3 and 4-5-1947 .

A wide variety of subjects including the economic situation in India, food and labour problems, the future of industrial and agricultural development in India, the Budget of the Government of India for 1947-48, control policy, etc., came up for discussion at the 20th annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held at New Delhi on 3 and 4-5-1947 under the chairmanship of Mr. Gurusharan Lal, President of the Federation. The session was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, and was attended, among others, by several members of the Interim Government, including Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and supplies, and Secretaries of various Government's Departments, and a number of members of the Central Legislature. At the Session, resolutions, among others regarding nationalisation of industries, India's sterling balances, Budget proposals of the Government of India for 1947-48, civil aviation, etc., were adopted.

Pandit Nehru's Inaugural Address.— Pandit Nehru, in his inaugural address briefly outlined the policy of the ~~new interim~~ Interim Government in respect of the industrialisation of the country and the at times conflicting interests of industrialists and the masses. He pledged the Interim Government to a policy of industrialisation "in a basic, big, way". He could not, therefore, understand the charge that Government was crushing industry. He hinted at the possibility of Government undertaking early steps to plan on an all-round basis and not in segments and sectors, wherefore he disapproved of planning on a regional or provincial basis. He exhorted the business community not to think exclusively from their particular standpoint but, instead, to co-operate with other interests, including labour and Government, and help devise an agreed approach to the problem of securing social justice. He asked them to adjust themselves to the future set-up of South-east Asia in which India was destined to play a leading role both in the field of defence and in the realm of economics.

While reassuring the mercantile community of Government's unqualified support for India's industrialisation, he said that if there was a conflict between the interests of a single group and those of the larger community, the former must suffer. He did not see essential conflict between the development of cottage industries in India and industrialization of India, as in view of India's large population, it was not possible for large-scale industries, despite expansion, to give employment to all workers seeking employment. He thought that in future there was no reason why there should not be a place in India for industrialists and business men from outside, provided they fitted into the picture ~~we~~ produced in India.

45

He pointed out that the most important and immediate problem today in India was to add to the country's output. India had planned vast schemes for dams reservoirs, irrigation, hydro-electric works, scientific research and technical institutions—and all these schemes were meant ultimately to help in the production of a better type of human being and more wealth in India. However, if there was no proper distribution, there will be no proper social justice and there will be conflicts on an enormous scale.

Discussing the workers' demand for higher wages, he said that examined separately not much exception could be taken to those demands. It was, however, obvious that higher standards of workers cannot be maintained without sufficient resources. The country had got caught in a vicious circle. Justifiable demands for wages led to strikes. Strikes led to loss of production and less capacity to pay, and so although, for the moment higher wages might be granted, the capacity to pay higher wages grew lesser and lesser. The coal situation particularly was bad and he hoped that it might be possible for representatives of labour and industries to meet together informally and have frank talks and try to find a way out and avoid any step being taken which might be injurious to all. People all over the world were in a period of tremendous transition. Such a time was not a time for thinking on static lines, neither was it a time to think on idealistic lines.

Presidential Address: Immediate Needs of India.— Food production plans, need for development of both agriculture and industry, labour problems, nationalisation of industries, control policy, sterling balances, tariffs and the Budget proposals of the Government of India for 1947-48, were some of the principal subjects dealt with by Mr. Gurusaran IAL in his presidential address. The following is a summary:

Full Employment.— The immediate needs of the country, which would naturally be the first obligation of the Interim Government, were in respect of (1) education, (2) sanitation and health, and (3) raising the standard of life, meaning thereby an assurance of sufficient quantity of bare amenities of life—food, clothing, housing, health and recreation. India, with her vast population and with a predominantly agricultural economy, had been a country of under-employment for ages in the past. It was expected that the Interim Government would offer facilities for work to everyone able and willing to work and that the chronic disease of under-employment and under-nourishment would soon be cured and that plans for maximisation of employment would immediately be taken in hand.

Food Production Plans: Development of Agriculture.— He assured that Indian commercial interests would whole-heartedly be with Government in their plans for the development of both agriculture and industry for the fulfilment of their primary obligations referred to above. Welcoming the 5-year Food Plan (vide pages 63-64 of the report of this Office for January, 1947), he suggested that a target should be fixed for every year and there should be an early review of the progress made towards achieving that target, instead of reviewing it at the end of the period of five years. Before the plan was put into operation, Government would have to give prior consideration to certain pre-requisites of the plan such as good roads, a planned out system of irrigation, supply of modern agricultural implements chief manures and best seed. No plan for agricultural development was going to be successful on a permanent basis unless measures were taken by Government to assure the cultivator a stabilised price for his agricultural

49

produce a price which would give him a return—something more than a merely "economic" return. He regretted the fact that there had not been any complete agricultural survey of the crops and soils in India as would enable laying down of an all-India policy with regard to the raising of crops for the country's requirements. In dealing with the ~~proposal~~ proposal for the stabilisation of prices for agricultural commodities, he pressed for the stabilisation of these prices at a level which would not unduly strain the economy of India, while giving a reasonable return to the farmer.

Services rendered by Private Enterprise.— Putting in a vigorous plea for continuance of private enterprise in India, he dealt at length with its services to the country. He pointed out that looking to the achievement of Indian enterprise during the last 150 years, it had to be admitted that, in spite of Government's policy of laissez faire, of Imperial Preference, of currency manipulations and of administrative discriminations against indigenous private enterprise, it ~~might~~ had served the country well in not only improving the economic condition of the masses but in preventing, for generations, a continuous drain of the country's material resources in money and in kind to foreign countries. India had, unfortunately, not been able to establish any of the basic and key industries such as manufacture of heavy chemicals, manures, etc., and it was necessary to build up these industries under State control and protection. Private enterprise had every confidence that, if ~~called~~ called upon by the National Government to shoulder the greater responsibilities on behalf of the State, it will discharge these responsibilities with credit.

Labour Problem—not responsive to Improved Conditions.— In the discharge of these responsibilities, private enterprise naturally expected cordial industrial relations with labour. Relations between industries and labour had not been very happy in recent times. While industries were called upon to introduce, under statutory provisions, reduction of hours of work, holidays with pay, greater facilities for the organisation of trade union movement and while there were proposals before Government for ~~extension~~ extension of maternity benefits, housing, sickness, insurance, etc., labour had not been reciprocating fairly to the grant of better working conditions at the hands of employers. Industrial employers should not grudge the grant of these amenities of life to labour, because thereby they could look forward to greater efficiency and better output of the industry. Every attempt must be made both by the state and by the employer, to educate labour and to train them in the modern methods of craftsmanship in the industry. Indian industrialists looked forward to an era of industrial tranquillity and better relations between industry and labour, under which labour would contribute its best in greater efficiency.

Nationalisation only of Basic Industries.— Dealing with the vexed question of nationalisation, he said that talks of nationalisation, started since the setting up of the National Government, should not unnecessarily create apprehensions in the mind of private enterprise at a time when plans on a long-range basis for the establishment of new industries and expansion of existing ones were on the anvil. Indian private enterprise would not fight shy of State control in respect of certain defence and basic industries on selective basis, which were necessary in the interest of India. The experience of the working of various import, export, exchange and industry controls by Government clearly proved that Government were not yet fully equipped with the technical knowledge necessary for the efficient operation of any machinery affecting trade, commerce and industry of the country.

There are certain industries, defence and basic, which could, with advantage, be run by the State provided adequate private capital was not forthcoming and it was regarded essential in the national interest to promote such industries. Such industries should be first established under the State control. With regard to other industries, private enterprise offered a very speedy and efficient means of bringing about industrial development and expansion of the country, thereby maximising employment and raising the standard of living of the people.

Other Suggestions.- With regard to the control policy, he believed that the time had come when the Central Government must review de novo the problem of controls. Government should give its serious consideration to the question of removing controls from all such articles which were not absolutely necessary for the day-to-day requirements of the masses. Regarding sterling balances, he said that the financial position of the United Kingdom had materially improved with the conclusion of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement and with the effective export drive of the United Kingdom, and it was but fair that the British Government should honour these credits, which were honourably and generously given by India at great sacrifice to herself. Referring to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee regarding U.S. Government's proposals for Expansion of World Trade and Employment, he stated that the results so far achieved and the decisions taken at the meeting were not at all encouraging, and unless the Interim Government insist, through its Delegation at the forthcoming Conference, for the acceptance of the principle that every country whether fully developed or under-developed had the unquestionable right to lay down its tariff policy and was allowed to exercise it at its discretion for building up its developmental tariff and enforcing quantitative trade restrictions for the establishment and development of industries, the international economic set-up proposed under the Charter would not be of much service to such under-developed countries of the world, having ample resources and man-power at their disposal. As regards the Budget proposals, he thought that the net result of these proposals, if finally carried out, would be to cripple existing trade and industry, to curb enthusiasm for expansion and to destroy all incentive for fresh enterprise. Lack of any definite economic and financial policy, imposition of unduly heavy ~~burdens~~ burdens on industry and commerce at this early stage of its development, coupled with threats of nationalisation, was, in his opinion, not calculated to create conditions of confidence and stability, in the country.

