

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in April, 1947.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1947,
passed by Central Assembly on 12-4-1947 :
Proceeds from enhanced Cess to be utilised
for Housing and General Welfare Measures.

On 12-4-1947, the Central Legislative Assembly passed the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1947, to make better provision for financing measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in coal mining (vide pages 2-3 of the report of this Office for March, 1947). Mr. S.C. Joshi, Labour Commissioner, explained that out of the increased cess of six annas per ton (the Bill permits an increase of the cess from 4 annas to 8 annas per ton, but for the present the increase is limited to 6 annas per ton only), not less than one anna and four pies would be set apart for the Housing Fund, and not more than four annas and eight pies would be given to the General Welfare Fund. These amounts had been fixed after careful examination of the needs of the housing programme and general welfare. Stressing the importance of the housing problem, Mr. Joshi said that ~~in~~ there were very few collieries the workers of which had good houses. Either the colliery owners had not provided houses, or, where they had provided them, they were very insanitary and unhygienic. If it was left to the employers to build the houses for their workers, the problem might not be solved satisfactorily.

Mr. N.M. Joshi (Labour), while supporting the bill, criticised it in two respects. First, while improved housing would prove a great blessing to the miners, really substantial advance can be made only by tackling the more important subjects of wages and bonus. Secondly, housing should be provided for the workers of an area as a whole and not merely for the workers of a particular industry in that area. Otherwise, the workers would be tied down to ~~the~~ one industry and would be unable to change their occupation, even if they would be more prosperous if they did so. Further, the method of levying a cess on industry by Central legislation to finance housing of workers in that industry would encourage provincial Governments to shirk their responsibility in the matter of providing adequate housing for the workers of the province.

Babu Ramnarain Singh (Congress) ~~said that the Government~~ suggested that the owners of coalfields and provincial Governments should be made responsible for the conditions of labourers. The Government spokesman explained that it was not intended to make any grants to any owner or manager for welfare measures, unless it was found that the workers would be at an advantage if such grants were made and that the employer would contribute very substantially to any of the welfare measures that he would undertake, and for which grants were asked for by him.

The Bill was passed with certain amendments.
(The Statesman, dated 13-4-1947).

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Draft of Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules,
1947, published: Procedure for setting up
Work Committees, Conciliation Boards, etc .

The Government of India have published the draft of the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1947, which they propose to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 58 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The draft lays down the procedure for the setting up of Works Committees, Boards of Conciliation, etc.

The rules specify that the total strength of a Works Committee shall not exceed 20 and that the number of Workers' representative shall not be less than the number of representatives of employers. Except in cases where more than 50 per cent of the workmen are members of a union or unions, the employer shall, on the basis of information received from the unions, divide the number of workmen's representatives on the committee into two groups, viz., (1) those to be elected by the members of the union or unions, and (2) those to be elected by the non-members. Workers will thereupon elect their representative. The term of office of a workmen's representative on the Committee ~~shall~~ normally be six years. But in the beginning, their term will be so curtailed to 2 years or four years as to enable one-third of their number to retire every second year thereafter.

The rules further prescribe various forms required for submission of strike notices, references of disputes to Conciliation Boards, Courts of Enquiry, Industrial Tribunals, etc.; and for various details to be supplied by an employer on the occurrence of a strike or lock-out.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 31-5-1947.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 3-4-1947, pages 449-466).

Coal-Industry declared as "Public Utility Service"
Under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 .

According to a Central Government Press Note issued on 29-4-1947 the Government of India have declared the coal industry as a public utility service for the purpose of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for a period of six months. The declaration will take effect from 3-5-1947.

The Act empowers the appropriate Government to declare any of the industries (including coal) mentioned in the schedule to be a public utility service, if they are satisfied that public interest requires this course of action. The declaration of the coal industry as a public utility service will mean that the provisions of the Act, prohibiting strikes and lock-outs, will apply to colliery undertakings. Also, if any industrial dispute exists or is apprehended in the coal industry, conciliation proceedings will be undertaken compulsorily.

(The Statesman, dated 30-4-1947;
From a Press Note issued by the
Government of India).

Assam:

Assam Industrial Employment (Standing Orders—
Establishments other than Plantations) Rules,
1947, gazetted.

The Government of Assam gazetted on 19-4-1947, the draft of certain rules it proposes to make, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 (vide pages 4-5 of the report of this office for April, 1946).

The Rules prescribe a set of Model Standing Orders and the various forms in which particulars of Workmen, etc., required under the Act, are to be submitted. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 25-5-1947.

(No. GGN.20/44/92 dated 19-4-1947,
The Assam Gazette, 25-4-1947, Part II,
pages 275-283).

Bengal:

Draft Rules under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947,
published: Procedure for setting up Works Committees,
Conciliation Boards, etc.

Reference was made at page² of this report to the draft of certain rules proposed to be made by the Government of India, under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, detailing the procedure to be adopted for setting up boards of conciliation, industrial ~~disputes~~ tribunals, works committees, etc. Similar draft rules have been published by the Government of Bengal. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 26-4-1947.

(Department of Commerce, Labour and
Industries, Notification No. 1782 Com.
dated 18-4-1947, The Calcutta Gazette
Extraordinary, dated 21-4-1947, Part I,
pages 401-409).

Bihar:

Draft Rules under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947,
published: Procedure for setting up works
Committees, Conciliation Boards, etc.

Reference was made at page 2 of this report to the draft of certain rules proposed to be made by the Government of India, under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, detailing the procedure to be adopted for setting up boards of conciliation, industrial tribunals, works committees, etc. Similar draft rules have been published by the Government of Bihar. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 15-5-1947.

(Labour Department Notification No. 1184-XI(L)-
9/47-2, dated 22-4-1947, The Bihar Gazette
Extraordinary, dated 22-4-1947, pages 1-15).

Bombay:

Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1947, gazetted
(Act No. XI of 1947).

The Bombay Industrial Relations Bill, 1946 (vide pages 7-9 of the report of this Office for October, 1946), received the assent of the Governor-General on 9-4-1947, and has been gazetted as the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1947 (Act No. XI of 1947).

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
15-4-1947, Part IV, pages 52-100).

Madras:

Madras Shops and Establishments Bill, 1947,
referred to Select Committee, 24-4-1947.

On 24-4-1947, the Madras Legislative Assembly referred, on a Government Motion, the Madras Shops and Establishments Bill, 1947 (vide page 3 of the report of this office for January 1947), to a Select Committee.

Speaking on the motion, Mr. P. Venkateswarulu said that in many respects the Bill needed amendment. The hours of work fixed in the Bill, namely 48 hours a week, would not satisfy the working classes. Trade Union representatives, who had been working in the field for a number of years, had not been consulted and several of the provisions in the Bill were such that the worker would not accept. The whole chapter on "Fines" in the Bill should be deleted. The Bill did not cover employees in all organisations. Government ought to have fixed the minimum wage before making any other provision for providing amenities to the workers.

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Mr. Ibrahim criticised the Bill on the grounds that it had not provided for health insurance, old age ~~pen~~ and unemployment pensions, and other social facilities, on which the workers were keen.

Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Minister for Food and Labour, replying to the debate, said that the Bill was being referred to a Select Committee in which representatives of labour would be included and the Committee no doubt would take into consideration the views of the workers.

(The Hindu, dated 25-4-1947).

Madras Non-Power Factories Bill, 1947, referred to
Select Committee on 24-4-1947.

On 24-4-1947, the Madras Legislative Assembly, referred, on a Government motion, the Madras Non-Power Factories Bill, 1947 (vide pages 3-4 of the report of this office for January 1947), to a Select Committee.

Speaking on the motion, Mr. Venkataswaram said that the provisions of the Bill fell short of the expectations of labour organisations. He urged that the Bill required comprehensive modifications in the real interest of labour, including the fixing of minimum wages.

Mr. M.S. Abdul Majid, while welcoming some of the principles embodied in the Bill, felt that there were some provisions in it which ~~would~~ would paralyse cottage industries. So far as the beedi industry was concerned, it had been managed by big capitalists who were not treating the workers in the manner in which they ought to be treated. Workers had to carry on their jobs like animals without an air or light. But now the industry was being carried on by branch managers employing 10 to 15 labourers and, if the provisions of the Bill were applied, these managers would find it difficult to fulfil the conditions. He hoped that the Select Committee would consider the case of small cottage industries and see that provision was made to protect them.

Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim said that the measure, if adopted, would throw out of employment persons of ~~modest~~ modest means, giving place to capitalists.

Replying to the debate, Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Minister for Food and Labour, assured the House that the points raised by the members would be considered by the Select Committee.

(The Hindu, 25-4-1947).

X Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles declared
Public Utility Services under Industrial Disputes Act
1947.

The Government of Madras have declared under the Industrial Disputes Act, Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles as Public Utility Services.

(The Hindu, dated 4-4-1947;
from a Press Note issued by the
Government of Madras in the first
week of April, 1947).

6

Draft Amendments to Payment of Wages (Railways)
Rules 1937: Scope extended to Contractors' Labour.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Government of Madras have published a draft of certain amendments, which they propose to make to the Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1937. The draft seeks to extend the scope of the Payment of Wages Act to labour for railway work employed by contractors.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after ~~23-7-47~~ 25-7-1947.

(Madras Development Department's G.O.Ms. No. 1538, Development, dated 8-4-1947, Rules Supplement to Part I, Fort St. George Gazette, dated 29-4-1947, pages 77-78).

Cochin State:

The Cochin Minimum Wages Bill, 1947: Gazetted
on 15-2-1947.

The Cochin Government Gazette dated 15-2-1947 contains "A Bill to provide for fixing minimum wages in certain employments". The 'Statement of Objects and Reasons', appended to the Bill, states:

The ~~Bill provides~~ justification for statutory fixation of minimum wages is obvious. Such provisions which exist in advanced countries are even more necessary in this country, where workers' organisations are yet poorly developed and the workers' bargaining power is consequently poor. The Bill provides for fixation of minimum wages for employments covered by a Schedule to the Bill. The items in the Schedule are those where sweated labour is most prevalent or where there is a big chance of exploitation of labour. The Bill also provides for a State Minimum Wage below which a worker should not be paid. There is also provision for periodical revision of the minimum wages fixed.

Provision has been made for the appointment of a Wage Board and Advisory Committees, the former for co-ordinating the work of the committees. The Board and the Committees will have equal representation of employers and ~~worker~~ workmen. Consultations with the Board and the Committees are obligatory.

In cases where an employer pays less than the minimum wages fixed a summary procedure has been provided for recovery of the balance with penalty, ~~and for subsequent presentation of the offending party.~~ The period allowed for fixing the minimum wages is six months. The post-war crisis is getting accentuated every day and if the workers are to be saved from the experiences of the crisis that overtook them after the last war, it is absolutely essential that the minimum wage fixing machinery should come into operation immediately.

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A notable feature of the Bill is that it defines a "state minimum wage" and "Minimum Wage" as follows:- "State Minimum Wage" means the wage which will safeguard the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilised community. "Minimum Wage" means a wage which is not less than is sufficient to maintain a well-conducted employee of average health, strength and competence and his wife and family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living, prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed and providing that ~~the~~ in fixing such minimum wage the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account.

(The Cochin Government Gazette, dated
15-2-1947;
The Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1947).

The Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill,
1947: Gazetted on 22-2-1947.

A Bill "to make provision for the regulation of hours of work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres and other establishments" has been published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 22-2-1947. The ~~xxxxxx~~ 'Statement of Objects and Reasons', appended to the Bill, is as follows:-

"Although industrial workers have had their hours and conditions of work regulated by legislation for some time past, shop assistants and commercial employees have not ~~hitherto~~ hitherto enjoyed the protection of such legislation. While most of the big commercial establishments observe reasonable hours of work and provide amenities for their employees, the conditions of service of employees, in the smaller offices, shops, restaurants, etc., are far from satisfactory and there has been an insistent demand for their betterment and hence the need of this kind of legislation."

(The Cochin Government Gazette, 22-2-1947;
The Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1947).

Travancore State:

X
The Travancore Industrial Employment
(Standing Orders) Bill, 1947: Gazetted
on 28-1-1947.

The Travancore Government Gazette dated 29-1-1947 publishes a "Bill to require employers in industrial establishments formally to define conditions of employment under them". The Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill states:-

It has been found by experience that "standing orders" defining the conditions of recruitment, discharge, disciplinary action, holidays, leave, etc., go a long way towards minimising friction between the management and ~~workers~~ workers in industrial undertakings. The Bill seeks to provide for the ~~form~~ framing of "standing orders" in all industrial establishments employing one hundred or more workers.

The Act in the first instance will apply to the categories of industrial establishments specified in clause 2(d), which include, ~~and~~ besides docks, wharves and jetties, inland steam-vessels, plantations and workshops. Government will be competent to extend the Act to other classes of industrial establishments or to grant exemptions, where necessary, by notification.

Within six months from the date on which the Act becomes applicable to an industrial establishment, the employer is required to frame draft "Standing Orders" and submit them to the "Certifying Officer" for certification. The Certifying Officer will be empowered to modify or add to the draft Standing Orders so as to render them certifiable under the Act. It will not be his function (nor of the appellate authority) to adjudicate upon their fairness or reasonableness. There will be a right of appeal against the decisions of the "Certifying Officers". The Bill closely follows the British Indian Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946 (XX of 1946).

(The Travancore Gazette, 28-1-1947;
The Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1947).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Serious and Prolonged Labour unrest in Madras: Government summons Labour Conference on 5-5-47.

In view of the large number of labour strikes in Madras in the last few months, since the Congress Ministry assumed charge of the administration of the province, the Government of Madras has convened a conference of employers and employees at Madras on 5-5-1947.

