

C 1903/102

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for May 1937.

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

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References to the I.L.O.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 6-5-1937 publishes a message dated 15-4-1937 sent by air mail by its Washington Correspondent on the Washington Textile Conference; the message explains the objects of the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 2-5-1937 publishes a news item giving details of the proceedings on the opening day of the Washington Textile Conference and the text of the message from President Roosevelt to the Conference. The source of the message is not indicated.

\* \* \*

The April 1937 issue of the Commercial Review, Alleppey, publishes a short note in which references are made to the opening of the Washington Textile Conference on 2-4-1937 and to the recommendation made by the Conference for the removal of trade barriers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 2-5-1937 and the May 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publish the text of the speech delivered by Sir Firoz Khan Noon on the opening day of the Washington Conference. (The source of the message is not indicated).

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 6-5-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article endorses Sir Firoz Khan Noon's suggestion to the countries which export textiles to India to bestow thought on the steps they can take to increase the purchasing capacity of India.

\* \* \*

A communique giving the text of Mr. R. R. Bakhle's speech at the Washington Conference (issued by this Office on 10-5-1937) is published by the following: the National Call dated 11-5-1937, the Hindustan Times dated 12-5-1937, the Leader dated 14-5-1937, the Times of India and the Hindu dated 15-5-1937, the Indian Labour Journal dated 16-5-1937, "Commerce

and Industry" dated 18-5-1937, the Servant of India dated 20-5-1937 and the Indian Social Reformer dated 22-5-1937.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 16-5-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Plain Speaking at Washington Conference." The article refers to Mr. Bakhale's remarks on British employers trying to influence industrial policy in India and emphasises the necessity for India being represented at international <sup>Conferences</sup> by Indian nationals. The paper writes: "Fortunately or unfortunately the constitution of the I.L.O., under whose auspices the Washington conference was held, is such that it is not possible to exclude Indians from such Conferences. This international organisation treats India on a level of perfect equality with other members, which cannot be said about any other western institution, not even the League of Nations. It is not that we want that the platform of the I.L.O. should be used for denouncing British rule in India. But we certainly want that conditions in India should be correctly represented."

\* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer, dated 22-5-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article criticises Mr. Bakhale's speech and says that what is wanted is not a reduction of hours from 54 to 40, but an increase of wages.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 28-5-1937 publishes the full text of the speech of Mr. B. M. Birla, Indian employers' delegate, at the plenary session of the Washington Conference. The text of the speech was sent from Washington by mail (date and source not indicated).

\* \* \*

"Commerce", Bombay, dated 1-5-1937 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. Birla opposed the original text of the resolution regarding the lowering of tariff walls and that the resolution was suitably amended to meet his objections.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 23-5-1937 publishes a message

dated 10-4-1937 received from a staff correspondent of the United Press (U.S.A.) in which a brief report of the discussions at the Washington Textile Conference is given.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 5-5-1937 publishes a message from London (source and date not indicated) to the effect that Sir Firoz Khan Noon expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished at the Washington Conference.

\* \* \*

The Gazette of India notification regarding the personnel of the Indian delegation to the 23rd I. L. Conference is reproduced by the following: the Times of India dated 3-5-1937, the Bombay Chronicle and the Indian Labour Journal dated 9-5-1937, the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during April 1937, <sup>the</sup> May 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal and the April 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 4-5-1937 and the May 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publish a news item to the effect that Mr. G. L. Mehta, adviser to the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 23rd I. L. Conference, will be leaving India for Geneva on 15-5-1937.

\* \* \*

A picture of Mr. G. L. Mehta is published by the following: the Bombay Chronicle dated 9-5-1937 and 19-5-1937, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 19-5-1937 and <sup>the</sup> Leader dated 24-5-1937.

\* \* \*

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 24-5-1937 publishes a picture of Messrs. S. C. Sen and W. V. R. Naidu, the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference and his Adviser respectively.

\* \* \*

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 23-5-1937 publishes a ~~picture~~ picture of Sir H. P. Mody, the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 23rd I. L. Conference.

\* \* \*

Interviews given by Messrs. Satis Chandra Sen and

W.V.R.Naidu, Indian Workers' delegate and his adviser to the 23rd I.L.Conference, and Sir H.P.Mody, Indian Employers' delegate to the Conference on their departure from India for Geneva are published in the Statesman, the Times of India and the Hindudated 16-5-1937 and the National Call and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-5-1937. Sir H.P.Mody complained that the I.L.Conference was not making adequate allowance for the special conditions in India which render it difficult for the country to accept several recommendations. He also expressed himself strongly against the move for a 40-hour week in the textile industry.

\* \* \*  
The Times of India dated 17-5-1937 publishes the "interview" given by Mr. Sen referred to above.