Resolutions.- The following were some of the more important resolutions adopted by the Federation:

International Conference on Trade and Employment.- In a resolution on the International Conference on Trade and Employment, the Federation, while welcoming in principle the proposal for the formation of an International Trade Organization and multilateral trading with the object of promoting world trade and employment, noted with regret that the procedure outlined in the Draft Charter of the Joint Committee of the Preparatory Session for resorting to protective measures by under-developed countries was far from satisfactory and objectionable from the point of view of such countries. The Federation was emphatically of the opinion that India and the other under-developed countries cannot surrender to the Organisation their inherent right, liberty and discretion to adopt adequate and effective measures to protect and develop their existing ~~indus~~ industries or new industries necessary for raising the purchasing power and standard of living of their people.

51

The highly industrialised countries should also recognise that the levels of tariffs in each country should be related to the stage of industrial development of such countries. The highly industrialised countries should offer to under-developed countries all facilities and assistance for their industrial and general economic development in the shape of adequate supplies of capital goods and equipment, advanced technology and requisite technical skill. The Federation strongly urged that the recommendations of the Committee dealing with problems relating to restrictive business practices, ~~xxx~~ particularly resorted to by international combines and cartels to the detriment of greater international trade, which had been confined to to commodities only, should not and could not be accepted by India so long as the question of unfair restrictive business practices relating to services such as, shipping, banking and insurance was excluded from the operation of these recommendations.

Immigration ^{Laws} ~~xxxx~~ of U.S.A.- By another resolution, the Federation recorded its grateful appreciation of the decision taken by the Congress of the United States of America in amending its immigration laws enabling thereby Indian immigrants on a quota basis to enjoy full American citizenship rights in the United States. The Federation trusted that the lead given by the U.S. would be followed by other countries of the world.

Nationalisation Policy.- The Federation, by another resolution, recognised the necessity of nationalisation in respect of defence and certain basic industries, when private capital was not forthcoming and when promotion of such industries was regarded as essential in the national interests. The Federation was of the opinion that adherence to the system of private enterprise offered the best and speediest means of bringing about the industrial development and expansion of the country, increasing employment, improving the standard of living of the people and ~~ensuring~~ ensuring success for the schemes of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. Accordingly, the Federation urged that the Government of India should make an early announcement of their policy on this all-important question and assure the Indian commercial and industrial interests full opportunity and facilities and encouragement in the spheres of trade, commerce and industry. The Federation, at the same time, recognised that popular government might have to regulate the activities of such private enterprise in such ~~xxxxxxx~~ manner as would serve the national economic interests.

India's Sterling Balances.- On the question of sterling balances, the Federation, while welcoming the commencement of negotiations for settlement, reiterated unqualified opposition to any suggestion for the scaling down of these balances and urged that the basis of repayment should be such as to make these balances available for use in connection with the country's programme of industrial expansion and development.

Need for Increased Production.- The Federation, by another resolution, invited the attention of the Government to the serious situation which had arisen as a result of the overall shortage of consumer and other essential goods consequent upon a fall in the general level of production in the country due to transport difficulties, restrictions in working hours, growing labour unrest and industrial strife, irregular and inadequate supplies of coal and other sources of power etc. The policy of interference of the Central and Provincial Governments in the past without proper co-ordination through the promulgation of a plethora of negative controls had, on the other hand,

52

~~frustrated~~ frustrated and obstructed new expansion and production and thwarted private efforts. While production had thus received a setback, the demand for goods had increased as a result of increase in population and a rise in the standard of living, and thereby accentuated the scarcity of goods. The fall in production had tended to increase the cost of production of industries which, coupled with the scarcity of goods, had tended to raise the general price level thereby creating the demand for higher wages. Higher wages and shorter working hours had led to a further rise in the cost of production and a demand for still higher wages. Thus there had been a spiral of increasing cost of production and higher wages due to decreased production and scarcity of goods which, if allowed to continue, would dislocate and distort the entire national economy of the country and create far-reaching adverse repercussions.

The Federation was of the considered opinion that the primary cause of this growing malaise was the fall in production levels to overcome which Government should create the necessary conditions and offer adequate incentive, as continuance of controls and consequent interference and obstruction of private effort would hamper production and prolong conditions of scarcity. The Federation, therefore, urged the Government of India to take immediate measures to maximise production within as short as a time as possible by encouraging private enterprise to expand production ~~through the utilisation of the existing capacity of the industry to the full expansion of the existing industries and the establishment of new ones.~~ Government should also extend the necessary assistance to the industry in the form of better transport facilities, adequate supplies of coal and raw materials, and by stabilisation of labour conditions.

Budget Proposals of Government of India 1947-48. - (The main points of the Federation's resolution on the Budget Proposals are reported at pages 31-32 of this report).

Economic Policy. - The resolution on economic policy expressed the Federation's grave concern regarding the increasing deterioration in all spheres of economic activity created as a result of the absence of any definite economic policy on the part of Government and recorded its considered view that it was time for the Interim Government to take immediate steps to review the position in respect of India's import and export and internal trade and to examine de novo the operation of various controls set up by Government under war emergency. The Federation's suggestions, in this connection, were : (a) that export trade in respect of those articles and raw materials which were in exportable surplus and which would create the much needed trade contacts with countries abroad, should be permitted, (b) that the Government's policy recently followed in respect of unrestricted imports of non-essential and/or luxury articles should be radically overhauled, (c) that inter-provincial barriers and administrative impediments between the various Provincial Governments and State Administrations should immediately be done away with, encouraging thereby freer flow of internal trade ~~and factors of production in the interest of the economic unity of India,~~ (d) that an early review of the operation of the various controls on agricultural commodities and manufactured articles, instituted by Central, Provincial or State Administrations, should be made and Government should take an early decision on the basis of their review whether the continuance of such controls, except in case of foodgrains, would at all be necessary in the greater interest of India, and (e) that Government should take immediate decision for the setting up of a permanent tariff board machinery with powers to review from time to time, on its own initiative

the effect of grant of protection to industries and to examine fresh applications from industries requiring protection.

Civil Aviation.- By another resolution the Federation regretted the absence of a definite policy in respect of development of civil aviation and urged Government to formulate and implement without delay a clear and vigorous policy of development of air transport both internal and external. The Federation was of the opinion that the most suitable method of developing air transport in this country was by encouraging private enterprise to operate air services under strict Government control so as to ensure the most rapid and orderly development of civil aviation. The Government should secure for India her proper share and adequate participation in international air traffic by bilateral arrangement and other suitable measures. In order to develop civil aviation Government should also take the following measures: (i) The scheme for training of pilots, ground engineers and other technical personnel should be expedited and adequate opportunities and facilities should be provided to young Indians for such training in all the branches of aviation. (ii) Government should establish a full-fledged aircraft manufacturing industry within the country. (iii) Government should encourage flying and gliding clubs all over the country.

Food Policy.- The Federation welcomed the efforts of the Government of India to inaugurate a five-year plan detailing the various kinds of aid the producer would be given in his drive for production of more food-grains including irrigation facilities, better seeds and improved agricultural implements and the use of tractors. With regard to the Krishnamachari Enquiry Committee Report on price structure of agricultural commodities, (vide pages 36-39 of the report of this office for July, 1946), the Federation hoped that Government would be able to strike a via media whereby the interests of "the man behind the plough" as also of the consumers would be safeguarded. In this regard, the Federation welcomed the appointment of the Commodity Prices Board for fixing fair prices of agricultural products.

Economic Powers and Policies of proposed Indian Union Government.- The Federation was of opinion that the minimum powers that should be vested in the proposed Union Government must enable it to make policies in respect of currency and coinage, customs and tariffs, protection to Indian industries, defence and communications. The Federation feared that if the various units in the Union were left free to make their policies in respect of these matters it would be a serious menace to the entire economic fabric of the country.

Office Bearers for 1947-48.- The following Office-Bearers were elected for 1947-48. President: Mr. M.A. Master, Vice-President: Mr. Lalji Mehrotra, and Honorary Treasurer: Dr. S.B. Dutt.

(From printed copies of the Presidential Address and the Resolutions received in this office from the Secretary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, and Hindustan Times and Times of India, dated 4-3-1947).

54

Wage Increase conditioned by Industry's ability
to pay: Annual Meeting of Indian Mines Association,
Calcutta, 28-3-1947.

The main problems facing the coal industry in India were reviewed by Mr. J. Latimer, Chairman, Indian Mining Association, in his presidential address at the annual general meeting of the Association held at Calcutta on 28-3-1947. The following is a brief summary of Mr. Latimer's address:-

Wage Increase conditioned by Industry's ability to pay.- The Indian Coalfields Committee (vide pages 37-38 of this Office's report for October, 1946) had pointed out that the lack of a settled labour force was one of the main reasons for the low production of coal in India. To meet this difficulty, the Committee had suggested the transformation of the hitherto accepted ~~price-wage~~ "price-wage" relationship into a "wage price" one. In other words, it must first be decided what a labourer ought to get as a man and a human being to give him a reasonable standard of life; then, if the industry cannot stand such wages the cost of the consumer has to be increased in the hope the consumer can stand it. Only ~~from~~ a prosperous, dignified, contented labour force can achieve the "optimum" output, and in any case, if an industry cannot support such a labour force it is not a very desirable industry. The Association was in general agreement with the theory, but from the point of view of practical administration it had to be pointed out that problems of labour cannot be settled separately and as it were in a water-tight compartment. Wages can only be raised if the industry can pay for it; otherwise both the industry and the worker would suffer. The Labour Department of the Government of India had just set up a Conciliation Board on which employers and labour are represented and before which representatives of employers and workers have been stating their views as to the adequacy or ~~of~~ ^{of} the existing level of wages and amenities. But unless ~~workers~~ the ability of the industry to pay higher wages is fully proved to put further wage burdens on employers was unjust and unwise.