In a press communiqué dated 8-4-1947 announcing the conference, Government expressed grave concern over the continuance of such serious labour unrest despite the measures provided by law for the settlement of industrial disputes and even extra-legal measures meant to deal sympathetically with the demands of labour. Government has also issued a warning that workers should not lightly resort to strikes or managements to lock-outs without giving time for the resolution of industrial disputes through the prescribed machinery, and has announced its intention to enforce the provisions of law impartially against any party that offends them.

(Press Communiqué dated 8-4-1947 of
the Public (Information and Publicity)
Department, Government of Madras.)

Maritime Labour Advisory Committee appointed by Government of India.

The Government of India have appointed a Maritime Labour Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of the Commerce Member, to advise Government on all problems relating to maritime labour. Mr. C.P. Srivastava, officer on special duty in the Department of Commerce, is the Secretary of the Committee which has 5 official and 15 non-official members (5 officials—one each representing the Commerce and Labour Department, and the Directorate of Seamen's Welfare; 15 non-officials—7 representing Indian and European employers' interests and 6 representing labour, (4 representatives of All India Seafarers' Federation and 2 representing the National Seamen's Union, Bombay). The tenure of non-official members will be for two years.

The first meeting of the Committee was held at New Delhi on 23-4-1947. (Vide pages 34-35 of this report).

(Resolution Nos. 24-MII(4)/45/A and 24-MII(4)/45/B dated 19-4-1947, of the Department of Commerce. The Gazette of India, 19-4-1947, Part I-Sec. II, pages 539-540).

10

Provincial and States' Labour Ministers'
Conference, New Delhi, 16 and 17-4-47.

A two day conference of Provincial and State Labour Ministers, convened by the Department of Labour, Government of India, was held at New Delhi on 16 and 17-4-1947. While previously, States and Provincial Ministers met separately, this is the first time they met jointly. Representatives of Bengal and Sind Governments who abstained from attending the last session of the conference attended this time. (For brief reports of the previous session see pages 20-22 of the October 1946 and pages 2 10-11 of the November 1946 reports of this office).

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India, opened the conference which discussed certain labour problems common to most provinces and Indian States; prominent among these were questions relating to the housing of labour, holidays with pay, enactment of regulations for employment of dock labour and the amendment of Trade Union Act.

(The Statesman, 17-4-1947;
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-4-1947).

8th Indian Labour Conference, New Delhi,
21 and 22-4-1947.

The Eighth Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held at New Delhi on 21 and 22-4-1947. The Session was inaugurated by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India. The Conference was, as usual, attended by (1) representatives of the Labour Departments of the Government of India and Provincial Governments and of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Indore, Baroda and Gwalior among Indian States; (2) representatives of the Chamber of Princes; (3) representatives of the Employers' Federation of India, All India Organisation of Industrial Employers and independent employers; and (4) representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress, the Indian Federation of Labour and independent workers; two representatives of the I.L.O. attended as Observers.

~~XXXX~~
Items of the Agenda. - The following items figured on the agenda of the conference: (1) Report of action taken on the decisions of the previous meetings of the Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee; (2) Brief report on labour policy and administration during the previous year; (3) Report of the action taken on the reports of the Labour Investigation Committee; (4) Replies of the Government of India to the I.L.O. and the draft Conventions forwarded by the I.L.O. on the following subjects - (a) Organisation of labour inspection in industrial and commercial undertakings; (b) Social Policy in non-metropolitan territories; (c) Employment Service Organisation. (5) Industrial Employers' (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946;

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(6) Desirability of collecting information relating to wages, conditions of work in distributive trades and services (Proposal made by the Sind Government); (7) Attitude of Employment Exchanges during strikes and lock-outs; (8) Bill for regulating Employment of dock labour; (9) Note on the constitution of the Indian Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee.

The more important of the memoranda on the items of the agenda submitted to the Conference are briefly noticed below. (A full set of the memoranda submitted to the Conference was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's Minute F.3/462/47 dated 26-4-1947).

Item 1: Report of Action taken on decisions of Previous Meetings of the Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee.— The report under this head covered the period from the Eighth Standing Labour Committee Meeting held in March 1945 to the Ninth Standing Labour Committee Meeting held in July 1945, and gave particulars of the action taken by the Government of India, the provincial Governments and the more important States on a variety of subjects including (1) health insurance of industrial workers, (2) reduction of working hours under the Factories Act, minimum wage legislation, Central legislation for unregulated factories, the Mine Workers' Charter as proposed by the Coal Mines Committee of the I.L.O., revision of the Indian Factories Act, the Employment of Children Act, the Mines Act, etc.

~~XXXXXXXX~~

Item 2: Brief report on Labour Policy and Administration during 1946-47.— The memorandum on the subject consisted mainly of a 41-page report on the work of the Labour Department, Government of India. Among the more important items dealt with in the report are: the Labour Department's five-year programme; factory legislation, administration and inspection; improvement of conditions of colliery labour; enquiry into conditions of agricultural and plantation labour; forced labour; evolution of fair terms of service for workers; welfare fund for Central Government industrial undertakings; statutory regulation of employment of dock labour; industrial disputes and legislation for their prevention. An annexure to the report gave an outline of the immediate programme of the Central Labour Department in respect of wages, regulation and improvement of working conditions, recruitment and terms of service, social security measures, welfare work, housing, industrial relations and agricultural workers. In addition, the memorandum was supplemented by brief reports on labour policy and administration in 1946-47 submitted by the Governments of Sind, Central Provinces and Madras, and Baroda State.

Item 3: Report on the Action taken on the Report of the Labour Investigation Committee.— The memorandum on the subject was not complete and was therefore not ready for submission to the Conference.

Item 4: Replies of the Government of India to the I.L.O. and the draft conventions on (a) Organisation of Labour Inspection in industrial and commercial undertakings; (b) Social Policy in non-metropolitan territories; (c) Employment Service Organisation. The memorandum on 4(a) reproduced the questionnaire on the subject and gave the Government of India's replies to the questionnaire; memorandum on 4(b) reproduced the draft texts of the various proposed conventions under this head; and the memorandum on 4(c) reproduced the questionnaire on ^{the subject} and the Government's replies.

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the matter was again placed before the Standing Labour Committee at its 8th Meeting held on the 15th and 16th March 1946. It was pointed out to the Committee that it was open for Exchanges to adopt one of the following courses:- (i) to refuse to accept vacancies or register workpeople; (ii) to accept vacancies and to inform suitable applicants of the existence of the trade dispute before submission and to register workers involved in the dispute, informing prospective employers that they were available as a result of a trade dispute; and (iii) to accept vacancies and to submit workmen for employment without reservation. No definite agreement could be reached by the Standing Labour Committee as to the course which should be adopted. The employers' representatives favoured the adoption of course (ii) while the workers' representatives were insistent on the adoption of course (i). It was decided that, pending consideration of the question again by the Indian Labour Conference, course No. (ii) should be adopted and instructions were issued to Employment Exchanges accordingly. In view of the importance of the issues involved it was considered that in the meantime the Provincial Governments and employing Deptts. of the Central Government and Employers' Associations should be consulted in the matter and accordingly their opinions have been obtained. The Governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Orissa, the Punjab and Sind as also the employing Departments of the Central Government viz. Commerce; Works, Mines and Power; Industries and Supplies and Defence Departments, are agreeable to the adoption of course (ii), namely, that Exchanges should accept vacancies and register workmen and inform the parties of the existence of the trade dispute. The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, is also in favour of the adoption of this course. The Government of C.P., while agreeing to the adoption of course (ii) in respect of permanent vacancies, feel that the Exchanges should adopt course (i) in respect of vacancies lasting for the duration of the strikes or lockouts. The Government of Assam have also expressed their views in favour of Course (i), namely, that Exchanges should refuse to register workmen or accept vacancies in the event of a strike or lock-out. The Government of the United Provinces have recommended the adoption of the Greek procedure. The Government of N.W.F.P. have not expressed any opinion on the question. Trade Unions and Workers' Organizations have, however, unanimously favoured the adoption of course (i).

Item 8: Bill for regulating Employment of Dock Labour.- The Department of Labour, Government of India, had prepared a draft bill for this purpose, and this was circulated among those attending the Conference. The Department wanted to ascertain first reactions and also to obtain suggestions. The bill provides for a scheme for the registration of dock workers with a view to ensuring greater regularity of employment and for regulating the employment of dock workers, whether registered or not, in a port. In particular, the scheme is designed to provide for (a) prescribing the obligations of dock workers and employers subject to the fulfilment of which the scheme may apply to them, (b) regulating the recruitment and entry into the scheme of dock workers, and their registration, (c) regulating the employment of dock workers, whether registered or not, and the terms and conditions of such employment, including rates of remuneration, hours of work and conditions as to holidays and pay in respect of thereof, and (d) securing that, in respect of periods during which employment, or full employment, is not available for dock workers to whom the scheme applies and who are available for work, such workers will, subject to the conditions of the scheme, receive a minimum pay.

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Item 9: Constitution of the Indian Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee.— The Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee were constituted in 1942. According to the Constitution, the Conference was to consist of 44 representatives, 22 representing Central, Provincial and State Governments, 11 representing employers and 11 representing workers. The Conference should meet at least once a year and its functions were "to advise the Government of India on any matters referred to it for advice, taking into account suggestions made by Provincial Governments, States and the Chamber of ~~Princes~~ Princes and representative organisations of workers and employers recognised for the purpose of the Conference". The Standing Labour Committee was to consist of 22 members, 10 representatives of Government, 5 of employers and 5 of workers. At the Labour Conference held in September 1943, it was decided that delegates might be accompanied by advisers.

After some experience was gained of the working of the Conference, it was found that the Constitution needed certain changes. They are briefly as described below:— (a) It was felt that there was no clear-cut division of functions between the Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. It was not that one was a deliberative body and the other an executive body. Both ~~xxx~~ were deliberative, and the subjects discussed by both were of the same nature. (b) There being no clear-cut division between general questions and concrete problems, the discussion in the Conference, as well as in the Committee became too general to be of much use. Even concrete problems were treated as though they were general. (c) The provision relating to advisers also needed modification. (d) There was no machinery to undertake the task of examining special problems and reporting upon them. (e) There was no machinery to study and advise on problems of labour welfare, industry by industry. (f) There was criticism from the employers' side against the reservation of three seats, to be filled by nomination by Government. (g) The method of representation of labour was also said to suffer from the defect that among those who represented labour there were none who actually belonged to the working classes. (h) An analogy was also drawn between the I.L.O. and the Conference and it was claimed that the Conference both in its Constitution and procedure should be modelled on the I.L.O. and that it should have ~~the~~ right to decide its own agenda.

Dealing with the criticism that ^{the} Labour Conference should be modelled on the I.L.O., the then Labour Member had pointed out that the I.L.O. was an independent organisation created by an International treaty and that its Conventions and Recommendations placed definite obligations on Member-States, failure to fulfil which involved certain international liabilities. Its constitution was regulated by itself and it had its own independent finance. The Indian Labour Conference on the other hand, was not independent in the same sense as the I.L.O. was. It was only an advisory body constituted to advise the Government of India on such matters as were referred to it for advice. It could not take decisions. On the question of the right of the Labour Conference to determine its agenda, the then Labour Member said Government could not surrender the right to frame the agenda for the Conference as the Conference was not a Legislature or any independent authority.

Another question for consideration is whether the Labour Conference should consist of 44 representatives, and if so how the representation should be assigned to the various bodies. For example, in regard to workers' representatives the question has been raised that equal representation should not be given to all organisations, irrespective

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of their size and standing in the country. The points for consideration are - (a) should the representation assigned to the different organisations represented at the Conference be modified, and if so, how; (b) should any other organisation be asked to nominate representatives, and if so, which; ~~(c)~~ and (c) should Government continue to have a right to nominate some of the employers' and workers' representatives as at present, and if so, what arrangements should be made to provide for proper representation of unorganised employers and workers.

The need for amending the Constitution has been ~~xxxx~~ rendered more urgent by Government's decision to set up Industrial Committees for the major industries.

Labour Minister's Opening Address. - In his opening address, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Interim Government, referred at length to the labour troubles that had taken place in the country since the last session of the conference, and said that labour unrest was not an isolated Indian ~~and~~ phenomenon but a part of the general industrial unrest that follows the end of every war. India had a railway strike, a Post and Telegraphs Department strike, and a Central Pay Commission had to be appointed to investigate the demands of Central Government employees. In the private sector of industries India had disputes in steel plants, in ports, in the cotton textile ~~industry~~ industry and serious industrial unrest in the coalfields; not to speak of strikes in the minor industries.

Dealing with the workers' demands, he said that they had been subjected to considerable strain during the war period, which has been accentuated by the continued scarcities of essential goods, an acute shortage of housing and fear of unemployment resulting from the contraction of war-time activity. Workers are entitled to reasonable conditions of work and reasonable wages. No industry had a right to exist, if it could not provide decent living standards for its workers. To bring about an improvement in the working and living conditions of workers, various measures were in train and they will yield results, which will in ~~the~~ the near future be apparent to all.

While conceding the workers' right for improved conditions, he stressed the need for increased production and pointed out that a mere increase in wages, unaccompanied by increased productivity, will be worse than useless as it ~~will~~ will set in train a vicious inflationary spiral of ~~high~~ high prices and high wages each trying to catch up with the other. Indian industry's watchword should, therefore, be improved working and living conditions for workers and increased productivity. These can be brought about only by each party recognizing not only its rights but ~~its~~ its obligations, not only to the other party but to the community as a whole. The community cannot stand by as a disinterested spectator when a strike is on in any important or essential industry and it is because of this machinery has been provided for the peaceful resolution of differences between employers and workers.