\* \* \*  
The "interview" given by Sir H.P.Mody is published in the Times of India dated 17-5-1937, the Bombay Chronicle, and the National Call dated 18-5-1937 and the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 19-5-1937.

\* \* \*  
The National Call dated 20-5-1937 publishes an editorial article, inspired by this Office, under the caption: "40-Hour Week for Textile Industry: Futile Objections of Indian Employers." Commenting on the special conditions prevailing in India and the consequent need for special treatment of India, the article observes: "The I.L.O. is thoroughly alive to the need for tempering the wind to the shorn lamb, or in other words, to demand of India only such labour action as could be undertaken by India with its peculiar economic and social conditions."

\* \* \*  
The Bombay Chronicle dated 19-5-1937 publishes a short editorial note criticising Sir H.P.Mody's statement.

\* \* \*  
"Comrade", Calcutta, dated 22-5-1937 publishes an editorial article on the statement made by Sir H.P.Mody on the eve of his departure for Geneva, on the question of reduction of hours of work in the textile industry. The article criticises Sir Hormusji's objection against a 40-hour week on the plea of competition from outside countries; it points out that Indian industrialists <sup>are</sup> were already enjoying an advantage over foreign industries due to low wages, and asserts that if the Indian textile industry still claims protection it is due mainly to faulty management.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 17-5-1937 publishes a statement to the press made by Sir H.P.Mody prior to his leaving for Geneva on the political situation in the country.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal dated 16-5-1937 publishes a photograph of Mr. W.V.R. Naidu; it also publishes a report of a farewell party given to him by the Metal Workers' Union, Tatanagar, prior to his departure for Geneva.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 13-5-1937 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. W.V.R.Naidu will be leaving India on 15-5-1937 for Geneva to attend this year's I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 20-4-1937) is published by the Financial News, Bombay.

\* \* \*

A communiqué summarising certain sections of the Director's Report to the 23rd I.L. Conference (issued by this Office on 7-5-1937) is published by the National Call and the Hindustan Times dated 8-5-1937 and the Hindu dated 11-5-1937.

\* \* \*

"Indian Finance", Calcutta, dated 8-5-1937 publishes a long and appreciative editorial notice of the Director's Report to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

"Commerce", Bombay, dated 1-5-1937 also published a long review of the Director's Report.

\* \* \*

The same issue as above published an article under the caption: "The Re-armament Madness:Its Economic Consequence" in the course of which extensive quotations are made from the Director's Report.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 30-8-1937 also publishes an appreciative review of the Director's Report.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, dated 30-5-1937 reproduces

the article "Is Industrial Recovery Permanent? I.L.O. Director on Lessons of the Depression" contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey to "Industrial News" (British T.U.C.), dated 20-4-1937. (Copies of the article were forwarded to this and a few other journals by this Office)-

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A communiqué on the Grey-Blue Report on the Planning of public works in relation to employment (issued by this Office on 26-4-1937) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 30-4-1937, and the Leader dated 8-5-1937.

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A communiqué on the Blue Report on Reduction of Hours of Work in the Textile Industry (issued by this Office on 19-5-1937) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated ~~19~~<sup>20</sup>-5-1937, the Hindu dated 22-5-1937, "Commerce and Industry" dated 23-5-1937 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 30-5-1937.

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A communique on the Blue Report on Safety provisions in the building industry (issued by this Office on 21-5-1937) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 23-5-1937, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and "Commerce and Industry" dated 25-5-1937.

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The Leader, Allahabad, dated 26-5-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "India and Labour Conference". In the course of the article the benefits derived by Indian labour from I. L. Conventions are emphasised and the advocacy by a certain class of labour leaders of boycott of the Conference is deprecated. The article remarks that while the services of the I.L.Conference to Indian labour have to be appreciated, it is not possible to ratify all I.L.Conventions. According to the paper, one such projected Convention which India cannot accept is that embodying the proposal of a 40-hour week in the textile industry.

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A communiqué on the work of the 79th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 17-5-1937) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the National Call



dated 18-5-1937, the Statesman dated 19-5-1937, the Leader and the Hindu dated 22-5-1937, "Commerce and Industry" dated 25-5-1937, the Planters' Chronicle dated 29-2-1937.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 19-5-1937 publishes a short note on the work of the 79th Session of the Governing Body based on a report of the Geneva correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

\* \* \*

"Commerce", Bombay, dated 1-5-1937 publishes a news item to the effect that the Governing Body has decided to hold a Tripartite Technical Conference on the question of reduction of hours in the coal industry.