Labour Problems.- Turning to labour, Mr. Latimer said that there has been a great deal of unrest in the Coalfields, though little of it was spontaneous and a great deal of it was engineered for purely political reasons. As regards the actual position of the workers, there was no doubt there have been considerable improvements in their condition, and that wages and concessions had kept pace with the cost of living. At present very many miners had more money than they ~~know~~ know what to do with. Absenteeism was caused by workers using this money to 'buy leisure'. Mr. Latimer agreed that the conditions of living of the miner were low and must be raised, but a great deal has been done and is being done now within the limits of the resources available to the industry to improve the conditions of living of the mine-workers.

Coal shortage and due to Transport Difficulties.- In 1946 the total raisings of coal were ~~45485~~ tons per month more than they were in 1945; during February 1946 alone stocks in the coalfields increased by a quarter of a million tons. These figures would hardly seem to indicate that new and drastic cuts can be sufficiently explained by shortage of coal. The fact was that transport was breaking down and it may be a long time before things get better. Further prospects ~~depend on~~ ~~transport~~ the prospects of getting more and better coal, depended on immediate and realistic action by Government on the question of prices and transport and these were matters beyond the control of the industry.

55

Conservation of Coal Resources.- The Indian Coalfields Committee's recommendation in favour of conservation did not mean that good coal should be left in the ground while the country burdened itself with more and more of inferior grades. The country badly needed, and would continue to need for many years, all the good coal it can raise whether metallurgical or not and the only consideration was that it should not be wasted either by bad mining methods or by uneconomic use.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 31-5-1947).

(The Chairman's address at the 1946 annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Association was reviewed at pages 17-18 of this Office's report for March, 1946).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Partial Prohibition to ^{be} Introduced in Orissa
from 1-4-1947.

Reference was made at page 55 of the report of this office of for September, 1946, to the adoption by the Orissa Legislative Assembly of a non-official resolution recommending the introduction of prohibition in the Province. On 19-3-1947, the Revenue Minister, Mr. Paba Krishna Chaudhury stated in the Orissa Legislative Assembly that the Government proposed to introduce prohibition from 1-4-1947, in those thanas in Cuttack district that were not adjacent to States. The Government hoped to introduce prohibition throughout the province in the next five years.

(The Statesman, 22-3-1947).

Move for a Uniform Code of Hindu Law:
Hindu Law Committee Report favouring
greater sex equality submitted.

The Hindu Law Committee, set up to evolve a uniform code of Hindu law applicable to all Hindus out of the various schools of law in different parts of India, submitted its report to the Government of India recently. Conversion of Hindu women's present limited estate into an absolute estate, introduction of monogamy as a rule of law, provision for divorce under certain specified conditions, an increased share of the daughter in intestate succession to father's property, abolition of the right of succession by birth and the principle of survivorship and the substitution of the Dayabhaga law for the Mitakshara throughout the country are some of the important recommendations made by the Committee. Most of the provisions in the Code, the report points out, are of a ~~permissive~~ permissive or enabling nature, and impose no compulsion or obligation whatever on the orthodox. Their only effect is to give a growing body of Hindus men and women, liberty to live the life they wish to lead, without in any way affecting or infringing the similar liberty of those who prefer to adhere to the old ways.

The Committee consisted of Sir B.N. Rau (chairman), Dr. Dwarkanath Mitter, Principal J.R. Gharpure and Mr. T.R. Venkatarama Sastri (members) and Mr. K.V. Rajagopalan (Secretary), and began its labour early in January, 1944. As a preliminary step, it prepared a rough draft code dealing with intestate and testamentary succession (and matters arising therefrom), marriage and divorce, minority and guardianship, and adoption these being the only subjects on which the Centre has power to legislate

at present. This draft was published in August, 1944 in various Indian languages, in addition to English, for eliciting public opinion. In the early part of 1945, the Committee toured extensively through British India for taking ~~and~~ oral evidence on the provisions contained in the draft code. The draft, as revised in the light of the criticism, has now been submitted to the Government of India.

Need for changes in Hindu Law.- The Committee's report is not unanimous, Dr. Dwarkanath Mitter, one of the members, has recorded a dissenting minute which opposes the codification of the Hindu law as well as the changes proposed in the draft Code on the ground, mainly, that there is no demand for them.

The majority report, after referring to the fact that some of the changes recommended have already been carried out by legislation at the Centre and in Bombay, answers Dr. Mitter's objection in the following ~~words~~ words: "More important than any happenings in India are the repercussions of events in the international sphere. In recent months, India has been participating in international conferences and ~~has~~ pleading for human rights and for equal treatment of Indians in foreign ~~countries~~ countries. It would be more than a misfortune if, at this juncture, she were to fail to enact within her own borders a Hindu code in which there was equality before the law and in which disabilities based on caste or sex were no longer recognized."

(The Hindustan Times, 15-3-1947).

The Central Provinces and Berar Scheduled Castes
(Removal of Civil Disabilities) Bill, 1947 :
introduced in C.P. Assembly, 24-3-1947.

On 24-3-1947, the Central Provinces and Berar Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Bill, 1947, was introduced in the Central Provinces' Assembly by Dr. W.S. Barlinge, Minister for Public Works. The Bill declares as an offence any attempt to prevent a member of the scheduled castes, merely because of the fact of his belonging to that community, from using public utilities (wells, tanks or other source of water; public conveyances, etc.,) and having access to public buildings, places of amusement, etc.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, points out that an Act was promulgated by the Provincial Government in 1933, defining the right of all persons of whatever caste or creed to use public places (Act No. VIII of 1933). The present Government considers that the 1933 measure is not adequate to remove the social disabilities which are imposed on certain classes of the Hindu community, commonly known as Scheduled Castes, Depressed Classes, Harijans, Untouchables, etc. The Bill seeks to secure that ~~the~~ in course of time the distinction between caste Hindus and the Scheduled Castes is completely obliterated.

(Central Provinces and Berar Gazette
Extraordinary, 11-3-1947, pages 103-104;
Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 26-3-1947)

58

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Harnessing Indigenous Medical Systems for
Betterment of Rural Health: Madras Govern-
ment's Schemes for cheap Village Medical
Services.

A press communiqué dated 11-3-1947 issued by the Government of Madras (Public (Information and Publicity) Department) says that in connection with the reorganization of medical relief in villages, the Government have sanctioned a scheme to accord recognition to practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine, to improve their status and qualifications and to make their services available to the rural population on a regular basis. Under the scheme, District Collectors will select the most suitable private practitioners in villages with a population of 1,000 or more for the purpose of recognition as village Vaidyas (practitioners of the Ayurvedic or Hindu system of medicine) or Hakims (practitioners of the Unani or Muslim system of medicine). Each village will have one such practitioner registered by the Central Board of Indian Medicine. Those who have not already been registered will, if selected by the Collector, have an opportunity to get themselves registered on payment of the prescribed fee. If funds permit, the panchayat or the district board concerned can pay an honorarium to the recognized practitioner, the payment of which will be subject to satisfactory service to the villagers. Recognition will be withdrawn and the honorarium withheld if his services are found to be unsatisfactory or the fees charged by him are exorbitant. A scheme will be prepared for the training of village Vaidyas and Hakims and for granting them certificates, after they pass an examination, at the end of the training.

(Press Communiqué dated 11-3-1947 of the Government
of Madras, Public (Information and Publicity)
Department).

10-year Medical Relief Plan for Kashmir:
One Medical Institution for every 20,000
of Population.

The Government ~~right~~ of Kashmir have formulated a 10-year plan to extend medical aid in the State and to make medical relief available to everyone within the radius of about five miles of his home and to set up a medical institution for every 20,000 of population.

(The Statesman, 19-3-1947).

59

Enquiry into Systems of Indian Medicine:
U.P. Government set up Committee.

A Committee, consisting of 20 members presided over by Mr. A.G. Kher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Home Minister, has been recently appointed by the U.P. Government to enquire into and report on matters relating to the training and practice of Ayurvedic and Unani medical systems and to organise medical relief and public health based on those systems. The terms of reference include the question of establishment of (1) a university, (2) research institutions, (3) T.B. sanatorium and clinics, and (4) a provincial organization for research and propagation of sound knowledge of dietetics and of the value of Indian dishes; training of health officers and visitors, hygiene officers, dentists, compounders, nurses and dais (midwives); standardization of Ayurvedic and Unani drugs and preparation of a pharmacopoeia; progressive co-ordination of all the institutions, hospitals and dispensaries of the ~~the~~ Ayurvedic and Unani systems and research into dietetics, personal hygiene, food for convalescents and children, and the care of women during pregnancy and after child-birth as prescribed by the Ayurvedic and Unani systems.

(The Statesman, 14-3-1947;
The Hindustan Times, 14-3-1947).

Improvement of Rural Public Health in U.P.:
Subsidy Scheme for Doctors in Rural Areas.