On the subject of the right to strike, he emphasised that it was a weapon which ought to be used with extreme discretion and discrimination and never with any political objective. If the worker had a right to expect assistance from the community and the State representing the community, the community equally has a right to expect that its normal activity should not be disrupted, except under the gravest of provocations.

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Concluding, he pointed out that the definite object of the tripartite conference was to formulate in consultation measures calculated to bring about an improvement in working conditions consistent with the general economic conditions in the country, and stressed once again the need for industrial peace so that the country may achieve the twin and mutually inter-dependent objectives of better standards for the workers and increased productivity.

(Memoranda on the Items on the Agenda supplied to this office by the Department of Labour, Government of India; The Hindustan Times & The Statesman, 22 and 23-4-1947).

(For proceedings of the 7th Session of the Indian Labour Conference, 27 and 28-II-1946, see pages 5 to II of the report of this office for November 1946).

Women's Work.

Equal Pay for Women: Bombay Legislative
Assembly adopts Resolution.

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The Bombay Legislative Assembly passed on 2-4-1947 a resolution moved by Mrs. Lilavati Munshi (Congress) recommending to the Government of Bombay to take steps to enforce the principle of "equal pay for equal work" for men and women in Government establishments, including aided ones. All sections of the House except a Muslim League member supported the resolution.

The Prime Minister, Mr. B.G. Kher, said that the Congress Ministry had accepted the principle of the resolution and would put it into effect at an early date.

(The Hindu, dated 4-4-1947).

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Industrial Disputes.

X Industrial Disputes in British India during
January, 1947: 1,077,459 Man-Days Lost in
145 Strikes.

According to statistics published in the March, 1947, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette, the total number of stoppages in British India during January, 1947, was 145 (including 29 in progress at the beginning of the month); the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost were 1,06,429 and 1,077,459 respectively. The total number of workers involved viz., 1,06,429 was considerably less than the corresponding figure for the previous month viz., 1,29,860 (revised figure) in spite of the increase in the number of disputes. The total number of man-days lost in January 1947, was, however, appreciably higher than the December, 1946, figure of 785,241 (revised figure).

Classification by Industries and Provinces.- Classified by industries, 38 out of the 145 disputes related to the cotton, woollen and silk group, of which 13 were in Bombay, 9 in Bengal and 8 in Madras. There were 22 disputes in the Engineering group, 6 in the Bihar Collieries, 5 in the Jute industries of Bengal, 2 under railways while 72 stoppages were reported in "Miscellaneous" group. Classified according to provinces, 61 strikes were reported from Bengal, 31 from Bombay, 11 each from Bihar and Madras, 8 from Ajmer Merwara, 7 each from Sind and the Central Provinces and Berar, 6 from the United Provinces and 8 from Assam.

Causes and results of disputes.- In nearly 41 per cent of the stoppages, the question of wages, including bonus, dearness allowance, etc., was the main cause of dispute. The remaining stoppages were due to causes relating to leave and hours of work, personnel, etc. An analysis of the results of the disputes shows in 48.6 per cent of the disputes, representing 25.7 per cent of the total number of workers involved, the workers were wholly or partially successful, while in 33.3 per cent of the disputes representing 45.2 per cent of the workers involved, the workers were completely unsuccessful.

(Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1947).

General.

Three-Shifts System in Textile Mills: Bombay Government recommends Discontinuance.

The Government of Bombay have recommended to the Millowners' Association in Bombay and Ahmedabad that the system of three shifts working in the textile mills, which was recently introduced in some of the mills in the Province, should be stopped, except temporarily in cases in which the workers of all the shifts in particular mills have expressed their willingness to work the three-shift system. Three-shift working is regarded as open to objection on the following grounds:-

(1) Workers are exposed to the temptation to work more than one shift on the same day and in different mills; (2) The Textile Labour Inquiry Committee strongly reported against any arrangement of hours which involved post-mid-night work; (3) The system adversely affects the health, and efficiency of workers; (4) The system requires drafting of additional labour for which no adequate housing accommodation exist, at present; (5) It creates the problem of finding employment for the workers thrown out of employment as and when three shifts are stopped by any mill; and (6) Labour generally is not friendly to the introduction of three shifts and, if adequate consideration is not paid to the wishes of workers, serious labour unrest may result, and this would be detrimental to increased production.

(Communique by the Director of Publicity, Bombay, reported in the Times of India, 4-4-1947).

Labour Conditions in Motor Transport Services and Workshops, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries to be standardised: Court of Enquiry appointed by Government of Madras.

The Government of Madras have appointed Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya retired District and Sessions Judge as a Court of Enquiry, with a view to having a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms, and type foundries in Madras City and the mofussil and for standardising them as far as possible.

A press note, issued by the Government in the last week of April 1947 states that the Court which will, among other matters, enquire into the problems connected with the working conditions of labourers, such as wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities etc., in these industries, has already commenced its work in respect of the motor transport services and motor transport workshops.

(The Hindu, dated 27-4-1947;
From a Press Note issued by the
Government of Madras).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Government of India's Mineral Policy: Possibilities of Nationalisation being explored.

The Government of India have had under consideration the question of formulating a mineral policy for India. The matter was discussed at a conference of provincial and states representatives and prominent non-officials at New Delhi, on January 10 and 13 (vide pages 17-19 of the report of this Office for January 1947). According to a press note issued by the Government of India in the second week of April 1947, the Central Government proposes to follow up these discussions on the lines indicated below:

(1) Energetic steps should be taken to expand the Geological Survey of India and to follow up the recommendations ~~of the~~ Geological Education in India. ~~Similar~~ Action should be taken to reorganise the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, and to improve mining education in India.

(2) The proposals to establish a Bureau of Mines at the Centre should be energetically pursued (proposals in this respect are now being worked out by Dr. D.N. Wadia, Mineral Adviser to the Central ~~Adviser to the Central Government~~).

(3) Provinces and States should be requested to establish some similar agency of their own to co-operate with the Central Bureau of Mines, when formed; and in the meantime, collect all necessary data and statistics concerning their own territories and thus provide the material on which a sound mineral policy may be based. The provinces and States will be requested to take immediate steps to control the grant of fresh leases and concessions and the renewal of existing leases with a view to ensuring systematic mining on scientific lines and to encouraging domestic utilisation of ores and local processing, refining and treatment of minerals.

(4) The provinces and States should be addressed on the question of acquisition of mineral rights within their own boundaries and the steps necessary to give effect to the policy of nationalisation. They will be asked to evolve a formula for the assessment of compensation and to communicate their proposals to the Central Government with a view to the formulation of an all-India policy regarding the acquisition of mineral rights.

(5) The question of control over key minerals and of regulation of working of other minerals will be further explored with a view to finding out what action could be taken in advance of the formation of the Bureau of Mines.

(6) The question of atomic energy is being dealt with by a committee appointed by the Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research under the chairmanship of Prof. H.J. Bhabha.

(7) There is general recognition of the urgent necessity of ensuring maximum production, conservation and utilisation of minerals in the national interest. The question of legislation will be further examined in the light of experience in achieving our objectives by

agreement with the provinces and States. (The Indian News Chronicle, 13-4-1947).

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Motor Road Transport in U.P.: Private Enterprise
to be replaced by Government-controlled Joint
Stock Companies.

In view of the importance of motor transport and rail-road co-ordination, the U.P. Government have given considerable thought to the question of reorganization of the road transport system in the province, and, after examining it from all points of view, have come to the conclusion that, in the interest of public convenience and maximum operational economy and efficiency, the present system of "one man one bus" must come to an end as soon as possible. The Government have had several discussions on the subject with the representatives of the railways and the existing motor operators and after full consideration have decided on a scheme for the formation of joint stock road transport companies in the province.

Under this scheme, the road transport system in the province will be taken up gradually by ~~the~~ joint stock companies, the shares of which will be taken up by Government, the railways and private motor operators. The province will be divided into nine regions. There will be one joint stock company in each region. For the present the companies will take up the operation of buses only on about 140 routes. Arrangements for the formation of these companies will be started forthwith. Motor operators who accept this scheme and are displaced from the routes taken up by the companies, will be given favourable consideration in the grant of permits on adjoining routes not to be taken up by the companies at present.

The companies will run the buses according to fixed time ~~schedules~~ schedule and will as far as possible keep the fares within the existing prescribed limits. There will be two classes of seats—~~single~~ upper Class and Lower Class—and only the fixed number of passengers will be carried. Suitable waiting halls, etc., will be provided for passengers. It is expected that the formation of the companies, provision of repair facilities and preparation of detailed schemes and recruitment of personnel will take about four months and the scheme will be put in operation by August 1947.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 14-4-1947).

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Increased Coal Production in India in 1946:
Statistics of Coal Consumption of more
Important Industries.

Output of coal in British India and Indian States during 1946 increased to 29,276,893 tons from 28,717,046 tons in 1945. In comparison with 1945, when production fell down to 25,368,879 tons, output in 1946 has risen by 3,908,014 tons.

The maintenance of the special Gorakhpur labour force and the continuation of the open cut coal-mining operations at Bokaro, (in addition to various concessions and inducements granted to mine-owners) were the main factors responsible for the fairly high output. The former was responsible for raising 1,415,000 tons during 1946 and the latter for 1,889,822 tons.

Loadings and despatches, which could have been higher on account of increased production, were, however, affected by the shortage of wagons in the coal-fields, labour troubles and communal riots. Nevertheless, despatches during 1946 increased to 25,608,550 tons from 24,649,669 tons in 1945. The monthly average of despatches came to nearly 88.6 per cent of allocations. About 1,579,800 tons of coal were despatched in 1946 for bunkers and exports including shipments to Burma. The Railways consumed the largest amount of coal produced, namely, 10,928,652 tons in 1946.

Monthly averages of coal despatched during the year to various industries were as follows: cotton mills, 169,039 tons; ginning and pressing factories, 10,433 tons; jute, 49,589 tons; glass factories, 11,811 tons; chemicals, 11,371 tons; brick manufacture (civil), 50,449 tons; tea gardens, 10,154 tons; ~~vanaspati~~ and other oils, 15,742 tons; food products, 14,476 tons; engineering and foundries, 18,552 tons; coke ovens, 23,062 tons; and iron and steel, 248,313 tons.

(Indian Information, 15-4-1947).

Slow Technological Progress in India:
Patents exhibition, Poona, 5-3-47.

At the Patents Exhibition held at Poona on 5-3-1947, the first exhibition of its kind in India, Mr. K. Rama Pai, Controller of Patents and Designs, Government of India, gave a brief account of the progress registered by India in the field of technical invention. The following information is taken from a summary of Mr. Pai's speech published in Indian Information, dated 15-4-1947:-

India has not yet made use of the patent system to the same extent as other countries. While the average number of patents granted annually during 1930-37 was 48,697 in the U.S.A., 20,621 in Germany, 18,417 in ~~Japan~~ Great Britain (1930-35) and 4,845 in Japan, it was only 898 in India. India lagged behind not only the larger industrial countries, but also smaller countries like Belgium, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia, whose averages were 7,315, 7,505 and 3,615 respectively. Likewise, India occupied a low position in the number of patents granted per million of the population (Switzerland 1,016, Belgium 892, Great Britain 495, U.S.A. 374 and India 2). Moreover, of a total of 2,610 applications for patents during 1946, only 266 emanated from Indians.

The field of Indian inventions has expanded considerably during the past 90 years the Indian Patent System has been in existence. In the early days, patents were largely concerned with punka-pulling devices, chulas, fuels and oil mills. During the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, there was a lively activity in spinning and weaving appliances, water lifts, lamps, sugarcane mills, oil mills and other small industries covered by patents of Indian origin has now expanded owing to the impetus given by the Swadeshi Movement. Industries covered by Indian inventions in 1946 included food products, disinfectants and insecticides, building materials, electric motors and fans, plastic compositions, containers, locks, tiffin carriers, India rubber products and toys. But no major industry has so far attracted any appreciable attention from Indian inventors.

There was no lack of inventive talent in India; the experience of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research during the war proves that, given proper incentive and guidance, Indian inventors can evolve new processes and products. In the course of five to six years, the Council has been responsible for over 100 inventions and has, during 1946 alone, produced 27 inventions, a record number for any single Indian institution. Another instance was that in the course of a single year 19 inventions of improved types of charkhas were produced for the All-India Spinners' Association.

The Patent System was the backbone of industries in the rest of the world. In the near future the Indian market was likely to be flooded with competitive foreign goods and adequate help in the supply of machinery and technical talent from abroad might not be available to India owing to the difficulties in foreign countries themselves. The rehabilitation drive in Europe and America would need all the expert personnel they have and in any case they would take all steps to see that their export markets were not prejudicially affected. It was therefore, high time for Indian industrialists to prepare themselves for production on a world competition basis and build up their industries on self-help.

(Indian Information, 15-4-1947).

24

Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Bill, 1947,
passed by Central Assembly on 8-4-1947: Indian Rupee
to be delinked from Sterling.

The Central Legislative Assembly passed on 8-4-1947 the Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Bill, 1947. Moving the Bill, the Finance Member described the measure as most important because it signified the emergence of the rupee as an independent currency. He pointed out that the Bill would break the statutory link between the rupee and sterling, but, by virtue of the notifications which it is proposed to issue, it would not have the immediate effect ~~with~~ either of changing the rupee-sterling exchange rate or of taking India out of the sterling area.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, it is explained that under the existing Act, the Reserve Bank of India is obliged to buy and sell sterling without limit of amount between certain specified rates above and below 1sh.6d. to the rupee. Under the articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, member countries are required to express the par values of their currencies in terms of gold, and exchange rates are determined by the ratios which par values so expressed of member currencies bear to each other. Consequent on India's membership of the International Monetary Fund and the fixing of par values thereunder, sterling has ceased to be the sole determinant of the external value of the rupee. The Bill seeks to replace these obligatory sections by a new section enabling the Reserve Bank to buy and to sell foreign exchange at such rates and on such terms and conditions as the Central Government may from time to time determine, in conformity with its obligations as a member of the International Monetary Fund, as this is the most appropriate way in which in present conditions the external value of the rupee can be maintained.