\* \* \*

A communique on the world unemployment situation during the first quarter of 1937 (issued by this Office on 30-4-1937) is published by the following: the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-5-1937, the Times of India dated 7-5-1937, the Indian Labour Journal dated 9-5-1937 and the Congress Socialist and the Financial News dated 8-5-1937.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-5-1937 publishes the report of a lecture delivered on 27-5-1937 at Bombay by the Hon'ble Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Finance Minister of Bombay Government, at the Commerce Graduates' Association, on the economic programme of the Bombay Cabinet. In the course of the lecture, Mr. Mehta announced that the Bombay Government intends inviting an expert from the I.L.O. to advise it on implementing its programme concerning industrial workers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 7-5-1937 publishes a brief summary of a communication addressed by Mr. U. Ba Hlaing, a Member of the Burma Legislature, to H.E. the Governor of Burma stressing the need for the creation of a Labour Ministry for Burma and for Burma to be represented at the I.L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 8-5-1937 publishes an editorial note inspired by this Office supporting Mr. U. Ba Hlaing's demand.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 2-5-1937 publishes a note on the League's Committee on nutrition in the course of which reference is made to the I.L.O.'s co-operation with the Committee.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 5-5-1937 and Federated India, dated 26-5-1937 publish a long article contributed by this Office under the caption: "Problem of Nutrition". Extensive references are made in the article ~~on~~ to the work of the I.L.O. in the field of nutritional research.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 2-5-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "The League's Achievement." The article, while admitting that the League could claim outstanding achievements in the social sphere, states that in the political sphere the League has been a failure. Incidental reference is made to the achievements of the League organisations in the sphere of labour legislation and nutritional research.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 22-5-1937 publishes a short editorial note in which reference is made to Mr. De Valera's expression of doubt as to the utility of the League. The note states that public faith in the League was shaken consequent on its failure to protect Abyssinia, but points out that the League has to its credit much valuable work in the improvement of industrial conditions in many countries, the suppression of the drug traffic and vice, besides other measures for promoting social welfare.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 28-5-1937 and the Hindustan Times dated 31-5-1937 publish a Reuters message from Nanking to the effect that the Chinese Government has decided to postpone ratification of the I.L. Conventions re. holidays with pay and reduction of hours of work in public works. (Date of the message is not indicated.)

\* \* \*

The Leader/<sup>Allahabad, dated 26-5-1937</sup> and the Indian Labour Journal dated 30-5-1937 publish an article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Colonial Territories" contributed by this Office on 19-5-1937. The

article deals with the work of the Committee of Experts on the Application of International Labour Conventions and is based on the Geneva communiqué dated 12-4-1937 on the subject.

\* \* \*

An article contributed by this Office under the caption: "Settling Trade Disputes: Recent French Legislation furnish Pointers", based on the notes on the subject published in the issue of "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 22-2-1937 and 29-3-1937, is published in the Hindustan Times dated 19-5-1937 and the Leader dated 23-5-1937.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 17-5-1937 publishes a note on the last meeting of the Committee of Experts on Slavery.

\* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer dated 15-5-1937 publishes notes on the last meetings of the Committee of Experts on Slavery and the Mixed Committee on the problems of Nutrition.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 23-5-1937 publishes a note on the first meeting of the League Advisory Committee on Social Questions. Reference is made in the course of the note to the collaboration of the I.L.O. in the work of the Committee.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 17-5-1937 publishes details of an attack on certain decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council by Mr. Bennett and others in the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Bennett is reported to have taken objection to the Privy Council's decisions regarding certain measures of Canadian legislation implementing certain I.L. Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 13-5-1937 publishes a short note on the application of the 40-hour week in France.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 28-5-1937, publishes a short editorial note, inspired by this Office, on President Roosevelt's message to the Congress recommending various measures of labour reforms, including a shorter working week. The note refers to

the I.L.O.'s efforts for general acceptance of a 40-hour week for industry and expresses gratification at the fact that the I.L.O.'s efforts have begun to yield results.

\* \* \*

The Report of the proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce during 1936 publishes the Madras Chamber's correspondence with the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the question of the claims advanced by Chambers of Commerce to make recommendations for the nomination of non-official delegations to Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Government of India <sup>has</sup> published the Report of the Government delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference as Bulletin No. 60 in the "Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour" series <sup>issued</sup> published by the Industries and Labour Department.

\* \* \*

The Report of the Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce during 1936 publishes at page 22 the views of the Chamber on the question of holidays with pay. The Chamber supported the ~~pr~~ principle of paid holidays.

\* \* \*

The India Labour Journal, dated 30-5-1937 reproduces the article: "Paid Holidays and the Shorter Working Week: Why the Movement is growing", contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey to "Industrial News", dated 4-5-1937. Copies of the article were sent to this and a few other journals by this Office.