Rural areas in the United Provinces are to receive priority in future schemes for the improvement of public health, according to a statement in the U.P. Assembly on 17-3-1947, by Mrs. Pandit, Minister for Health and Local Self-Government. Moving a grant of nearly Rs. 15 million for the Medical Department, Mrs. Pandit said the Government's plans included establishment of 500 additional dispensaries in rural areas. The first hundred were to be built during the next 12 months at a cost of Rs. 1.6 million. It had also been decided to offer increased subsidies to doctors who practised in villages. The new rates would be Rs. 90 per month for graduates and Rs. 50 per month for licentiates, in addition to an annual sum of Rs. 1,140 for both categories, on account of medicines, pay of compounder and other expenditure.

To increase the number of qualified nurses and midwives, who together totalled 911 in the whole province, the Government was opening new training centres. A preliminary training centre for nurses was to be started at Cawnpore to prepare them for a course of higher training. The two Medical Colleges in the province, at Lucknow and Agra, were to be expanded to admit 100 more students each per year and to accommodate a total of 2,000 patients in the College Hospitals. This would still be far short of actual requirements, but would be an improvement on the present ratio of one doctor per 13,000 of the population.

(The Statesman, 19-5-1947).

EDUCATION.

The Sind Primary Education Bill, 1947, gazetted:
Provisions For Introduction of Compulsory Primary
Education.

The Government of Sind gazetted on 25-3-1947, the Sind Primary Education Bill, 1947, to provide for compulsory primary education and for adequate management and control of primary education in the Province. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the bill points out that administration of primary education in Sind so far has been largely entrusted to the local authorities under the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1923. The need for extending compulsory primary education all over the area has been realised for some time past, but the progress made has not been adequate, as the initiative for introducing schemes of compulsory primary education rests largely with the local authorities, who in many cases do not find the necessary funds to push forward such schemes. It has, therefore, ^{been} considered desirable to take over the management and control of primary education from all local authorities. Under the new arrangements, Government will set up the Provincial Board of Primary Education and District Advisory Committees, which will consist also of some representatives of the local bodies.

In every area of compulsion the parents of every child shall, in the absence of reasonable excuse, cause the child to attend an approved school until the child has passed the fourth standard vernacular. The bill also provides that whoever knowingly takes into his employment, any child who has to attend school under the provisions of the bill, so as to interfere with the efficient instruction of such child, shall, on ~~any~~ conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 25-3-1947, Part IV, pages 258-270).

TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

Average Earnings of Factory Workers in British India during 1945: Approximately 1.6 per cent Increase over 1944 Figure.

Rise in Average Earnings per Worker in Perennial Industries.- The average annual earnings of a worker in perennial industries in British India during 1945, as estimated from returns under the Payment of Wages Act received by Provincial Governments and consolidated on an all-India basis for arriving at general averages, were approximately Rs. 595.8 as compared with Rs. 586.5 during 1944. This represents a slight increase of 1.6 per cent; the highest average earnings were in Bombay Province, being Rs. 814.7 and the lowest in Coorg, namely, Rs. 306. It is pointed out in this connection that the Payment of Wages Act applies only to workers whose monthly wages are below Rs. 200. It is possible that all the factories which are subject to the Act may not have furnished returns. Wages, for purposes of these returns, include dearness and other allowances paid in cash, but not concessions in ~~the~~ kind such as provision of foodstuffs at cheap prices, rent-free housing accommodation, etc.

The average daily numbers of workers subject to the Payment of Wages Act in different industries during 1945 were: Textiles-1,012,195; Engineering-270,883; Minerals and Metals-97,265; Wood, Stone and Glass-95,630; and Ordnance Factories-179,259.

Earnings in Different Industries.- The following table gives the average annual earnings of factory workers in major perennial industries in British India during 1945, as compared with the corresponding figures for 1944 and 1939.

Industry	Average Annual Earnings in		
	1945	1944	1939
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Textiles.....	613.7	633.6	293.5
Engineering.....	653.1	589.8	263.5
Mineral and Metals.	601.9	573.5	483.2
Wood, Stone and Glass	413.6	368.4	194.2
Ordnance Factories.	642.8	546.8	361.9

It can be seen from the above figures that although taking India as a whole ~~highest average earnings were in Bombay, namely, Rs. 814.7, the lowest being in Sind, namely, Rs. 306.~~ the average earnings increased by about 1.6 per cent as compared to the previous year, the increase was not uniform by in all groups of industries and

62

an important group, namely, Textiles, actually registered a fall of 5.1 per cent as compared to the year 1944. Thus, while the average earnings in textiles were Rs. 633.6 in 1944, they fell to Rs. 615.7 in 1945. As compared to the pre-war year 1939, however, Textiles show an increase of about 109.1 per cent. In the Engineering group, earnings increased by 10.7 per cent as compared to the previous year. The highest percentage increase was, however, in Ordnance Factories, being 17.6 per cent. As compared to pre-war, the highest percentage increase was in Engineering and the lowest in Minerals and Metals. The average earnings in the important groups of industries were above the average for the whole country except in the case of factories dealing with Wood, Stone and Glass, the highest average earnings, namely, Rs. 653.1 being in Engineering followed by Ordnance Factories, namely, Rs. 642.8.

Inter-Provincial Differences in Earnings of Factory Workers:- The data for the average annual earnings ~~of~~ of factory workers according to Provinces and industries show that in the textile industry the highest average earnings were in Bombay, namely, Rs. 866.6, the lowest being in Sind, namely, Rs. 258.2. In Madras the average earnings in textiles were Rs. 360.5, in Delhi Rs. 779.4, and in Bengal (for both cotton and jute textiles), Rs. 400.7. Among Minerals and Metals the highest average earnings were in Assam being Rs. 947.7. This is probably accounted for by the war-time conditions. The position with regard to other industries is given below:-

Industry	Province where the average annual earnings per worker during 1945	
	were highest	were lowest
Engineering.....	Bombay Rs. 951.9	Madras... Rs. 424.7
Minerals and Metals....	Assam Rs. 947.7	Madras... Rs. 315.9
Chemical and Dyes.....	Assam Rs. 602.5	Orissa... Rs. 207.8
Paper and Printing.....	NWFP. Rs. 698.9	Bihar.... Rs. 371.5
Wood, Stone and Glass...	NWFP..... Rs. 682.5	Bihar ...Rs. 292.6
Skins and Hides.....	Punjab..... Rs. 708.8	Madras... Rs. 254.4
Ordnance Factories.....	Bengal..... Rs. 734.8	CP and Berar. Rs. 512.5
Mints.....	Bombay..... Rs. 728.6	Punjab... Rs. 370.2

(Average earnings figures of factories workers during 1944 were reviewed at pages 37-38 of our report for June, 1946).

(Indian Labour Gazette, February, 1947).

Control Measures.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947,
gazetted.

The Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill, 1946, (vide page 46 of the report of this Office for November 1946), received the assent of the Governor General on 11-3-1947, and has been gazetted as the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (Act No. VII of 1947). The Act empowers the Government to control transaction in foreign exchange, securities, gold, etc.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 11-3-1947, pages 235-250).

Textile Industry.

Expansion of Textile Industry: Import Licence
for 2.85 Million Spindles Issued.

In reply to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly on 21-2-1947, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, stated that licences for the import of about 2.85 million spindles have been issued by the Government of India in accordance with its post-war plan for textiles. Efforts were also being made to encourage the manufacture of spinning machinery in India. One firm had already started manufacturing on a small scale and one or two others would shortly go into production. It is expected that machinery would be received and set up for at least ten new mills during 1947. The Government of India estimate that mill production will for some years fall short of demand and are of the view that the more hand-spun yarn and handloom cloth are produced and consumed, the better it will be for the country.

(Indian Information, 15-3-1947).

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Food.

Measures to augment Food Production:
Madras Government's New Well-Subsidy
Schemes.

In order to encourage food production, the Government of Madras has, since 1944, sanctioned three well-subsidy schemes. One of the schemes has practically ended and the other two will end shortly (vide page 60 of the report of this Office for February, 1946). About 30,000 new wells have been completed and about 15,000 old wells have been repaired under these schemes. Though there has been a fairly satisfactory increase in the number of wells, there is still scope for quicker and more substantial progress. As there has been a widespread demand from the ryots for the continuance of Government assistance and the need to stimulate food production is still urgent, Government considers that further endeavours to extend well-irrigation should be made and sustained until the maximum number of wells are sunk. The Government has accordingly sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme, in supersession of the three earlier schemes. The scheme offers a subsidy of half the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 300 per well.

(Government of Madras, Public (Information and Publicity) Department, Press Note No. 58, dated 3-3-1947).

66

Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen: Co-operative Metal Works
started by Madras Government.

The Government of Madras has started a co-operative metal works at Tanjore for providing employment for discharged ex-services personnel. The institution has been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. Membership is open to all discharged ex-services personnel who have had at least six months service in units and who had undergone training in any metal trade under the Government of India Technical Training Scheme. The ultimate total number of members of the society is 200 with a share capital of Rs. 40,000. There are now eight members.

(Madras Information, dated 15-5-1947).

Resettlement of Ex-Bevin Boys: Joint Scheme to be
Worked out by the Resettlement and Civil Aviation
Directorates.

Resettlement of ex-Bevin trainees and ex-R.I.A.F. personnel in air-operating companies as mechanics, or apprentices for mechanic's or ground engineer's course, is the object of a new scheme which will be jointly worked by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation.

The air-operating companies and flying clubs in the ~~various~~ country are being requested by the Director-General of Civil Aviation to register their demands for mechanics with the Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment of the region concerned.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-3-1947).