(The Gazette of India, dated 5-4-1947,
Part V- pp., ~~340-341~~, 340-341;
The Statesman, dated 9-4-1947).

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Indian Shellac Industry faces crisis:
Synthetic Resin substitute reduces exports.

Owing to the discovery of new synthetic resins in the U.S.A., the Indian shellac industry faces a severe crisis. The annual value of India's exports of shellac ranges from Rs. 20 million to Rs. 100 million and the industry provides employment for at least 30,000 workers, who convert crude lac into purified shellac, and income to about 3 million families in the villages, who collect the lac from trees.

The U.S.A. has been the largest importer of shellac securing from a half to two-thirds of the total quantity of Indian lac sent abroad, which is used in the manufacture of gramophone records. Recently that country has produced gramophone records from synthetic resins, which are not much costlier, but are superior to shellac records because they are unbreakable and provide a finer reproduction of music without any surface noise.

According to competent observers, if the Indian shellac industry is to survive, two remedies are necessary; to lower the price of shellac and to carry on research to enable the manufacture of records which are unbreakable and free from surface noise. Any complacency on the part of the trade resulting in attempts to secure high prices will mean the practical extinction of the shellac industry.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 28-4-1947).

Stepping up Coal Production: Government of
India appoints Committee to draw up Co-ordinated
Plan.

In implementation of the Indian Coal Fields Committee's recommendations, the Government of India have appointed an ad hoc official committee to draw up a co-ordinated plan of coal production. The Committee will indicate priorities in the various areas and projects. The first meeting of the committee is expected to take place shortly and a preliminary report will be available within three months.

The Government of India have informed the Provinces that they are in favour of the recommendation of the Indian Coalfields Committee about the acquisition of mineral rights by the State. The Government of India have accepted the principle that the production of coal should be expanded on the lines recommended by the Committee so as to reach 40 million tons by 1956. They also agree that the policy of conserving coking coal should be laid down. Measures to these ends would be worked out soon. Adequate rail transport facilities for moving coal will also have to be provided. The setting up of a high-power committee to go into this question is being examined. The recommendation for the creation of a new Department of Fuel and Power and the setting up of a National Coal Commission will be considered later.

(The Hindu, dated 22-4-1947).

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Indian Air Service to Britain:
Now Tata Venture.

A new chapter in the progress of Indian aviation will be opened when Air-India, under Tatas management, shortly begin to operate foreign air services. They are already chartering planes to Basra. Plans are so far advanced that the new foreign service is expected to start by June 1947. The proposed service will cover Baghdad, Cairo and London. For the present Dakota and Viking planes will be used and big York planes later. Great significance is attached to this service by the Indian commercial community as in the past communications abroad were almost the monopoly of the British and a few foreign air services. Before the change of Government at the centre, Indian air companies found it difficult to obtain licenses to operate foreign services, but, the new Interim Government has granted the license for the Tatas new India-Great Britain service.

(The Hindu, 17-4-1947).

27

MIGRATION.

Indians in British Columbia granted Franchise:
Bill passed by Columbia Assembly on 2-4-1947.

A Bill granting franchise to Indians in British Columbia, was passed by the Columbia Legislative Assembly on 2-4-1947. This will benefit a large number of Indian nationals residents in the province.

The following information about the conditions of life and work of Indians in Canada is taken from an article on the subject published in the Hindustan Times dated 18-4-1947:

Since their arrival in 1904, Indians have been denied the right to vote and this has been set forth in statutes. Aliens, after five years' residence in Canada, enjoyed the privilege of voting, but Indians, although they were British subjects, were deprived of this fundamental right of citizenship in British Columbia. This discrimination was based entirely on racial grounds. Even well-to-do members of the Indian community, although they employed numerous non-Indians in their business, had less rights as citizens than the poorest labourers they hired. It must be remembered that these restrictions applied only in one out of the nine provinces of Canada; in other provinces, the Indians had the right of vote. This, however, did not help the Indians, as the vast majority of them were concentrated in British Columbia.

The reason given by the provincial Government of British Columbia for this discrimination was strange and illogical. The Indians, it was alleged, dragged down the European standard of living. Yet the Government itself, in its minimum wage laws, allowed 25 per cent of the employees of a company to be hired at a lesser rate of pay. As a result the Indians were forced to accept lower wages. Thus the Government through its own laws, lowered the standard of life of the Indians and then blamed them for the results of its own legislation. The tendency lately, however, has been for the Indians, particularly in the lumbering industry in which ^{the} majority of them are employed, to join the Trade Union connected with the industry—the International Wood-workers of America. Through ~~their~~ union affiliation they now receive 87 cents per hour and naturally this gives them an opportunity to improve their living conditions.

As to the charge that the Indians were unable to become part of the Canadian pattern of life, it is true that many of the older members of the Indian community have been finding it difficult to adjust themselves to new conditions. The younger generation, however, is showing every indication of absorption into the Canadian background. The figures given in the 1941 Dominion census report are eloquent. Of the three groups of the population of British Columbia (the British group, the European group and the Asiatic group), when the percentage of those who have 15 or more years of schooling is considered, the British group comes highest, but surprisingly enough of the other two groups the Orientals have reached a slightly higher level than the European group. Having regard to ~~the~~ ^{the} linguistic, cultural and economic handicaps the progress of the Oriental group is indeed amazing. The charge that the Indians did not attempt to become good Canadians and did not fully identify themselves with the life and progress of the country lacks justification. The extent to which the Indians supported the Canadian war effort is not generally known. Economically, the Indians were

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pioneers in two of the largest basic industries of British Columbia—
lumbering and agriculture. They have invested several million dollars
in these industries as entrepreneurs.

The question of discrimination against Indians in British Columbia
was brought to the attention of the Dominion Government on numerous
occasions by the Indian delegates to the various Imperial conferences.
From 1935 onwards, the Socialist Party of British Columbia, brought in
motions every year to amend the Elections Act in order to remove this
discrimination but they were always defeated, ~~by the vote of the govern-
ment members.~~ In 1946, however, the Legislature appointed an Elections
Act Committee, consisting of ~~seven~~ seven members representing all
parties to review the Elections Act and recommend certain important
changes. The Elections Act Committee unanimously recommended to the
Government that franchise should be granted to Indians, but a clause
requiring an adequate knowledge of English should be added. Finally
the Government by a unanimous vote of the Legislature accepted these
recommendations.

As a result of this triumph, half-a-million Indians in the Western
hemisphere will be stimulated to renewed activity to obtain their full
rights as citizens. In the various ~~communities~~ in which they are
domiciled. The success of the Indians in British Columbia is likely to
show them what can be done by continued and united effort.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-4-1947).

Control of Indian Immigration: Burma Government
considering New Legislation.

The Government of Burma, is planning the enactment of a new law
for the control of immigration and emigration. The proposed legislation
will affect only Indians as it cannot be applied to other nationals,
including Chinese, whose movement to Burma is governed by their treaties
with the British Government.

The new legislation will replace the agreement concluded during
the war to regulate post-war immigration of Indians into Burma. At
present the entry of Indians into Burma is governed by an administra-
tive arrangement between the Governments of India and Burma, by which
only evacuees, who are not ~~not~~ unskilled labourers, are able to return
to Burma from India. According to official statistics, 63,374 persons
reached Burma from Indian ports between 1-4-1946 and 31-4-1946. A
substantial number of these were Burma Government servants and personnel
of Government project boards; only 1,505 were sponsored by the Indian
Government, including 600 non-evacuees. During the same period more
than 80,000 persons left Burma for India, of whom 75 per cent were not
likely to return to Burma as less than 25 per cent took back with them
certificates necessary for return.

(The Statesman, 27-4-1947).

Government of India likely to ban Emigration of Unskilled Labour.—It
is further understood that, on a representation made by Mr. M.A. Rauf,
Representative of the Government of India in Burma, the Government of
India have decided to put a ban on unskilled labour returning to Burma
except in case of such persons who can prove to the satisfaction of
authorized officers that they have some members of their family stranded

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there. The ban is considered necessary because of the large-scale unemployment among unskilled workers in Burma. Mr. Rauf is reported to have informed the Government of India that, with reconstruction activities practically at a standstill in Burma, unskilled labour there was virtually unemployed for nearly 20 days in a month and that there was no hope of reconstruction activities being initiated for some time yet. ~~xxxx~~ Meanwhile unskilled Indian evacuee workers were pouring into Burma. This had aggravated the situation which was already bad owing to unemployment, insecurity of life and impossible living conditions.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1947).

1947 Session of Ceylon Indian Congress, Nawalipitiya,
18 and 19-4-1947.

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The Ceylon Indian Congress held its annual session at Nawalipitiya on 18 and 19-4-1947. Mr. Vekra Thondaman presided over the session, which was attended by over 5,000 Indian labourers, and was addressed among others by Mr. R.E. gayatilleke, Member of the State Council. Mr. R.T. Chari, Government of India's Agent in Ceylon, and Mr. R.K. Tandon, Government of India's Trade Commissioner also attended the session.

Presidential Address.— In his presidential address, Mr. Thondaman said that an early settlement of the differences between India and Ceylon should be arrived at in a spirit of understanding and mutual goodwill. He thought that the contact and participation of Ceylon in the Asian Relations Conference had already created the necessary spirit for such understanding, and goodwill. Mr. Thondaman assured the support and co-operation of India for a strong, independent Ceylon, in which all sections of the population would be assured of security and equality. The proper time for a settlement of the Indian problem was when the new constitution was being introduced and when economic reconstruction plans were being considered. The anxiety of Ceylon Indians was founded on the genuine fear that they would be confronted with a series of fail accompli on the inauguration of the new constitution. Nothing short of independence for Ceylon was the demand of the Ceylon Indian Congress. For this purpose a free India was necessary corollary to a free Ceylon. A policy of isolation for Ceylon from India would not be helpful to Ceylon's advance. The Ceylon Indian Congress had decided to nominate and support candidates to the new Parliament for Ceylon with a view to mending the constitution and ~~to~~ checking the perpetuation of the present reactionary policy of the Government, particularly towards labour.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 20-4-1947).

AGRICULTURE.

Bihar Tenancy Law to be amended: Relief to Tenants
pending abolition of Zamindari System.

Pending legislation for abolition of the Zamindari system, the Government of Bihar have decided to introduce a Bill in the current session of the Bihar Assembly containing important changes in the Bihar Tenancy law with a view to giving relief to tenants in certain material respects.

The Bill seeks to prohibit the realization of salami and charging of rent in excess of ten per cent above the existing rates. Provision has also been made to preserve undertenants' occupancy rights as even after the sale of the main raiyati holding and make restrictions on enhancement of money rents more effective.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-4-1947).

zamindari System to be abolished in Madras:
Revenue Minister consults Public Opinion .

The Government of Madras has invited representatives of land organizations and land revenue experts in the Province to advise it as to how best a comprehensive legislation could be effected in regard to abolition of zamindaris and the relations that should exist between the cultivating tenants and landowners. As it will take a long time if a Commission were to be appointed to enquire into these matters, the Government has requested organizations and individuals connected with land revenue to submit their suggestions before 15-4-1947.

The Revenue Minister, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, in a statement issued in this connection, said: "None in the Presidency will dispute either the urgency or the necessity of putting on the Statute Book legislation that will give relief as well as ameliorate the conditions of the tolling ryot (agricultural worker). The problems facing the ryot are many and can be tackled only by comprehensive legislation. In Madras Presidency there is need for Zamindari Legislation, a Ryot-wari Act and an Act to define the relations between the cultivating tenants and owners of the land. Comprehensive reforms under all these heads are necessary within the quickest possible time. The question in all its aspects would be considered by the meeting of the Madras Legislature Congress Party on 20-4-1947 and after the Party's approval, the Government proposed taking the necessary steps to implement the policy.

(The Hindu, dated 15-4-1947;
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-4-1947).

Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Bill, 1947, passed:
further scaling down of debts.

A bill to consolidate and amend the law for the relief of agricultural debtors in the province of Bombay (vide page 47 of the report of this office for February 1947) was passed by the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 9-4-1947; the Bombay Legislative Council passed the bill on 11-4-1947.

The new legislation replaces the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act passed by the Congress Ministry in 1939 and provides for the scaling down of rural debts. The Finance Minister, Mr. Vaikunth L. Mehta, described the legislation as "one of a series of protective and preventive measures in the programme of the Government to eradicate the evil of backwardness and poverty from the rural economy of the province".

The main changes introduced in the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, 1939, by the present bill are:

The definition of 'debtor' has been widened and would now cover a larger section of the agriculturist community; the procedure for drawing up accounts had been simplified and the scaling down of debts had been liberalised; all debts incurred before January 1, 1931, would be scaled down by 40 per cent and those incurred before 1-1-1940 by 50 per cent; after going through the accounts of a debtor, the courts would determine his paying capacity and the court's award would be in proportion to his paying capacity. If the debts exceeded the paying capacity of the debtor, they would be scaled down further pro rata to his capacity; the procedure for the execution of the awards of the courts also had been simplified and the decrees would be recoverable as arrears of land revenue. If the debt exceeded half the value of the debtor's immovable property, the creditor would have the option to reduce the debt by 50 per cent and in that case immediate payment would be made to him through the land mortgage banks.

Labour Representative urges further relief.- Mr. S.A. Dange (Bombay Textile Labour), admitted that the measure afforded some relief to the indebted peasant, but added that the amount of relief was not enough to absolve him completely from his load of debts. He would have liked the provisions of the Bill being made more drastic so that the small peasants, owning less than 25 acres of land, were made completely free from all debts. He did not think that the rural economy of the province could be improved merely by scaling down debts and urged that legislation to provide cheap credit facilities to the peasant must be undertaken.

The Finance Minister, replying to the debate, said that those who pleaded for further relief to the agriculturist might perhaps be satisfied only with confiscation of all land. The present piece of legislation was not of an expropriatory type; it only sought to redress the balance hitherto over-weighted in favour of the creditor and make the position equitable as between creditor and debtor. It was therefore on grounds of equity and fairness that the measure ought to be viewed. Government were alive to the fact that cheap credit facilities must be provided to the peasant. A special committee had lately been appointed, with Sir Manilal B. Nanavati as its chairman, to go into this question. The committee had been asked to report on whether it was possible to provide credit to individual agriculturists all over the province through the agency of co-operative societies, as they existed at present, or through the same agency in co-organised form. (The Times of India, 10 and 12-4-1947).

The Bihar Privileged Persons Homestead
Tenancy Bill, 1947, gazetted: Permanent
Tenancy Rights for Privileged Tenants :
Landless Labourers and Artisans to benefit.

The Government of Bihar gazetted on 2-4-1947, the Bihar Privileged Persons Homestead Tenancy Bill, 1947. A "privileged person" is defined in the Bill as a person, who is not a proprietor, tenureholder, under-tenure-holder, raiyat, under raiyat or money-lender, and who belongs to the class of persons ordinarily known as landless labourers and artisans; a "privileged ~~person~~ tenant" means, a privileged person who holds homestead under another person and is, or but for a special contract would be, liable to pay rent for such homestead to such person. Under the Bill privileged tenants are given permanent tenancy rights in their homesteads on payment of a fair and equitable rent, determined by the collector of the district in disputed cases. The Bill also lays down definite conditions, under which and not otherwise, a privileged tenant can be evicted, and provides various other tenancy rights for this class of tenant.

In order that such homesteads ~~would~~^{may} not pass into the hands of other classes than that intended to be benefited by the Bill restrictions are placed on the right of transfer of a homestead by a landless labourer or an artisan. On the other hand in the interest of the landlord due provision has been made for ensuring regular payment of rent and for preventing the home-stead from being used in a manner inconsistent with the ~~xxx~~ purpose of the tenancy.

Explaining the need for such legislation, the Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill, points out that in rural areas of Bihar a labourer or an artisan such as a potter, a blacksmith or a carpenter, who is not a raiyat (Agriculturist) generally lives in a house either built by himself on land given to him by the landlord or by a raiyat, or in a house built by the landlord or the raiyat on such land for the labourer or artisan's occupation. He is allowed to occupy such a house on consideration of his rendering service to the raiyat or the landlord concerned. His position with regard to the homestead is that of a tenant-at-will and he can be turned out of it at any moment by the landlord or the raiyat, as the case may be, irrespective of the length of his period of occupation. This causes ~~of a~~ ⁸⁻⁵⁵ deal of hardship to landless labourers and artisans who, for fear of being ousted from their homestead, are sometimes compelled to work for the landlord or the raiyat without payment or at unreasonably low wages.

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Alternative to Zamindari System: U.P. Congress
Party favours Collective Farming.

At the political conference of the United Provinces Congress Party (the present U.P. Ministry is a Congress one) held in April 1947 at Mau, a resolution accepting "co-operative farming on the Russian model" as a substitute for the zamindari system was adopted.

The resolution did not outline any ready-made plan, but indicated a preference leaving the details to be filled in later. Under the Congress constitution a party-decision, such as this, is not mandatory on the Government which is controlled, through the Congress bloc in the legislature, by the Parliamentary Board of the Congress High Commands; all the same the Mau resolution is important as a reflection of party opinion which no Government can ignore with impunity. It is also for the first time that the Congress Party as a whole made a public declaration that it had in view a tangible scheme to replace the zamindari system.

There is a school of opinion in the Congress favouring replacement of the zamindari system by a system of peasant proprietorship and not collective farming. The main arguments of this school are: the desire of the cultivator, particularly in India, to possess land; collective farming on ~~modern~~ modern lines would only increase the ranks of landless labour in the villages which is already in excess of requirements; ~~and~~ by adopting this system the cultivator can be asked to pay for part of the cost of acquiring the rights of intermediaries for which the Government does not possess sufficient funds. Those who support collective farming, however, point out that sooner or later the province must replace the small farms by larger units; that by vesting the rights of proprietorship in peasants the Government would only increase the possible resistance of the peasants to future reform; and that by adding proprietary rights to ~~the~~ peasants' ~~the~~ existing privileges, the Government would only seal the future of co-~~o~~operative farming.

(The Statesman, dated 26-4-1947).

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NAVIGATION.

Maritime Labour Advisory Committee Meeting, New Delhi,
23-4-1947: Ratification of 7 Seattle Conventions
recommended.

At the first meeting of the Maritime Labour Advisory Committee held at New Delhi on 23-4-1947, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member of the Interim Government presiding, a number of subjects of importance to Indian seamen were discussed. In his opening address, Mr. Chundrigar pointed out that India stood on the threshold of a great expansion of her mercantile marine and that as her fleet expanded so will her need of trained competent and self-respecting seamen. Although much had been done for Indian seamen in the last few years, the basic problem of chronic unemployment and its attendant evils, he said, remained to be tackled. Indian seamen were still insufficiently protected against exploitation, and it would be the Committee's main object to devise means for the eradication of these evils. Referring to the various Conventions adopted at the International Labour Conference held at Seattle in June 1946, he said that they were designed to secure better conditions of service for seafarers and to remove some of the hardships which they had had to suffer so long. These Conventions would have to be placed before the Central Assembly by the end of 1947. They dealt with matters which the Government obviously could not tackle without close consultation with the representatives of employers and employees.

The proceedings of the Committee are briefly noticed below:

7 Seattle Conventions to be ratified.- The Committee agreed that India should ratify seven International Conventions which were adopted in 1946 by the International Labour Conference at Seattle USA. Two other Conventions, which relate to social security, will be considered at the Committee's next meeting—to be held at the end of July or early in August 1947.

It was decided that for the certification of able-bodied seamen 18 years old and with over three years' sea services an examination should be conducted in the seamen's language. The principle that no one should be employed at sea unless he is declared, after medical examination, to be fit for the job for which he is applied is embodied in another Convention. The Committee recommended that the Convention should be ratified, but no agreement could be reached on the working out of details, owners' representatives insisting on having their own medical officers to examine applicants even after these have been examined and passed by the Government's doctors.

Cancellation of Deserters' Certificates.- Apart from the Conventions, the Committee considered the question of desertion, and it was suggested that discharge certificates of deserters should be cancelled. As such a rule, however, might be unduly hard on some who did not intentionally desert or who may have deserted due to conditions beyond their control, it was decided that deserters' certificates should be cancelled only on their failure to return to India within a year of their desertion. Certificates would also be cancelled in the case of those who returned within the year but who failed to offer a satisfactory explanation.

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Reorganisation of Recruitment.- Another item set down for discussion was the programme of reorganising the system of recruitment of Indian seafarers. A Government spokes man pointed out that there were roughly 250,000 men holding continuous discharge certificates available for recruitment, while the number of jobs was about 60,000. The Government were waiting to hear what progress had been made by the Bipartite Maritime Board formed in Calcutta of shipowners and seafarers, and whether a similar Board was likely to be constituted at Bombay.

Provision of Warm clothing: Shipowners' Assurance.- Shipowners gave an assurance that the wartime practice of issuing warm clothing to seafarers carried beyond Fort said would be continued. It ~~was~~ was decided that the Bipartite Maritime Boards at Calcutta and Bombay should discuss the question of clothing for seamen and report at the Committee's next meeting.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-4-1947;
The Bombay Chronicle, 25-4-1947;
The Hindu, dated 25-4-1947).

Conference of Indian Shipping Interests, Bombay,
14-4-1947: Delegation to negotiate with British
Government for expansion of Indian Shipping .

At a conference of Indian Shipping interests, held in Bombay on 14-4-1947, under the chairmanship of Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member, Interim Government, it was decided that a delegation of representatives of Indian shipping companies should proceed to Britain for initiating negotiations with His Majesty's Government and British shipping interests for the expansion of Indian shipping. Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, Chairman of the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping, which recently submitted its report to Government (vide pages 69-70 of the report of this Office for March 1947), will lead the delegation.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Chundrigar, said that the recommendations of the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee were of far reaching importance. Among others, they had advocated that 100 per cent of the purely coastal trade of India, 35 per cent of India's trade with Burma and Ceylon and with the geographically adjacent countries, 50 per cent of India's ~~trades formerly carried~~ distant trades and 30 per cent of the trades formerly carried in Axis vessels in the Orient should be secured for Indian shipping in the next five ~~year~~ or ~~seven~~ seven years. The bulk of India's coastal trade and almost the whole of her overseas trade had so far been handled by non-Indian shipping companies. The Government of India considered it essential to support Indian shipping in the country's development plans. They, therefore, had begun negotiations with H.M.G. with a view to ensuring greater participation of Indian shipping, both in the coastal and overseas trade. The purpose of the present negotiations would not be to allocate shares among different Indian interests, but merely to negotiate for Indian interests as a whole.

Mr. Chundrigar added that any scheme for the development of Indian shipping must tackle the problem of making more tonnage available to India. A few Indian shipping companies had recently purchased some ships, but their number was very small. There was no ship-building industry worth the name in India today and the country would have to depend in the near future mostly on purchases abroad for the acquisition of the necessary tonnage. Another matter connected with the question of the development of Indian shipping was the question of training more officers and engineers necessary to man these ships. The facilities now available in India for training them was very meagre. The Government of India, actively considering the question of improving and expanding training facilities and any proposals ~~made in this connection~~ made in this connection would receive their earnest consideration.

(The Times of India, 15-4-1947).

Control of Shipping Bill 1947, passed by Central Assembly.

On 16-4-1947, the Central Legislative Assembly passed the Control of Shipping Bill, as amended by the Select Committee. The Bill required ships registered in India to obtain licence for their being taken to sea and the power is conferred on the central government to fix ship routes and issue directions with regard to the cargo and passengers to be carried. During the debate on the Bill, Mr. Manu Subedar referred to the need for making provision for repairs of ships and ship-building ~~interests~~ in India and suggested that Government should consider the desirability of nationalising the shipping industry.

Replying to the debate, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, assured the House that the Government's policy was to give every legitimate assistance to Indian shipping interests. Shipping was indispensable to a modern State having a coastline, and India, with her very long coastline, must have a strong navy and considerable Indian shipping.

(The Hindu, dated 20-4-1947).

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Conditions of Service of Bombay Bank Employees
regulated by Industrial Court: Increased Salary
scales, Security and Improved conditions.

As the result of a wage dispute between the Federation of Bank Employees Unions representing 30 banks in Bombay and their managements, the Industrial Court, Bombay, has given an award fixing the salary scales of clerical staff in both major and minor banks of Bombay Province. According to the award, the clerical staff of the 12 major banks in Bombay are to be paid a minimum salary of Rs. 65 per month, rising to Rs. 275 by the twenty-fifth year of their service, with three efficiency bars between the floor and ceiling wage limits; clerks in the 18 smaller banks will start at Rs. 55 and get Rs. 212 to Rs. 250 from the twenty-second to twenty-fifth year of their service. The new grades for salaries and dearness allowance fixed for clerks, as well as for low-paid staff, in all the banks will come into effect from July 1, 1946.

The following are the main features of the award:

Salary.- (1) Big Banks Clerks.- Rs. 65 to Rs. 130 (first to eleventh year), Efficiency Bar, Rs. 157 to Rs. 190 (twelfth to eighteen years) E.B. Rs. 200 to Rs. 230 (19 to 22nd year) E.B. Rs. 245 to Rs. 275 (23 to 25th year). Graduates to start at Rs. 75. (b) Low-paid Staff: Chokras to start at Rs. 25; Peons—Rs. 30-2-50-1-65; Sweepers and scavengers—Rs. 20-2-40.

Small banks.- Clerks—Rs. 55 to Rs. 102 E.B. Rs. 110 to Rs. 150 E.B. Rs. 160 to Rs. 200 E.B. Rs. 212 to Rs. 250, the efficiency bars being after completion of ten, sixteen and twenty-one years of service respectively. Graduates to start at Rs. 65. Low-paid staff: Chokras to start at Rs. 19; Peons—Rs. 24-1-35-2-55. Sweepers—Rs. 15-1-30.

Dearness Allowance.- Big Banks: Clerks—25 per cent of salary with Rs. 30 as minimum and Rs. 50 as maximum. Low-paid staff—Peons and others Rs. 25 at flat rate, chokras—Rs. 20 and scavengers—Rs. 15. Small banks: Clerks—20 per cent of salary with Rs. 25 minimum and Rs. 35 maximum. Low-paid staff—Rs. 17 at flat rate.

Provident Fund.- Regarding provident fund, the Adjudicator observed that all banks had Provident Fund or Pension Rules or both. The existing rules of provident funds and pension could not be changed in the absence of all the beneficiaries and trustees. Suggestions have been made for modifying the rules. All banks which have no pension or retiring allowance to pay gratuity to all employees on voluntary retirement or resignation after 15 years of service and on retrenchment or discharge, after 10 years of service, the maximum amount being 15 months' salary after 15 years of continuous service.