Education of Ex-Servicemen's Children in Madras:
Central Government's grant of Rs. 18.6 million.

The Government of India have allotted a sum of Rs. 18,600,000 for providing educational facilities to the children of ex-servicemen in the Madras Province.

Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, has constituted in this connection a committee with himself as chairman and educational and military authorities as members.

The committee will consult educational authorities and representatives of the provincial Soldiers', sailors' and Airmen's board to formulate suitable schemes for benefitting the children of ex-servicemen.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-3-1947).

Post-War Reconstruction.



Labour in Reconstruction Planning in India:
Advisory Planning Board's Recommendations.

A summary of the report of the Advisory Planning Board appointed by the Government of India in October 1946 to review the planning already done by the Government and the work of the National Planning Committee and ~~the~~ to make recommendations for improved planning was given at pages 81-84 of our February 1947 report. (The summary was given from press cuttings on the report). The report of the Planning Board has since been received and the Board's recommendations on the subject of labour are given below:

Full Mobilisation of Labour.- For securing the fullest benefit from planned action adequate organisation of the labour supply and mobilisation of the man-power of the country ~~are~~ necessary. For providing adequate supply of skilled labour in all branches of productive activity, — whether agriculture, industry, forestry and mining, trade, banking, insurance, transport services, power-supply, health, education, entertainment and the like, — appropriate training arrangements must be made, side by side with providing employment for such trained personnel.

Fluctuations in Demand for Labour to be Minimised; Available Work to be equitably shared.- Fluctuations in the volume of employment in any particular industry, public utility, or certain cultural activities, must be minimised. In case, however, due to specific circumstances of any given moment, or sudden and unexpected emergencies, a substantial change in the volume of employment becomes inevitable in particular directions or activities, means must be found to make these derangements of the minimum extent and duration possible. If at any time work becomes absolutely less in volume, then the reduced volume must be equitably shared among all workers. There will have to be some measure of social conscription providing work for all adult workers in accordance with their aptitudes and training and eliminating parasitism of any kind.

Organisational Development: Membership of Unions to be made obligatory.- Organisations of labour, whether Trade Unions or Professional Corporations with their adjuncts of Labour Exchanges Employment Bureau, Information Depots and other such machinery, must be made compulsory, if only to facilitate the administration of the labour section of the plan. Every worker must be required to join an appropriate organisation as condition precedent for receiving the full benefit of all labour legislation and other measures to improve the lot of labour.

Trained Personnel from Foreign Countries.- The need for trained personnel, however, is no less intense than exacting. It is possible that in the initial stages of Planning trained personnel may

* Report of the Advisory Planning Board, December 1946, pages 189.

68

not be available within the country itself. In that case, such assistance may be obtained from outside sources so as to tide over the initial difficulty. Regarding the terms and conditions of which such foreign labour should be attracted, there is no great difference of opinion, and so it is unnecessary to labour this point further.

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Institute of Jute Technology in Calcutta University:
Cost to be borne by Indian Jute Mills Association.

The foundation-stone-laying ceremony of the Institute of Jute Technology, Calcutta University, ~~at~~ Calcutta, was performed by Mr. I.G. Kennedy, President, Indian Jute Mills Association, on 20-2-1947. The course of training in the Institute for students passing the I.Sc. examination will be four years and for graduates three years. The minimum number of students to be admitted every year to the institute will be 23. The ultimate decision in the choice of apprentices, will rest with the jute mills concerned. Each apprentice will be given a suitable monthly allowance. The Jute Mills Association has promised a donation of a sum ~~of~~ not less than Rs. .7 million for capital expenditure and has undertaken the responsibility of being solely responsible for the maintenance of the Institute.

(The Indian Central Jute Committee,
Bulletin, February, 1947).

Fisheries Research: Standing Finance Committee
Approves Development Scheme.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature at its meeting on 22-3-1947 under the chairmanship of Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, Finance Member, approved plans for the development of research in fisheries in India.

According to the scheme submitted by the Department of Agriculture, it is proposed to have a Central Fisheries Research Institute which will have four main stations and a chain of subsidiary biological stations all along the extensive coastline. One of the main stations to be located in Bombay, will provide for the study of fish technology, methods of treatment, preservation, utilisation of by-products, etc. Another, to be located in Bengal, will have facilities for research in inland fisheries with a sub-station or floating laboratory attached to it for estuarine work. The other two main stations will be for marine fisheries, one on the East ~~coast and another~~ coast at Mandapam in Madras Presidency, and the other on the West Coast at Karachi.

According to the present estimates, the Central Research Scheme will involve an expenditure of Rs. 850,000 recurring and Rs. 3.3 Million non-recurring in 1947-48. The gross total for six years 1946-47 to 1951-52 is Rs. 8 million recurring and Rs. 8-5 million non-recurring. (The Dawn and Hindu, 24-3-1947).

69

Reservation of Coastal Shipping for Indian
Bottoms: Report of Reconstruction Policy
Committee on Shipping.

The Ports (Technical) Committee submitted its Report to Government in May 1946 (vide page 49 of the report of this Office for June, 1946). The Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping of 6 members, which was subsequently appointed with Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyer as chairman and Mr. R. Doraiswamy as Secretary, has released its Report in March 1947. Strongly criticizing the Government of India for their past neglect of Indian shipping, the Sub-Committee points out that strategic and economic considerations make it imperative both in the interest of India as well as in the interest of other countries in the Indian Ocean that India should have a large and powerful navy both of supply and defence. Its more important recommendations are noticed below:-

Seven-Point Plan: 2 Million Tons of New Shipping.- (a) In view of India's strategic position and to provide for her economic needs and security requirements, Indian shipping should be defined as shipping owned, controlled and managed by nationals of India. (b) As an interim plan, 100 per cent of the purely coastal trade of India, 75 per cent of India's trade with Burma and Ceylon and the geographically adjacent countries, 50 per cent of India's distant trades and 30 per cent of the trades formerly carried in the Axis vessels in the Orient should be secured for Indian shipping in the next five to seven years. This is in accordance with the generally accepted principle that a country should carry in its own national bottoms at least 50 per cent of her maritime trades. (c) The volume of trade which will result from this would be more than ten million tons of cargo and about three million passengers in a year and India will need two million gross tons of shipping for this purpose (excluding country craft). (d) As the Indian shipping industry is still very young, it would not be desirable now to fix a tonnage limit for Indian shipping companies nor should there be any restriction on them with reference to their capital structure, but it is necessary at the same time to prevent monopolistic exploitation. The other three points in the plan refer to the desirability of distributing shipping equitably between the different companies, improvement in the quality of naval statistics and transference of the administration of port-trusts from the Transport to the Commerce Department.

Shipping Board.- The Sub-Committee have suggested the following methods of implementing their recommendations. The reservation of coastal shipping to the Indian flag would necessarily imply licensing. The setting up of a Shipping Board is, therefore, recommended for the efficient working of the licensing system and to regulate the coastal trade. The Board will consider all applications for financial and other aids to Indian shipping operating in the overseas trade and recommend to Government the form and nature of the aids and the extent to which they should be granted; and also lay down the nature and forms of State control that would need be exercised over the companies which may receive such assistance, and (b) submit to Government proposals for the removal of all evils of monopolistic exploitation. The Sub-Committee considers that the additional tonnage of two million tons required to give effect to its recommendations should be secured by the following means: (a) negotiations with H.M.G. and/or British companies since it is the latter who are dominating the various trades of India; (b) importing food grains by Indian tonnage and thereby

70

encouraging Indian companies to acquire additional tonnage; (c) helping Indian companies to purchase U.S.A.'s surplus ships; and (d) encouraging Indian companies to build ships in India and the U.K.

Minutes of Dissent.- Sir A.H. Ghuznavi, one of the Members, in a minute of dissent does not agree with the definition of Indian shipping, if it means that Indian shipping should be owned 100 per cent controlled 100 per cent and managed 100 per cent by nationals and of India. He thinks that it would be sufficient if the control of Indian shipping is vested in Indian nationals and suggests that a minimum percentage of Indian ownership and management should be fixed which could be 70 per cent both with reference to capital and with reference to management. He ~~says~~ prefers to draw a distinction between Indian companies operating on the Indian coasts and companies operating in overseas ~~trade~~ trade.

Mr. W.L.A. Radcliffe, another Member also does not agree with the definition of "Indian shipping" and urges that whatever constitutes "Indian shipping", such definition and any restrictive conditions laid down should only affect future floatations and companies to be formed hereafter. It would be grossly inequitable, he suggests, if they were to be applied retrospectively.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-4-1947).

The report of the Shipping Sub-Committee was considered at the meeting of the Shipping Policy Committee held at New Delhi in the third week of March 1947, Mr. I.I. Chandrigar, Commerce Member, presiding. At the meeting, Mr. Chandrigar gave the assurance that Government would give all possible assistance to Indian shipping, as it was essential for a country like India with a long coastline and placed in an important strategic position in the Indian Ocean to develop her mercantile marine so that she could take her rightful place in the world of shipping. He also disclosed that discussions had been proceeding with H.M.G. on the question of opening negotiations to secure better facilities for Indian shipping both in coastal and overseas trade.

(The Hindu, 26-3-1947).

Managerial and Supervisory Staff of Industrial Establishments:
Central Government's Scheme for Foreign Training.