Leave.- Casual leave—10 days in a year with full pay and allowance. Sick leave—one month for each year's service, subject to a maximum of 12 months in all during the whole service. Banks might, in special cases, grant additional sick leave. Leave without pay could be granted to an employee when no other leave was due at the discretion of the bank.

Low-paid staff: The same rules of leave applied with the modification that privilege leave could be accumulated up to a total of two months.

Small banks: Same as big banks for all employees except that they would get three weeks instead of one month for privilege and sick leave.

Service Rules.- Regarding service rules, the Adjudicator provided for free medical consultations for employees of big banks, voluntary retirement after 30 years of service, compulsory retirement at the age of 60 except as otherwise provided for in the Pension rules, in all banks. Service records to be maintained for all employees, with the right of appeal to the highest authority in case of adverse remarks. The rest of the service rules is to be incorporated in the Standing Orders to be framed by the Commissioner of Labour.

Amenities.- All banks would have to provide dining rooms, wherever possible, and clean water for employees. All employees have the right to apply to the proper court in case of victimisation or improper treatment and in case of a breach of the Standing Orders or the Adjudicator's award. All the existing rights and privileges enjoyed by the employees which were not covered or varied by the award are to continue.

Big Banks.- The 12 big banks, according to the award, are the Imperial Bank of India; Lloyds Bank; Grindlay and Co.; Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; Netherlands India Commercial Bank; Central Bank of India; Bank of India; Bank of Baroda; Allahabad Bank; Punjab National Bank; Hindustan Commercial Bank; and Indian Bank. Over 3,500 members of the clerical staff and 1,200 members of the low-paid staff in these 12 banks are covered by the award.

The Adjudicator has pointed out that although he had made a distinction between the banks, he had tried to make the gulf as narrow as possible, keeping in mind the need for stability of banks as well as for adequate emoluments for the employees. He has also pointed out that if some demands of the employees have been rejected it was not because that the Court had no sympathy with those demands; but it was because the decisions in the award had been based on wider considerations of securing stability and progress of the banking institutions. Most of the banks were still in their infancy and required to be nourished with care so that they can give effective help in the economic and industrial progress of the country.

(The Times of India, 9-4-1947).

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Proposed Census of Distributive Trades and
Services: Government of India's Plans.

The Department of Labour, Government of India, is considering a proposal for conducting a census of distributive trades (wholesale and retail) and services such as catering, hair-dressing, laundering, etc., and transport other than railways. The object is to gather statistical information about the number and categories of such establishments, their location and size, capital invested, turnover and similar details; also to gather information about the number of employees, their wages or salaries and "conditions of employment".

The following information on the proposed census is taken from a note on the subject submitted by the Department of Labour, Government of India, to the 8th session of the Indian Labour Conference (at which the subject figured as one of the items on the agenda):-

Quite a large proportion of the working population of almost all Indian cities is employed in wholesale and retail trade, as also in services like catering, laundering, hair dressing, transport, etc. The reference here is not to workmen in the strictest sense but to employees of all classes, that is, persons who work for a living under a contract of employment.

This ~~same~~ section of the community is drawn mostly from educated or partially educated classes or rather from the middle and lower middle classes, as distinguished from the labouring classes. Again while some part of it may be engaged in manual occupations, quite a large number is employed in clerical, supervisory or semi-administrative situations. In that sense they are different from the working class population found in the lower income brackets and to that extent also their problems have special features. For this section of the community there is no data about the numbers employed in different categories of employment, their wages or salaries and conditions of employment. Nor is it known precisely where they are employed and in what numbers. The number of such establishments, their size and type of management, class or group, etc., are also not known. This complete lack of information may be contrasted with other types of employment. In addition to the data already available for Factory, Railway, Mines and other organized types of labour, the recent investigations of the Labour Investigation Committee have added quite a large volume. But clerical and administrative sections of commercial establishments, employees in shops, restaurants, repair services, laundries, hair dressing establishments and several other classes have been completely ignored. Once an attempt was made in Bombay in 1936 and an enquiry was conducted by the Bombay Labour Office into wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the retail trade and ~~it is known to all that~~ a mass of useful information (quite a lot of it was unexpected) became available. But it may be pointed out that the enquiry was confined to retail trade only. What is now proposed is a far bigger undertaking in the sense that a wider field is to be covered - a charting of the entire distributive field. Such comprehensive data would be of the greatest public interest. It would be helpful in making plans for future legislation. If the information could be had quickly enough it would be of immense value to the Resettlement Advice Service, where at the moment no information could be given about opportunities of entering into trade. The Town Planning Authorities would also be able to draw on this data for

making provision for shopping centres, their size and extent, and for different types of shops and service establishments. The advantages to trade and the workpeople would be equally great. This information would help the expansion of trade, its flow into different directions according to requirements of each locality, perhaps ~~khaxinurekasa~~ in increasing employment, and certainly in improving wages and working conditions. The proposal does not follow the traditional orthodox plan of a Census of Distribution as undertaken in foreign countries, like the U.S.A. and Canada, in as much as the details which would be required for general economic purposes are supplemented by questions about wages and conditions of work of employees. But it is felt that in India enquiries for purely economic purposes must wait at the moment. The survey would yield enough material for completing the existing gap in the statistics of per capita income and expenditure (consumption). This survey supplemented by an analysis of the data available in the records of the Rationing Authorities would go a long way in enabling better ~~zxa~~ calculations of per capita consumption being made.

It will not be possible to make an immediate start with a full-fledged survey. It is therefore suggested that a start may be made with a trial census with a limited questionnaire. The questionnaire will in particular, elicit information on the following, among other, points: Rates of wages or salaries for each class or category of employees with incremental scales, if any; Total wages paid; Details of conditions of employment: (a) Hours of work, spread-over and rest periods (b) Overtime (c) Rest days (d) Leave and accumulation of leave (e) Provident Fund, gratuity, pensions, bonus, etc.

(Summarised from Note on a Census of Distributive Trades and Services with a view to ascertain the wages and conditions of employment in this type of employment, submitted by the Department of Labour, Government of India, to the 8th Labour Conference, New Delhi, April, 1947).

Secondary School Teachers in Bombay placed on Rs. 70 to Rs. 150/= p.m. Scale: Government accept Recommendations of Provincial Board of Secondary Education.

The Provincial Board of Secondary Education, set up by the Government of Bombay, has recommended a minimum salary of Rs. 70 per month, rising to Rs. 150, with annual increments of Rs. 4 for trained secondary teachers (graduates) and Rs. 50 per month, going up to Rs. 100, with ~~an~~ annual increments of Rs. 2 up to Rs. 70 and Rs. 5 thereafter, in the case of matriculates with training qualifications. The Government have agreed to accept these recommendations on standard pay scales, subject to local variations, if necessary.

(The Times of India, 10-4-1947).

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Demand for Increased Pay and Amenities for
Journalists: 1947 Conference of South India
Journalists' Federation, Madras, 26 and
27-4-1947.

At the annual Conference of the South Indian Journalists Federation held at Madras on 26 and 27-4-1947, Mr. Raghunatha Aiyar, Assistant Editor, the Hindu, in his presidential address called upon editors of Indian papers to insist on a really adequate minimum of salaries and amenities for the rank and file in the profession, including mofussil correspondents. Taking note of the fact that in 1946 there had been some improvement in the emoluments and prospects of journalists, he said that the improvement was neither uniform nor widespread. The minimum standards laid down by the Indian and Eastern Newspapers' Society required an immediate upward revision, as the expectation of a fall in the cost of living on which they were based had not been realised.

He remarked that "the transformation of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference into a really effective liaison agency between the proprietors and the working journalists was long overdue." Emphasising the need for ~~trained~~ training qualified journalists, Mr. Aiyar criticised the Madras University's newly started course in journalism; he said journalistic training should be organised by a professional organisation like the Federation and in close co-operation with newspapers. He commended, in this respect, the scheme adopted by the British National Union of Journalists in 1946. Turning to the freedom of the press, Mr. Aiyar expressed the hope that the Press Laws Committee appointed recently will make recommendations at an early date, which will have the effect of placing newspapers in India on the same footing vis-a-vis the Government as newspapers in Britain and America are.

The conference resolved to set up a sub-committee to go into the question of pay, service conditions, and hours of work of working journalists and make necessary recommendations to the newspaper proprietors. This resolution was based on the assurance given by Mr. Kasturi Srinivasan, President of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society, in a message he sent to the conference that the Society would bestow every attention to the recommendations which the Federation would put forward for the Society's consideration in regard to pay and conditions of service for ensuring a healthy and contented staff.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 28 and 29-4-1947).

Central Pay Commission's Report: Increased Salaries to
Cost Rs. 260 Millions per year.

According to the Special Representative of the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, the Central Pay Commission's report (vide page 42 of this Office's report for January 1947) has been examined by the Government of India and it is understood, that it has been decided to accept the recommendations in full. It is said that the Commission's proposals will cost the exchequer about Rs. 260 million; an alternative plan would have cost Rs. 210 million. The Government is said to have favoured the costlier alternative as a gesture to Government employees who have suffered on account of inflation caused by the former Government's policy of financing war expenditure by using the printing press.

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

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Indian Nurses: Training and pay to be
standardised.

At an informal Conference held at New Delhi on 17-4-1947 at Lady Mountbatten's invitation and attended by senior representatives of official departments and all-India organizations interested in the profession of nursing, it was agreed that the training of nurses in India should be standardized, together with their pay, and that better living conditions should be afforded. Strong opinion was expressed that legislation should be undertaken to give effect to the standardization scheme. The need was stressed for more volunteers to come forward to help with nursing and social services of all kinds and in all directions and thus ensure that in the coming years full provision is made for the welfare of the community.

(The Indian News Chronicle, dated
18-4-1947).

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NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Living Conditions of Aborigines of Bombay: Welfare Measures include Grant of Waste Lands, Fixation of Wages for Agricultural and Forest Work, Provision of Hospitals, Schools, etc.

At a conference of Adivasis (aboriginals) of Daharu and Umbergaon talukas of Bombay, held in the first week of April, 1947, Mr. K.G. Kher, Prime Minister, Government of Bombay, announced several welfare measures that the Government of Bombay intended to adopt for the uplift of the aborigines. Some of the more important of these measures were: the appointment of additional revenue staff for enforcement of tenancy legislation; the opening of grain banks to advance grain loans; grant of waste lands for cultivation; return of excess rent recovered by the landlords; machinery to be set up for fixing wages for agricultural and forest work and for settling disputes relating to wages; 150 wells to be constructed; a cottage hospital at Daharu and a dispensary in Umbergaon taluka; more schools with agricultural bias, with four hostels for boys and girls; welfare centres for the welfare of Warlis training in forestry for students and encouragement of starting of co-operative societies for working forest lots so that the Warlis need no longer be mere labourers of contractors.

Mr. Kher emphasised that these measures would raise the level of the political status of the Adivasis. (The recommendations made by a Committee of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee. For the welfare of Bombay's aborigines, were reported at pages 44-45 of the report of this office for March, 1947).

(The Times of India, 7-4-1947).

Nutrition.

Canteens in Central Government undertakings:
Inspector Appointed.

The Government of India have appointed a Central Inspector for industrial canteens to supervise the work of canteens for workers in Central Government undertakings. The main functions of the Inspector will be (a) to lay down standards in respect of construction and accommodation of canteens, (b) to see that canteens have adequate furniture and equipment, and that food-stuffs are sold in them after they are duly certified, and (c) to keep an eye on the prices charged at these canteens.

The recently amended Factories Act lays down that an adequate canteen should be provided in each of the industrial undertakings employing 250 workers or more and that representatives of workers should be associated with the management of the canteens.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-4-1947).

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Housing.

Housing for Working and Lower Middle Classes:
Madras Government's Scheme.

The immediate plans of the Government of Madras in respect of providing cheap housing for the working and lower middle classes were briefly described by Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister in charge of Housing, Government of Madras, in the course of a press interview at Madras in the second week of April 1947. The more important points of the housing schemes are noticed below:-

The Government of Madras was planning a scheme for building houses in units of 100 in the major towns of the Province and in Madras City. The houses will fall under three categories, A, B and C. In a unit of 100, there will be 15 A class dwellings, costing Rs. 15,000 each on 30 cents plot; 25 B class, costing Rs. 10,000 on 20 cents plot; and 60 C class, costing Rs. 5,000 each on 2 ten cents plots. The lay-out will be on a 20 acre ground, of which 15 acres will be taken up by actual buildings and the rest for roads and amenities. The idea is to form a Co-operative Building Society for each unit of 100 houses, each owner being a share-holder. The entire cost of land is to be provided by the owner himself, while the cost of building will be financed by the Society, borrowing from the Provincial Co-operative Bank on the strength of one-fifth of the share capital contributed by the owner. The construction of the houses, on approved designs, will be entrusted to suitable engineering firms. A list of areas in Madras City suitable for such schemes was being drawn up.

(The Hindu, dated 11-4-1947).

Bombay Provincial Housing Board: To advise on
Improved Housing Standards.

The Government of Bombay have set up the Bombay Provincial Housing Board, which consists of the Minister for Labour and Housing (Chairman), the Minister for Public Works Department, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Local Self-Government. The Joint Secretary to Government, Political and Services Department, and the Housing Commissioner, Bombay, are the Secretaries of the Board.

The object of the Government in setting up the Board is the provision of increased housing accommodation conforming to approved standards for such classes of the population as are in need of such accommodation, either through the agency of the Government or local bodies or by promotion of co-operative housing or by encouragement of private enterprise in building. The Board will advise on such measures, schemes or works as are calculated as ~~expediently~~ ^{speedily} as possible to achieve this object.

The Board will, in particular, give advise with regard to (1) schemes for the development of lands including their reclamation, zoning and lay-out; (2) provision in areas to be developed of essential services such as water supply, drainage, electricity and gas supplies, public parks, fire brigades and ambulances, public conveyances, places of entertainment and other amenities; (3) the manner in which various development and housing schemes should be co-related, so as to ensure orderly extension of the whole area affected by these schemes; (4) preparation and execution of schemes for housing of industrial workers and low income groups; (5) remodelling of sub-standard houses, clearance of slums, removal of industries from congested areas and other measures of improvement; (6) providing for the housing programme lands and structures; (7) the manner in which the building and industry may be re-organised with a view to expediting and cheapening housing construction; (8) regulation of supply and distribution of building materials; (9) raising funds, inter alia, by (a) imposition on employers the obligation to provide housing accommodation to their employees in ~~owned~~ structures owned or leased by them; (b) levy and collection from employers of contributions for the purpose of erection of dwellings for their employees; (c) levy and collection of betterment charges from owners of lands and other properties included in the schemes where acquisition is not enforced; and (10) such other matters as may be necessary to enable it to carry out the above functions entrusted to it.

Government have also set up a consultative body, to be known as the Provincial Housing Advisory Committee, composed of various interests concerned.

(Government of Bombay Political and Services
 Department Resolution No. 459/46 dated 18-1-1947;
 Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1947).

Bombay Government's Industrial Housing Scheme :
1,500 families to be accommodated in Temporary
Military Buildings.

Presiding over a meeting of the Provincial Advisory Housing Board, held at Bombay on 7-4-1947, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour and Housing, Government of Bombay, reviewed the housing policy of the Government. He said that an organisation has already been set up to undertake large scale building activity and exploratory work on a very considerable scale had been done for acquiring the requisite housing sites and for procuring building materials. Plans, designs and estimates had all been worked out and were ready for scrutiny. For immediate relief, several military huttments in Bombay have been taken over and in a short time about 1,500 families will be housed in these temporary lodgings. Pointing out that congestion in Bombay City and towns of the province has been aggravated by the large increase in the urban population, he emphasised that the problem of housing demanded the close collaboration of local bodies, engineers, architects, financiers, workers and employers.

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Mr. Nanda appealed to the Board to make a determined effort to get rid of single room tenements, and to provide for each family the minimum of living space, sanitary accommodation and the facilities which a dwelling, worth the name, must have.

The meeting appointed four sub-committees to advise on matters relating to the supply of materials, construction, research and finance.

(The Times of India, dated 8-4-1947;
The Bombay Chronicle, 11-4-1947).

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

14th Annual Meeting of All-India Organisation of
Industrial Employers, New Delhi, 21-4-1947 :
Concerns over Fall in Production due to Labour
Unrest.

The 14-th Annual meeting of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, was held in New Delhi, on 21-4-1947, under the presidency of Mr. Sakarlal Palabhai, the president of the Organisation. The session was inaugurated by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Interim Government.

Presidential Address: Plea for Increased Labour Efficiency.— In his presidential address, Mr. Sakarlal Palabhai, reviewed political and economic conditions during the preceding year (1946-47) and said that while the coming into power of the establishment of the Interim Government and Great Britain's undertaking to transfer political powers completely by June 1948 indicated very satisfactory progress in the relationships with third party, the period was marred by serious internal communal disturbances. On the economic front, the period was marked by a considerable fall in production in practically all industries, and in these circumstances, whatever the level of money wages, real wages are bound to go down and no amount of compensatory payments, dearness allowance, etc., will be able to catch up with them.

Deal.
Alenth with the production statistics of the more important industries, he pointed out that the peak production of pig iron, which had reached 2 million tons, had now come down to approximately 1.4 million tons, i.e., it was less than three-quarters of that of the peak period. Steel production, which had reached nearly one million tons, had now gone down to below .9 million tons. The production of cement, which had gone up to about 2 million tons, had now come down from ~~2.8 million tons~~ to round about 1.9 million tons. Sugar had come down from 1.2 million tons to nearly .9 million tons. Paper had fallen by about 25 per cent, while cloth production had gone down from 4,800 million yards to 4,000 million yards. As was natural, when production fell so steadily and so all-round, ~~prices~~ prices also advanced steeply. Statistical information about this is provided by the Economic Adviser's indices, which show the wholesale prices of food standing in March 1947, at 272.5 as against 100 in August 1939 and 245.3 a year before, i.e., an advance of about 27 points in a year. Industrial raw-materials worked out at 352.1 in February 1947 against 276.5 in the corresponding month of 1946. Indices for semi-manufactured articles also continued to step up. Although the prices of semi-manufactured and manufactured articles were going up, they had kept ~~fairly~~ fairly behind the indices of industrial raw materials and food-stuffs. Prices of raw materials and foodstuffs had registered greater increases than those of manufactured goods. Lest it might be said

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that these rising prices were inherent in an inflationary situation, he pointed out that there had been no considerable increase in the volume of currency circulation in the country during the year under review. According to the latest statement of the Reserve Bank, currency notes in circulation totalled Rs. 1,244 million in March 1947, as against Rs. 1,246 million in June 1946.

Analysing the causes for the drop in production, he said that a variety of factors were responsible for the situation, such as political uncertainties, communal disturbances, wear and tear of machinery, widespread labour unrest, stoppages of works and go-slow strikes. In quite a number of cases, the fall in production was due to the lack of raw materials, inadequate supplies of coal, iron and steel, etc., which are again partly or wholly due to the causes already mentioned. Since more and higher production was the crux of the matter, it was incumbent on all concerned, namely, Government, employers and labour, to take concerted measures so that production in the country could be raised.

Dealing with labour unrest, which he regarded as the main cause of the fall in production, he pointed out that industrial strikes during the year had led to loss of thousands of man-hours. Even assuming that all the strikes that took place in the country were the result of a genuine desire to obtain better service terms and better wages for workers, labour and trade union leaders should remember that ^{there} should be some correlation between the productivity of labour and wages. While deploring lack of statistics to show whether productivity per man-hour in India had increased or decreased in recent years or even how it compared with the trend in foreign countries, he said that the available statistics go to show that the productivity of the Indian textile worker is just slightly over 1/6th of that of his fellow-worker in the U.S.A., less than 1/4th of that in U.K. and Germany and less than 1/3rd of that in Japan, Switzerland, Italy, France and Netherlands. Mining was the only other industry in which some statistics of production were available and here also the position was not better. The output of an Indian miner was less than 20% of that of a miner in the U.S.A., 33% of that in Poland and 26% of that in Netherlands. What was even more disturbing was that the average output of the Indian miner had considerably decreased in recent years and was today only 92 tons against about 122 tons in 1939; a fall of more than 25% had thus taken place during the last seven years. ~~Nextly~~ He wished ^{he} could quote similar figures with regard to other industries as well. It was to be hoped that the various Industrial Committees, which had been organised by the I.L.O., will, among other things, also take up a study of comparative output of workers in more important industries in different countries.

Conceding the need for raising the standard of living of the workers, he said that, apart from any other considerations, inasmuch as the industrial worker was a potential consumer, employers were interested in seeing that he had sufficient money at his disposal to purchase the products of industries. A development of ~~six~~ the standard of living cannot, however, take place unless greater production was achieved. One of the main questions that must be urgently tackled, therefore, was how to increase the productivity of labour and the sooner it was done the better.

It was contended that if labour were given higher wages, more amenities of life, better housing, etc., they will naturally become more efficient and responsible. The experience of Indian employers in the past few years, however, was that labour somehow was not sufficiently responsive to what was done to improve their working conditions. When the weekly hours of work were reduced from 54 to 48 by amending the Indian Factories Act and wages were not reduced in proportion, the spokesmen of labour contended that the worker would make it up for the employer by increased efficiency and that the 48 hour week and 8 hour day would help in the introduction of the three-shift system. Actual experience had belied both these hopes; labour efficiency had not increased and workers in some factories were objecting to the three-shift system. Labour had to co-operate wholeheartedly if the all important objective of increased production were to be achieved.

Discussing Government's programme of labour welfare and legislation as enunciated at the joint conference of workers and employers in December 1946, he said that, while the employers supported it, they must direct attention to one great lacuna in that programme; while it laid emphasis on the betterment and welfare of industrial worker and his conditions of work, it was almost completely silent as to how the worker on his part should reciprocate. Trade unions also can play a very important part in instilling a sense of responsibility among workers and in educating and guiding them on proper lines.

Concluding, he dealt with the economic policy of Government and said that the latest budget of the government of India showed that it had neither an economic policy nor a co-ordinated plan. The cumulative effect of the various imposts sought to be imposed cannot but have serious repercussions on production in the country. To dispel the feeling of general uncertainty and nervousness which prevailed in the country after the presentation of the Budget, Government should make a declaration of their economic policy without any further delay with a view to taking the industrial and business community in their confidence as to in what manner industries would be developed in the country and as to how Government would aid private enterprise in playing its proper part.

Resolutions.— The following are the more important of the resolutions adopted at the session:

Welfare and Efficiency of Labour.— The Organisation, while welcoming the progressive labour policy enunciated by the Department of Labour, Government of India (vide pages 11-18 of October 1946 report of this Office), is of emphatic opinion that the best way of achieving the objective of raising the standard without burdening the community is the adoption of efficiency measures which are overdue and more justified now, particularly in view of the reduction of working hours. The Organisation, therefore, urges upon the Central and Provincial Governments to declare rationalization as their declared policy in the interests of industry and workers and take necessary and effective steps towards that end. Steps should also be taken to secure the co-operation of labour for the immediate adoption of measures for prohibiting loitering and inculcating a sense of duty.

Labour Unrest.- The Organisation is deeply concerned about the wide-spread unrest which has characterised labour forces all over the country in various industries and public utility services. The ever-increasing tempo of strikes and go-slow methods has not only put the various expansionist plans for the rapid industrialisation of the country out of gear, but has severely affected production rendering the shortage of essential goods and services still more acute, and has adversely affected industrial costs. The Organisation is of opinion that it is not always that strikes take place for the redress of genuine grievances, but in most cases they have been due to the influence of rival groups manoeuvring for power and also on frivolous grounds. The Organisation apprehends that if this tendency is not checked in time, the economic condition of the country may become even more ~~air~~ alarming. It, therefore, emphatically urges upon Government and workers' organisations to adopt suitable measures and co-operate with a view to improving the situation.

(The Times of India, dated 25-4-1947;
Text of Presidential Address and
Resolutions adopted at 14th Session of
All India Organisation of ~~Industrial~~
Industrial Employers).

Workers' Organisations.

General Meeting of Maritime Union of India, Bombay,
14-4-1947: 50 per cent Wage Increase demanded.

The Maritime Union of India, at its general meeting, held in Bombay, on 14-4-1947, under the presidentship of Miss Maniben Kara, M.L.A. (Central), directed its executive committee to place seamen's demands before and negotiate with shipping companies, with a view to improving the working conditions of both officers and men. The Maritime Union has, in addition to ordinary seamen members, about 750 naval officers on its rolls. The demands include increase in wages by 50 per cent, uniform scale of wages and conditions of all ships plying on the Indian coast, and assurance of continuity of employment.

The Union disapproved the series of Labour Bills passed by the Provincial and Central Legislatures, which, in its opinion, did not have the sanction of labour organisations which were mainly affected by it. In the opinion of the Union, the Bombay Industrial Relations Act and the Central Trade Disputes Act (Central Government) sought to curtail the rights of ~~human~~ workers organised by trade unions. The meeting also declared its acceptance of the conventions of the International Maritime Labour Conference, held at Seattle (U.S.A.), in June 1946, embodying international minimum standards as a step towards the realisation of the International Seamen's Charter; and requested the Government of India and the owners to ratify and enforce the conventions speedily.

(The Hindu, dated 17-4-1947).

Miscellaneous.

7th Annual Session of A.I. Manufacturers' Organisation, New Delhi - 14-4-1947.

The 7th annual session, of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation was held at New Delhi on 14-4-1947, Sir M. Visvesvaraya presiding. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the session. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Industries Member, Interim Government, was also present.

Rai Bahadur G.M. Hodi, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming Pandit Nehru and the delegates to the conference suggested profit-sharing schemes for labour in industry to ensure good relations between capital and labour. He referred to the new taxation measures of Government and said grave doubts had been created in the minds of industrialists and businessmen about the future of industry. They felt there would be a setback in the promotion of new industries.

Presidential Address. - In his presidential address, Sir M. Visvesvaraya urged that an annual target of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 5,000 million for new industrial investments in the country should be maintained for the next five years. Even this, he said, would be coming up in capital investment to the level of what is already achieved in Canada a country with a population of less than 13 million inhabitants. On the basis of this outlay, a five-year plan must be prepared, providing for the necessary Governmental organisation and agencies required for maintaining a drive. For the next few years, one-third of the yearly outlay should be Government money. A portion of it might be invested in nationalised key or other heavy industries. The working of the plan should be closely watched and stimulated by an economic council, which would advise the Industries Department, and keep the industrialists and the business public in close touch with Government policies and activities. If any enterprising firms or combines endeavoured to exceed the investment limit mentioned above, their efforts should not be discouraged by Government.

Referring to the question of nationalisation, he said it might be at least six years before the country settled down to normal working conditions. Until this happened, caution should be exercised not to unsettle people's thoughts and business procedure and antagonise the public if Government believed their views were not altogether sound. He then suggested that the following four matters needed Government's attention immediately. (1) The starting of a big factory for the manufacture of machine tools and machinery; (2) establishment of institutes of technology; (3) the bringing into existence of boards or firms of consulting engineers, chemists and other experts; and (4) Government co-operation and help for a period of at least three years, for the publication of first class mechanical and industrial engineering journals.