Under the higher technical training scheme introduced by the Government of India in 1945, candidates have been selected from among Indian technicians with good technical education and industrial experience for undergoing practical training in industrial firms abroad. Out of a large number of applications, the names of 177 applicants have been forwarded to the representatives of the Government of India in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. with the request that training arrangements may be made for them in those countries. Up to the end of February, 1947, 83 candidates had been found training facilities in the United Kingdom, and 35 in the U.S.A.

The Government of India has now set up a Committee to suggest measures to facilitate the training abroad of managerial and higher supervisory staff for industrial establishments. The Committee will consist of the Secretary of the Department of Labour (Chairman), Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director-General of Scientific and Industrial Research, two representatives each of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi, and the Employers Federation of India,

71

Bombay, and officers of the Central Government Departments interested in the proposal.

(The Dawn, dated 21-5-1947).

Production of Essential Commodities: Steps taken for increasing output.

The steps taken by the Government of India to increase the production of certain essential commodities were detailed by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government, in reply to Mr. Manu Subedar in the Central Legislative Assembly on 13-3-1947. He said that the production of cloth, steel, kerosene and petrol fell in 1945-46 compared with the previous year. The production of sugar, paper, cement and jute manufacturers showed some increase. Government was endeavouring to do everything in its power to increase the production of commodities which were in short supply. For instance, the following steps had been taken in respect of various commodities:-

Cloth.- Regulation of types produced and working of three shifts wherever possible. Before the war, India produced 5,972 million yards of cloth and 6,197 million yards in 1945-46, while the estimate for 1946-47 was 5,500 million yards. The fall is due to reduction of working hours introduced in 1946 August, riots, strikes and lock-outs, and absenteeism among workers.

Sugar.- Forty-five new sugar factories are to be set up during the next five years.

Paper.- Assistance in the procurement of raw materials, machinery, technical advice, etc. is being afforded to the paper mills. Under the Paper Control (Production) Order, the production of paper by the Indian mills has been restricted to certain specified varieties so as to secure the maximum output. The technical officers of the Director General of Industries and Supplies visit the paper mills from time to time and give whatever assistance ~~may be given~~ may be given possible. Advice and assistance are given to convert old uneconomic units into economic units.

Cement.- A big expansion programme, planned for completion by 1952, has been sponsored by the ~~Government of India~~ Government of India.

Steel.- Every effort is being made to supply the required quantity and quality of coal to the steel industry as this is the main obstacle to the utilisation of the full productive capacity of the industry. Schemes for the expansion of the productive capacity are under way and the recommendations of the Iron and Steel Panel regarding the setting up of new works are under consideration. Production of billets from scrap is being stepped up at the metal and steel factory, Ishapore, by changing the furnaces from acid to basic. A scheme for adding two more furnaces is under examination.

Kerosene and Petrol.- Search for new oil-fields, postponed during the war owing to the lack of equipment and technical personnel, is being resumed on a large scale.

72

Jute.— The present manufacturing capacity is considered roughly adequate to meet the needs of the country, and the present inflation is a temporary phase owing to the increased demand in connection with the imports of foodstuffs.

(The Times of India, 14-5-1947).

Impact of War and Reconstruction Needs of Far East Countries: Economic Commission for Asia and Far East to be set up.

Reference was made at pages 78-79 of the report of this office for February, 1947 to a report on post-war economic reconstruction problems of Asia, issued by the United Nations Secretariat. The Far Eastern Group of U.N. has recently issued a report on the impact of the war on Asia and reconstruction needs. (India was represented in this Group by Prof. B.P. Adarkar). The report falls into the three main headings— firstly, the general aspects of reconstruction problems in the Far East, secondly, a country-by-country survey of devastation, and thirdly, a statement on the problems of actual reconstruction and the nature of assistance required. Dealing with the reconstruction needs, the report says that the present state of political unsettlement in many Far Eastern countries makes the estimates, based on assumptions about timing and execution of reconstruction plans, extremely speculative. One of the main questions discussed in the Working Group is understood to have been whether assistance should be granted to any country where damage is being done by internal disturbances. This question, it is understood, will be left for the Economic and Social Council to decide. The report recommends that the Economic and Social Council of the U.N. should estimate an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East countries.

The following information about the war damage suffered by and the reconstruction needs of India, Burma and China is taken from a summary of the report cabled from Jake Success (New York) to the Indian press by Reuter:

India.— It is stated that India's military casualties were about 180,000 and that an estimated 150 million Indians suffered from under-nourishment under best peacetime conditions. Referring to the other effects of the war on India, the report said that there was almost complete cessation of civilian building for five years. Despite all this suffering India made gains during the war which may eventually be more significant than the losses. These may well be vital factors in a general industrial programme, which have far reaching effects not only for India but for the whole of the Asia. India's main needs are: Plant and machinery, technical assistance and the need for foreign exchange in hard currency outside the sterling area. India's textile industry, the report added, was likely to play an increasingly important part in supplying the needs of other Asiatic countries.

Burma.— The first priority needs of Burma are transport equipment, consumer goods and restoration of public utilities. There is little likelihood that the oilfields there will be restored during the next two years.

China.— Facing clothing and housing shortages and disintegrated industry and transport system, China needs a large volume of imports. The war has retarded industrialisation for at least 10 years. Prices have reached 7,000 times the pre-war level.

73

Obstacles to Economic Reconstruction in Far East.- The report lists the following as the more important among the obstacles which retard economic reconstruction in Far East: (i) political and social unsettlement, (ii) paucity of trained and ~~uneducated~~ educated personnel, (iii) inadequate supply of capital, (iv) limited foreign exchange resources, (v) lack of equipment and materials, (vi) monetary disorders and inflation, (vii) scarcity of basic consumer goods and services and (viii) insufficient application of technology and research.

Guiding Principles for Economic Commission.- In recommending that the Economic and Social Council should establish an economic commission for Asia and the Far East, the report proposed the following action: (1) to make a study of economic and technological problems; (2) to furnish information relating to the restoration and reconstruction of the Far East; (3) to make recommendations on the request of a member of the commission regarding provision of technical assistance for reconstruction; and (4) to initiate and promote measures for facilitating co-operation in economic reconstruction and advancement of the Far East.

The report also recommends that the Economic Commission should be empowered to establish such subsidiary machinery as seems appropriate for its work and shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans.

The Chinese proposal, supported by India, to establish an economic commission to aid reconstruction of war-devastated areas in Asia was unanimously accepted by the Economic and Social Council of the U.N., on 18-3-1947. Supporting the proposal, Mr. S.K. Kripalani, the Indian delegate, expressed the hope that the Commission would deal not only with reconstruction, but also with the development of the under-developed countries of Asia.

('Dawn', dated 10-5-1947;
The Hindu Tan Times, 19-3-1947).

GENERAL.

500,000 Receivers by 1951: 8-Year Plan for
Development of Broadcasting.

An eight-year plan projected by the Government of India for the development of broadcasting was outlined by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Member, Government of India, at a Press Conference in New Delhi on 15-3-1947.

The plan includes the installation of high-powered medium wave transmitters in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, the construction of studio buildings at Madras and Calcutta and the provision of three transmitters at Allahabad. Another feature of the scheme is the introduction of the zonal system in broadcasting. India is to be divided into five broadcasting zones, each under a separate Zone Director. These zones will be delineated on considerations of linguistic, musical and similar cultural affinities; Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Allahabad will be the five zonal centres.

The scheme is estimated to cost a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 35 million and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 8.6 million, as against the present expenditure of Rs. 10 million recurring and Rs. 10 million non-recurring. The present annual income from Broadcasting totals a little over Rs. 3.2 million of which Rs. 3 million comes from customs duty and the remaining from broadcasting licence fees. At the end of five years, Government expect there would be 500,000 licensed radio receivers in India—representing an increase of 270,000 over the present figure.

Advertisements would not be allowed over the Radio and private enterprises would not be permitted to set up broadcasting stations; Government has no intention to convert the present establishment into a public corporation like the B.B.C., though television projects are under contemplation.

(The National Call, 16-3-1947;
The Times of India, 17-3-1947).

75

International Conference on Trade and Employment,
Geneva, 10-4-1947: Personnel of Indian Delegation.

A delegation of 20 members led by the Commerce Member, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar and with Sir Joseph Bore, Prime Minister, Bhopal State, and Sir Raghavan Pillai, Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department as Substitute Delegates will represent India at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, scheduled to take place in Geneva on 10-4-1947. Mr. B.N. Banerji, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department and Mr. M.A. Walke, Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department will be Member-Secretaries.

(The Statesman, 27-3-1947).

First Session of Asian Relations Conference,
New Delhi - 23-3-1947 to 2-4-1947.

The first session of the Asian Relations Conference, convened under the auspices of the Indian Council of World Affairs, a non-political body devoted to the study of Indian and international problems, was held at New Delhi from 23-3-1947 to 2-4-1947. The ~~10-day~~ session was attended by about 200 delegates from over 30 Asiatic countries. Among the countries which participated were Egypt, Palestine, Iran, Five Asian republics of the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, India, Ceylon, Burma, Indo-China, China, Mongolia, Korea, the Phillipines and Indonesia. Dr. P.F. S. Mansergh attended as Observer on behalf of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adloff as Observers on behalf of the Institute of ~~East~~ Pacific Relations; there were also observers from the Arab League, Malaya and Australia. Political questions, as such, did not figure on the agenda of the conference. The session was presided over by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

At the opening session on 23-3-1947 the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sir Shri Ram, welcoming the delegates described the Conference as "primarily a focus of goodwill". He struck a realistic note when he stated that ahimsa (non-violence) and the spirit of 'let live' is in India's blood and India hoped to absorb and assimilate useful features of modern Western life.

Pandit Nehru's Inaugural Address. - In his inaugural address, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru surveyed in a wide sweep the past history of Asia and of India and of the streams of civilizations which mingled and intermingled. He pointed out that it was in Asia that "civilization began and man started on his unending adventure of life" and that the time has come for the peoples of Asia to meet together, to hold together and to advance together. After passing in view the contribution each country of Asia had made in the past and in modern times, he declared that, as Western domination was going and the walls surrounding them were falling down, they met "as old friends long parted".

76

Lest it be understood that Asia was going to work in isolation, Pandit Nehru declared: "Asia stretches her hand of friendship to Europe and America as well as to our suffering brethren in Africa. We of Asia have a special responsibility to Africa. We must help them to take their rightful place in the human family. The freedom we envisage is not to be confined to this nation or that or to a particular people, but must spread out over the human race" *(The Hindustan Times 24-3-47)*

The conference held public sessions on the two opening days 23 and 24-3-1947 and on the closing day 2-4-1947 the last day's session, at which Mahatma Gandhi was present, was attended by about 30,000 people. The ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ other sessions of the conference were not open to the public.

~~(The Hindustan Times, 24-3-1947).~~

The following topics came up for discussion at the Conference: (I) National Movements for Freedom, (II) Racial Problems, ~~(III)~~ Migration, (IV) Transition from Colonial to National Economy, (V) Agricultural Reconstruction and Industrial Development, (VI) Labour Problems and Social Services, (VII) Cultural Problems, and (VIII) Status of Women and Women's Movements. The Conference divided itself into five groups as follows for the study of these topics: Group A: National Movements - Topic I; Group B: Migration and Racial Problems - Topics II & III; Group C: Economic Development and Social Services - Topics IV, V, & VI; Group D: Cultural Problems - Topic VII; Group E: Women's Problems - Topic VIII. After the Round Table discussion on each topic was over, the Rapporteur for each Group presented to the plenary session, for consideration, a report summing up the discussion and conclusions of the Group.

(Printed Programmes and Agenda of the Conference).

Matters of interests to the Office in the reports ^{of} the Groups are briefly noticed below (the official reports of the Groups are not yet available and the information is taken from press summaries).

Report of Group C: Economic Development and Social Services. - Among the reports of the various Groups, that of Group C which dealt with Economic Development and Social Services is of most interest to the Office. The topics studied by this Group were divided under the following main heads: (a) Transition from Colonial to National Economy ~~(sub-~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx)~~ (A. Stages in Transition; B. Distinguishing features of Colonial and National Economy; C. Problems of Transition; and D. Limitations of National Economy), (b) Agricultural Reconstruction (A. Situation in Asian Countries; B. Agricultural Problem; C. Agricultural organization; D. Agricultural Planning; E. Financing of Reconstruction; and F. State in Agricultural Policy), (c) Industrial Development (A. Relative degree of Industrialisation in Asian Countries; B. Experience of other Countries; C. Plans of industrialisation in Asian Countries; D. Relationship between industrialisation and agricultural reconstruction; E. Transport and Communications in Asia countries; F. Priorities in industrialisation; G. Appraisalment of respective natural resources for execution of national industrial planning; H. Financing of Industrialisation; I. Effects of Industrialisation on Inter-Asia Trade; J. State and Industrialisation; and K. Problems of Industrialisation), (d) (1) Labour Problems (A. Problems of Employment, B. Conditions of Employment, C. Trade Unionism and Industrial Relations, and D. Social Insurance), and (2) Social Services (A. Health and Hygiene, B. Housing, and C. Education). The report of Group C is briefly noticed below. (The present summary is compiled from ^{reports} ~~reports~~; when ^{final} ~~reports~~ are available, a copy each of them will be forwarded).

A. Transition from Colonial to National Economy.- The report on the transition from colonial to national economy, presented by Prof. D.R. Gadgil, first describes the characteristics of a colonial economy. The main features are: an unbalanced economy; foreign-owned or controlled plantations; mineral resources under foreign exploitation which are not used for the country's industrial development; an export trade consisting mainly of primary products sold at unduly depressed prices by foreign interests; a favourable visible balance of trade but an unfavourable invisible balance of payments as banking, shipping, capital and insurance are in foreign hands; large-scale but stagnant artisan and handicraft industry; a manufacturing industry unbalanced and foreign-controlled; stratification in the field of economic activity and the existence of plural societies, but a tendency towards unduly centralisation in administration and taxation; and as an invariable feature of all colonial economies, a very low standard of living.

Ways to achieve Transition.- For the transition from a colonial to a national economy, the report says it is necessary that the State should be able to free itself of the dominance of foreign political influence, and of foreign capital and personnel. This, the report adds, is largely a political problem. For the attainment of a national economy, the report outlines certain general policies and objectives including the diversification and modernisation of agriculture; improvement in the technique and organisation of artisan and handicraft industry; the development of co-operatives to assist agriculture, small-scale industry and internal trade; development of indigenous credit organisations and indigenous shipping and foreign trade organisations; the development of an efficient and progressive system of local Self-government; the assurance of security to the people by means of the stabilisation of prices, fixation of minimum wages, social insurance, etc.; and the development of manufacturing industries, specially related to the internal resources and of opportunities in the country.

Difficulties of Transition Period.- Dealing with the difficulties that might arise during the transition, the report mentions the following as the most important: (1) A diminution in the surplus of commercial crops available for export or for industry and diversification of agriculture would lead to the growth of small peasant economies and a consequent increase in the importance of subsistence farming and a greater production of cereals. (2) Retardation in the improvement of the standard of living and a burden on the consumer due to protection of manufacturing industries, which may have to be undertaken by the State. Unemployment may increase if there is a rapid development of the manufacturing industry which would inevitably lead to the disintegration of the artisan industry. Furthermore, the existence of a stratified social structure might lead to the concentration of economic power in the hands of small groups. (3) A large-scale development programme in countries whose economies are poor may also ~~retard~~ retard the raising of the standard of living. (4) In the beginning, shortage of trained personnel may be encountered due to educational backwardness and lack of training facilities. (5) An increase in direct taxation whose incidence would be progressive, in order to meet the increased Government expenditure demanded by the State's social policy, without affecting the standard of living of the people. (6) Obligations incurred by the membership of international organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Trade Organisation may bring about a conflict with economic policies necessitated by national economic policies. (7) As long as the new international order is not fully established, the policies of individual units will be largely influenced by security considerations necessitating a modification of development programmes.

Need for Collaboration.- In conclusion, the report makes suggestions which might help to overcome the difficulties encountered by all countries, but points out that each country will have its own peculiar problems which will have to be individually solved. The report says that there should be an exchange of information relating to the terms and conditions of foreign borrowing. Efforts should be made for co-operation and understanding in particular regions for the planning of mutually advantageous development programmes, and steps should be taken in concert for implementing ideas or policies sponsored by international organisations. Asian countries should collaborate in framing and developing economic policies to be placed before international organisations.

B. Reconstruction of Agriculture: Raising Standard of Living of Agriculturists.- Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao presented the reports on agricultural reconstruction and industrial development. After mentioning the backward condition of agriculture generally in Asian countries, the problems created by the devastation caused by enemy occupation of a number of countries and current civil unrest, the report on agricultural reconstruction states that the problem is pre-eminently one of raising the standard of living of the masses of population who are engaged in agricultural and allied occupations.

Raising Agricultural Productivity: Industrialisation with Decentralisation.- First among the broad principles of agricultural reconstruction should be mentioned the need for raising agricultural productivity by the use of better seeds, more modern methods of cultivation and the use of fertilisers; simultaneously the area under cultivation ~~and the area~~ should be extended as much as possible by large-scale development schemes. More capital should be made available to the ~~peasants~~ peasants in the form of equipment, fertilizers, etc. In view of the general poverty among the agricultural classes, it is only the State which can provide the required capital to the peasantry. Industrialisation and development of cottage industries affording seasonal employment are highly necessary. It is also necessary to secure decentralisation of factories.

Transport Handicaps.- The terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural produce have always operated to the disadvantage of the former, thanks primarily to the better organisation of the manufacturing countries. As Asia is pre-eminently an agricultural continent and largely exports raw material and primary products and imports manufactured goods from Europe and America, this problem has to be tackled in any scheme of agricultural reconstruction in Asia. At the moment, transport facilities as regards ~~movement~~ movement of Asian agricultural produce across national/continental frontiers is largely in the hands of non-Asians. If this is not remedied and Asian countries be not organised to get control over transport facilities, especially shipping, it will be difficult to secure to the Asian cultivator adequate return from agricultural reconstruction.

Improving Tenure Systems.- There should be a substantial reduction in the share of landlords and traders in agricultural income. Fundamental reforms are necessary in the realm of land tenure and ownership should be secured to the ~~real~~ actual tiller of the soil. Only a development of co-operative marketing based on mutual aid would enable the agricultural classes to get a larger share of ^{the} agricultural income than at present. An ideal solution of the problem of landless agricultural labourers would be to give landless labour possession of land. In any event, steps must be taken to ensure for them an equitable share of agricultural income.