Pt. Nehru's Inaugural Address: Public Good the main Criterion. - In his inaugural address Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said that he did not want industrial development if the 400 million people of India were to be left in a bad way by such development. Progress must bring progress to all the people and not to a chosen few. Industrial progress and the prosperity of the 400 million people, and not merely of a ten or a hundred thousand people, are inter-related. The position today in

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U.K. and U.S.A. is the product of 200 years of industrial growth. They passed through various phases, and there was frightful abuse in the factories and elsewhere with the industrial revolution for the first generation or two. In India this experience should not be repeated. India must cover in five or ten years what other countries had taken generations to do and at the same time carry million with it not by compulsion or in an authoritarian way but with their consent.

As regards nationalisation the question had to be considered from the view-point of the masses. Industrialists and manufacturers wanted that Government must help industries in every way—tariffs, finance, etc., and at the same desired Government not to interfere in the interests of the workers and the consumers. This was an illogical and untenable position to take. What Government wants is that India should produce more wealth and raise the standard of the people—by small, big and cottage industries. If Indian industrialists are going to think in terms of an out-of-date economy and try to build up a structure just thinking of what took place in U.S.A. or U.K. in the previous ages, they will be building on shifting sands. Production and economic growth must be based on social contentment. Without that there is no great future for India.

In theory complete nationalisation was desirable, but in practice how and when they would do it was another matter. At the present moment they had to consider what was the best way to get over the present ~~present~~ economic difficulty and not indulge in schemes which might obstruct and delay progress during a very vital part of their existence. In the present stage of the country's development, there will have to be a great deal of private enterprise, but these private enterprises must co-operate in functioning smoothly within the general plan of industrial development evolved for the ~~whole~~ whole country.

Resolutions: Taxation Policy Criticised.— The conference passed a ~~resolution~~ deploring the "severe fresh taxation" placed upon industry in the last budget and recommending to the Government of India to appoint forthwith an independent committee, on which the commercial and industrial community of India should find adequate representation, in order fully to examine the present taxation policy with particular reference to the effects of direct and indirect taxation on the future industrialisation of India.

The conference passed a
International Trade: India's position to be Safeguarded.—/resolution recognising the importance of international trade on a multilateral basis and urging upon the Government of India "to adopt necessary measures to ensure that the view-point of Indian industries is emphasised during the negotiations with other countries, that adequate safeguards are provided in the charter against a possible threat to Indian economy, and ^{the} Indian delegation to the session of the Preparatory Committee and of the future international conference is given a clear directive by Government to press for modifications in the principles and objectives of the proposed International Trade Organisation on such lines as may be helpful to the economic development of under-developed countries".

Planning and Execution of Industrial Development Schemes.— The conference welcomed the recommendation of the Advisory Planning Board that, whatever be the future constitutional set up, the development of a number of large-scale industries which have been tentatively recommended should be subjected to central planning. The resolution made the following suggestions:—

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(1) That in the place of the proposed consultative body an economic council be set up composed of representatives of Central Government ~~departments~~ departments, provinces and States, industrial and trade organisations and labour unions empowered to lay ^{down} policies for the guidance of the planning commission. (2) That a separate development board be set up for the central execution of the plan and for co-ordinating the execution of regional plans. (3) That definite priorities should be laid down for the development of industries.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-4-1947;
The Times of India, 15-4-1947).

Meetings Announced.

Central Board of Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh
to meet at Delhi on 3 and 4-5-1947: Move to
form New all-India labour Organisation.

The Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh (vide page 48 of this ~~xxx~~ Office's March 1945 report) has convened a conference of labour leaders from various provinces and States, to be held in New Delhi, on 3 and 4-5-1947. The Conference will consider the need for forming a separate all-India organization of labour unions. The All-India Trade Union Congress, it is alleged, is dominated by Communists, and it is felt that, owing to ideological differences between the Congress and the Communist Party, there have been in the past, and are bound to be in the future, serious differences in the handling of labour disputes in the country. Another question which is likely to come up for discussion will be the relationship between the Mazdoor Sevak Sangh and the various ~~the~~ Congress organizations. The conference will also discuss steps to strengthen the organization of the Sevak Sangh in different parts of the country.

(Indian News Chronicle, 27-4-1947).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947 gazetted (Act No. X of 1947) .

The Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Bill, 1946 (vide page 56 of the report of this Office for September, 1946), received the assent of the Governor-General on 8-4-1947, and has been gazetted as an Act (Bombay Act No. X of 1947).

(The Bombay Government Gazette, 12-4-1947, Part IV, pages 46-47).

The Sind Lepers Act, 1947, gazetted (Act No. XIX of 1947).

The Sind Lepers Bill, 1946 (vide page 48 of the report of this Office for March, 1946), received the assent of the ~~Governor~~ Governor of Sind on 9-4-1947, and has been gazetted as the Sind Lepers Act 1947 (Act No. XIX of 1947).

(The Sind Government Gazette, 17-4-1947, Part IV, pages 395-402).

The Sind Vagrancy Act, 1947, gazetted (Act No. XVIII of 1947).

The Sind Vagrancy Bill, 1946 (vide page 48 of the report of this Office for March, 1946), received the assent of the Governor of Sind on 9-4-1947, and has been gazetted as the Sind Vagrancy Act, 1947 (Act No. XVIII of 1947).

(The Sind Government Gazette, 24-4-1947, Part IV, pages 405-416).

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

All India Medical Institute to be set up in Delhi:
Final Report of Advisory Committee expected by
June, 1947.

Reference was made at page 39 of the report of this Office for November, 1946, to the appointment of an Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the formation of an All-India Medical Institute, as recommended by the Health Survey and Development Committee (vide pages 50-60 of the report of this Office for March, 1946). The Committee held two meetings since its appointment, and its final report is expected sometime in June, 1947.

Meanwhile, it is understood, that the All-India Medical Institute will be built near the Delhi University and is expected to involve a capital outlay of not less than Rs. 30 million; provision for the preliminary work was made in this year's budget. It will have a 1000-bed hospital and the present nursing college in New Delhi is expected to be attached to it. Immediately the report has been approved by the Government, a director will be appointed to take charge of the construction and organization of the Institute. It is expected that the Institute will be ready in about five years after work is started.

The objects of the Institute are: to bring together in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the training of all the more important types of health personnel and to emphasize the close inter-relation between different branches of professional education in the field of health; to promote ~~and~~ and co-ordinate ~~research~~ research; to provide post-graduate training; and finally to create an institution which would set a high level of professional efficiency and ethics in the fields of medicine, nursing and public health.

(The Statesman, dated 24-4-1947).

01

EDUCATION.

✓ 20 Agricultural Bias Schools to be started
in Bombay: Minister outlines Plans . y

According to an interview given to the 'Times of India' by Mr. L.M. Patil, Minister for Reconstruction and Excise, Bombay, the Government of Bombay propose to start shortly 20 agricultural bias schools, in addition to the present ones, in various parts of the province with a view to imparting elementary agricultural education; they also intend starting four more agricultural high schools, making a total of eight in all, from June 1947.

Compulsory primary education in all villages with a population of 1,000 and above will also start in June 1947, and preparations for it have been practically completed.

(The Times of India, 8-4-1947).

✓ Central Grant for Education in N.W.F.P.: Present
Literacy rate of 15 per cent to be increased. y

In a press interview, during the last week of April, 1947, Mr. Mohamed Yahya Khan, Education Minister, North-West Frontier Province, said that the Central Government had agreed, in principle, to grant a sum of Rs. 1 million ~~annually~~ to the N.W.F.P. Government for educational advancement of the province. The Provincial Government's proposals included a grant of Rs. 1 million to the Islamia College and a provision of Rs. 10 million for construction of new buildings for a network of primary schools of which 350 ^{schools} including 100 for girls, were being opened this year. A further sum of Rs. 5 million had been provided for expansion of education and another Rs. 3 million for new university buildings.

1,097 District Board and Municipal schools had been provincialized since 1-4-1946 and it was proposed to provincialize all denominational institutions. The Government would like to make education free for the children and dependents of those whose monthly income is less than Rs. 100. The Minister was confident that if the scheme was given a fair ~~trial~~ trial, literacy in the Province would be raised from 13 per cent to 100 per cent in less than ten years' time.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-4-1947).

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7 3

Compulsory and Free Elementary Education to be
introduced in Bombay from 1-6-1947: Government's
Directive to Local Bodies.

The Government of Bombay have issued a circular to all local bodies directing them to introduce free and compulsory elementary education, both for boys and girls, from 1-6-1947, in all areas having a population of more than a thousand. With a view to minimising the difficulties of securing additional accommodation and the required number of teachers, the local bodies have been asked to introduce compulsion gradually within a period of five years.

Government will be prepared to bear half of the additional cost on account of the introduction of compulsion.

(The Times of India, 21-4-1947).

such time as steps have been taken to make the submission of information about manpower requirements obligatory it will be impossible to assess with any accuracy probable demands.

If the post-war plans of the Central and Provincial Governments are launched in the near future and if the 1500 private industrialists to whom sanction for the issue of capital has been given, are able to establish their business, the prospects of employment can be viewed optimistically. There are, however, strong indications that there will be considerable shortage of specialist skilled manpower.

Figures relating to the work done by the Resettlement Organisation up to the end of February 1947 are given below. (The figures are in respect of all personnel):

| | |
|--|---------|
| Total Registrations..... | 726,776 |
| Total Placings..... | 139,961 |
| No. of ex-servicemen under training in Vocational and Technical Training Centres (including ex-servicewomen and Disabled personnel)..... | 8,286 |

(Note submitted by the Department of Labour, Government of India, to the 8th Indian Labour Conference, New Delhi, 22 and 23-4-1947).

5150 Medical officers released from services upto 28-2-1947: 574 placed in employment.

In reply to a question in the Central Assembly on 8-4-1947, Mr. S.H.Y. Oulsnam, Secretary of the Health Department, Government of India, ~~in reply to a question~~ announced that up to 28-2-1947 1,811 IMS officers and 1,519 IAMC officers were released from the Army. Of these, 869 IMS and 860 IAMC officers applied to Provincial and State Medical ~~Employment Bureaux~~ Employment Bureaux for resettlement, and 175 IMS and 399 IAMC officers were placed in employment. Taking all medical, nursing and auxiliary personnel together, a total of 5,307 persons applied to ^{The} Medical Employment Bureaux for assistance, and 1,192 were placed in employment. It was further explained that the responsibility for finding employment for demobilized medical officers rested mainly with provincial organizations. The Central Bureau assists by obtaining and supplying detailed information regarding personnel to be demobilized, and ~~is concerned~~ ^{is concerned} with the co-ordination of training arrangements for demobilized personnel in the various provinces. In addition to medical officers, it deals with the nursing services, nursing orderlies and medical technicians.

(The Statesman, dated 9-4-1947).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Technical Man-Power Committee: Appointed by
Government of India.

To ensure the proper development and utilization of India's scientific manpower and resources, the Government of India have set up a Scientific Manpower Committee. Its main functions are:

(1) To assess the requirements for different grades of scientific and technical manpower, taking a comprehensive view over a period of the next ten years of the needs of Government (civil and defence), of teaching and research, and of industry, agriculture, transport, and medicine and other fields dependant on the use of scientific and technical manpower;

(2) To make recommendations regarding ^{the} action to be taken during the next five years to meet these requirements, in ~~particular~~ particular with reference to (a) the immediate improvement and expansion of facilities ~~and~~ for scientific and technical training in Indian universities and special institutions, (b) training overseas in scientific and technical subjects, (c) the promotion and development of scientific and technical research, (d) the utilization of scientific and technical manpower, and (e) the maintenance of a register of scientific and technical personnel to facilitate their utilization to the best advantage.

The future of industry and defence as well as the large number of development plans and projects which have been prepared or are under preparation depend upon the proper and most effective organization and utilization of the scientific manpower and resources available in India. The Scientific Manpower Committee will survey the problem in all its aspects and recommend policies which should govern the use and development of the country's scientific manpower and resources during the next ten years.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 28-4-1947).

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Development of Minor Ports in India:
Government accepts Ports (Technical)
Committee's Recommendations.

Reference was made at page 49 of the report of this office for June, 1946, to the recommendations of the Ports (Technical) Committee, appointed in 1946 to suggest steps necessary to develop minor ports in India. The Government of India, it is understood, have agreed that Vizagapatam should be developed as a sheltered deep-sea port to accommodate ships at least up to 650 feet in length with drafts up to 50 feet. The Government agreed to this after considering the needs of ship-building, the employment aspect, and the maintenance of a naval base at the port. The Committee's recommendations in respect of the development of Bombay port, the Madras dock scheme and the Calcutta shipping canal scheme have also been accepted by the Government.

The Government of India will further investigate matters connected with the development of Kathiawar, Cutch and Travancore ports with the Governments concerned and of Bhatkal port with the Mysore Government.

(The Statesman, dated 15-4-1947).

Industries Board appointed by Government of Baroda State.

The Government of Baroda have created an "Industries Board" to provide technical information regarding the possibility of starting industries in the State and to assist industrialists with advice on technical matters. The Board consists of four sections: mechanical, agricultural, chemical and general.

(The Statesman, dated 12-4-1947).

List of the more important publications received in this Office during April, 1947.

Conditions of Work

- (1) Labour Investigation Committee, Government of India. Main Report. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1946. Price Rs.3-10-0 or 5s.9d.
- (2) Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1945-46. Vol. II-Statistics. Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.14-6-0 or 22s.3d.

Economic Conditions

Annual Report of the Industries Department, Orissa, for the year 1942-43. Superintendent, Orissa Government Press, Cuttack. 1947. Price Re.0-14-3 or 1s.4d.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: Presidential address of Mr. Sakarlal Balabhai on the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Organisation held in New Delhi on 21-4-1947.