Landless Labourers: Collectivisation.- The report mentions with appreciation the collective farming units in the Asian Republics of the USSR and the Jewish Co-operative Settlements in Palestine. All over Asia, says the report, emphasis is at the moment is on food production, and it is hoped that Asia will soon be in a position to cease responding her foreign exchange resources on importing food rather than on capital equipment of which she is in such bad need. The countries have to take their choice between methods such as those followed in Russia with its emphasis on collective farming, or in Turkey with the emphasis on State initiative, or in Sudan with the emphasis on company management, or in Palestine with the emphasis on mutual aid and co-operation. There is general agreement, however, that agricultural reconstruction depends for its success in the ~~main~~ last resort upon the extent to which the human factor is harnessed and its enthusiasm roused; this cannot be done without carrying out fundamental land reforms and linking up ownership and cultivation in the same hands.

C. Industrial Development: Asia - Exporter of raw materials and Importer of manufactured Goods.- The report on industrial development states that a survey of the industrial position in the Asian countries reveals with glaring sharpness the low measure of industrialisation which ~~is~~ Asia has reached, with, however, certain prominent exceptions, such as the Asiatic Republics of the USSR, Turkey, parts of Palestine and parts of the Middle East. Among the other Asian countries, India is the only country, barring Japan, which is industrialised to any significant extent in the Western sense, and even India has such large gaps in her industrial structure as heavy chemicals, heavy engineering and other basic and defence industries. The best of Asia, with the possible exception of China, do not possess even the light industries and have to rely on imports for the supply of manufactured consumer goods. Taking Asia as a whole, it would not be incorrect to say that she is an exporter of raw materials and importer of finished goods. The industrial status of the bulk of Asia is a clear corollary of her colonial economy; and the real test of Asian independence would be the extent to which she is able to achieve a substantial measure of industrialisation.

Borrowing of Foreign Capital, not at cost of National Integrity.- Industrial development raises certain problems which are common to all Asian countries. The most important of these is the problem of capital and capital equipment. Capital equipment has to be obtained from Europe or America and it cannot be obtained except in return for exports from Asia of raw materials and primary products. The extent to which such exports can be made is limited, particularly today as a result of the effects of the war on the production of such goods in Asia, while the imports of capital equipment needed are likely to exceed the value of such exports. It seems inevitable that a number of Asian countries will have to obtain substantial imports of foreign capital for carrying out their programmes of industrial development. Opinion was, however, unanimous that such imports of foreign capital should not be obtained under conditions that will result in foreign control of domestic economy, which would only lead to the emergence of the colonial economy under a new guise.

State Action for Limitation of Profits and Maintenance of Minimum Standards.- It was felt, therefore, that imports of capital should be obtained by the Governments of the countries concerned rather than by private interests. Only then sufficient strength ~~could~~ be afforded to the borrower to resist the direct and indirect domination that a lender usually exercises on the borrowing country. One delegate differed from

30

this view and expressed the opinion that the same objective could be served by insisting that control should vest in the hands of the private industrialists in the borrowing country, which will leave the control of foreign capital in national, though not Governmental hands. In any case, there was unanimity for the view that great care must be taken in determining the conditions under which foreign capital is imported; and it was felt that the terms and conditions of foreign borrowing was a suitable subject for mutual consultation among the Asian countries. Among such conditions should be considered the desirability of imposing limitations on profits and ensuring the maintenance of minimum living standards.

State Ownership with Freedom for Private Enterprise in restricted Spheres. - It was generally felt that the question of the State's role in industrial development would have to be dealt with by each country in the light of its own circumstances, administrative resources, traditions, etc., but it was agreed that key industries, defence industries and public utilities may appropriately fall within the purview of state-ownership or control. Opinion was also widely expressed that there should be a sector of industrial economy which should be left to private enterprise. There was general agreement on the need for planning industrial development in each country and one delegate advanced the view that people should begin to think in terms of a co-ordinated and mutually consistent plan of industrial development of all countries in Asia.

Agricultural Reconstruction and Industrial Development: Inter-Asian Collaboration with fullest utilisation of U.N. Agencies. - It was emphasised that agricultural reconstruction and industrial development constitute the key-note of Asia's transition from a colonial to a national economy. Without them, it is impossible to raise the standard of living of the masses of the people. They are also essential for the maintenance of the political independence which many of the Asian countries are now acquiring and for enabling Asia to make her full contribution to world security and the maintenance of world peace. Agricultural reconstruction and industrial development are not going to be easy for an Asian country or even for the whole of Asia taken together. At the same time, it is not too difficult, particularly if Asian Governments will take the initiative in reconstructing and developing their economies and enlisting the fullest co-operation of their people. In the achievement of this objective, there is considerable room for inter-Asian co-operation, consistently with world objectives and the fullest utilisation of the existing specialised agencies of the U.N.

(The Hindu, dated 31-3-1947;
The Hindustan Times, 30-3-1947).

Migration and Racial Problems. - The report on Racial Problems and Inter-Asian Migration ~~suggested that there should be~~ ~~(1) Complete~~ ~~legal~~ ~~equality~~ ~~of~~ ~~all~~ ~~citizens~~ ~~and~~ ~~(2) Complete~~ ~~religious~~ ~~freedom~~ ~~of~~ ~~all~~ ~~citizens~~ ~~and~~ ~~(3) No~~ ~~public~~ ~~social~~ ~~disqualification~~ ~~of~~ ~~any~~ ~~racial~~ ~~group~~ ~~and~~ ~~(4) Equality~~ ~~before~~ ~~law~~ ~~of~~ ~~persons~~ ~~of~~ ~~foreign~~ ~~origin~~ ~~who~~ ~~have~~ ~~settled~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ was framed by a group committee with Mr. Wen Yuan-Ning (China) as Chairman and Sardar K.M. Panikkar as Vice-Chairman.

The report suggested that there should be: (1) Complete legal equality of all citizens; (2) Complete religious freedom of all citizens; (3) No public social disqualification of any racial group; and (4) Equality before law of persons of foreign origin who have settled in the country. Discussing the causes for hostility and suspicion prevailing in several Asian countries between indigenous and immigrant populations, the report said that in most cases economic factors were responsible for tension and distrust. People such as the Burmese and

81

the Malayans felt that Indians and Chinese exploited them, and because Indians and Chinese in these countries were doubtful of the security of their property, they tried to transfer profits to their respective countries. This vicious circle could only be broken by a change of attitude among both parties.

Discussing the legal status of immigrant populations—such as Indians in Burma and Ceylon and Chinese in Malaya, Burma and Indonesia—all the delegates agreed that a distinction must be made between those immigrants who identify themselves with their country of adoption and apply for naturalization and those who choose to remain nationals of their mother country. On the question of naturalization, it was generally felt that all foreign settlers in Asian countries who are prepared to comply with the naturalization laws and who look upon the country of their adoption as their homeland should be granted full citizenship and that alien settlers, wanting to retain the nationality of their country of origin, ~~should~~ should have equality before the law—without having civic rights—should enjoy safety of person and property and should be treated generously. It was generally agreed that at any one time a person can have only one nationality and that no person can ~~claim~~ claim citizenship of a country and at the same time enjoy the protection of his home country. There was considerable divergence of opinion in regard to future immigration, many delegates, though recognizing the right of every country to control immigration, felt complete prohibition of immigration would lead to ill-feeling between countries and therefore advocated a quota system.

(The Hindustan Times and The Statesman, 27-3-1947).

Cultural Problems.— The report on Cultural Affairs referred to the need for development of scientific research in Asia, and after praising Western achievements in the scientific field warned against Asia being tied to the apron strings of Europe. Asia, it said, possesses the resources to carry out first class scientific research. It was necessary that scientific research should be related to questions of food, health and sanitation and thus contribute to the raising of the standard of living of the masses. It was desirable to set up an Asian culture and scientific organization, with a permanent secretariat to promote scientific and cultural collaboration. The report emphasized the importance of removing illiteracy from Asian countries and the need to increase facilities for education. It recommended that the use of new media of education, such as the radio and cinema, be fully explored.

The report made the following suggestions for the promotion of better cultural relations between the various Asian countries: (a) Collaboration amongst libraries and museums, (b) translation of classics and other significant works from one language to another, (c) production of suitable documentary and educational films of common interest, (d) appointment of teachers of various Asian languages by the countries concerned, (e) comparative study of Asiatic cultures at the universities and at the proposed school of Asian studies, (f) consideration of the equivalents and recognition of university degrees and diplomas, (g) compilation of pamphlets and memoranda about educational and cultural conditions in different countries, (h) institution of scholarships and reduction of fees for foreign students, (i) provision for visiting children who come on excursions and free travel and accommodation for language students in the host country, (j) the holding of inter-Asian students' conferences, (k) setting up of an inter-Asian physical culture and education association and (l) the setting up of an Asian broadcasting station.

Regarding teaching of history, the report pointed out that history should be rewritten on rational and humane lines, preserving the values which Asia has cherished most, namely, regard for human personality, the importance of religion, the essential unity of all religions and the unity of ~~all~~ mankind. The report suggested that the conference should make a declaration of its faith and fundamental values. On the subject of common language, the report said that, while an artificial language might be possible, it was not an immediate problem. The use of English, as the most widely used language, should be continued, and the study of Asian languages encouraged.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-3-1947;
The Statesman, dated 28-3-1947).

89

List of the more important publications received in this office
during March 1947

Conditions of Work

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