\* \* \*

The April 1937 issue of "Railway Labour", Calcutta, publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. G. Selvapathy Chetty, adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference, will be attending the 2nd session of the Asiatic Labour Congress scheduled to be held at Tokio from 17 to 21st May 1937. The same note also gives the personnel of the Indian delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 31-5-1937 publishes an editorial note, inspired by this Office, reviewing the book: "I.L.O.: The

Unregarded Revolution" by Kathleen Gibberd. In the course of the review numerous appreciative references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 23-5-1937 publishes a summary of the report of the Geneva Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian on the proposal sponsored by Chile for a Convention re. Calendar Reform. Reference is made in the course of the report to the resolution on the subject adopted at the 20th Session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received during the month in this Office published items from the I.L.O.News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having references to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during May 1937:-

1. A message from the Washington Correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika re. the objects of the Washington Textile Conference.
2. A message from Washington (source not indicated) re. proceedings of the opening day of the Textile Conference.
3. A message from Washington (source unknown) giving the text of Sir Firoz Khan Noon's speech at the Textile Conference.
4. A message from London (source and date not indicated) re. Sir Firoz Khan Noon's satisfaction at the work of the Textile Conference.
5. A message from Staff Correspondent of the United Press (U.S.A.) re. the proceedings of the Textile Conference.
6. A message from Washington (source and date not indicated) giving the text of Mr. B.M.Birla's speech at the Textile Conference.
7. A Reuter's message dated 30-5-1937 from London re. the departure of Sir Firoz Khan Noon for Geneva to attend the 23rd I. L. Conference.
8. A Reuter's message (date not indicated) from Nanking re. postponement of ratification of two I.L.Conventions by China.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Estate Labour in Cochin:

Rules framed by Government. ✓

The Cochin Government has for some time been considering the question of ensuring the health and safeguarding the interests of the labourers working in the estates situated within the State and has just published rules to be made applicable to every estate consisting of not less than ten acres and employing 20 or more workers. The rules were framed by a Committee wherein all interests were duly represented. They came into force as from 1-5-1937;

Inspection: The rules provide that the Director of Public Health or his deputy who shall be senior member of the staff of the Public Health Department, and or, the District Magistrate or his deputy not below the rank of a second class Magistrate, shall pay periodical visits to all estates usually once in 12 months, out with power to visit often. The names of deputies, who shall be full time Government servants appointed by the Director of Public Health, or by the District Magistrate, shall be advised to the owners or managers of the estates which they are appointed to visit.

An Inspecting Officer visiting an estate shall notify his presence to the estate authorities immediately on arrival on the estate. The Inspecting Officers shall report on general conditions on estates visited, with special reference to points under the headings given later in these rules, to the Heads of their respective Departments, who will make such suggestions to the estates as thought fit, and who will forward a copy of their remarks and suggestions to the Government.

Powers of An Inspector: The Inspecting Officer or his deputy shall have power to enter all open or enclosed places on an estate where he has reason to believe labourers are working or are accommodated, also to call for and inspect or copy any register or other document in which particulars regarding employment, births, deaths, accidents, etc., of labourers are recorded.

If recommendations are made by the Head of a Department which are not found acceptable by estates, the matter shall be referred to a Planting Estates Advisory Committee to be appointed by the Government, consisting of the Director of Public Health, the Planting Member of the Council and the Member of the Council for Commerce and Industries.

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Medical Aid in Estates: Every estate shall provide free medical aid to all resident-labourers. Every estate shall maintain a register of resident labourers who fall ill on the estate and shall provide such labourers with free food during illness and convalescence. A summary of this register shall be sent to the Director of Public Health every three months. No resident labourer, who has been ill, shall return to work until certified fit to do so. Every estate shall provide free issues of ordinary medicines at all times, and of quinine or some other medicine for malaria, as Atebrin or Plasmo-quine, approved by the Director of Public Health. Every estate shall adopt necessary anti-malarial measures during the malaria season and the Government undertakes to co-operate in this work when the source of infection is found to be outside estate limits. Every estate shall report within 24 hours any case of plague, cholera or smallpox among the labourers on the estate, to the Director of Public Health who shall adopt immediate preventive measures as per existing rules governing epidemic diseases. No corpse of any labourer in a plantation estate who has died of any dangerous disease shall be retained in any worker's unit for more than 12 hours and every such corpse shall be removed within that period to a burial or burning ground set apart for the disposal of corpses. Every estate shall maintain a register showing births, deaths, accidents, etc., among labourers a copy of which shall be sent to the Director of Public Health quarterly. The estates agree to provide free maternity aid and food to all resident labourers for a period of seven weeks.

Housing: The Director of Public Health is empowered to condemn immediately any building which, in his opinion, is insanitary and unfit for human occupation. A standard of minimum housing requirements shall be drawn up within two years. Every estate shall provide accommodation for labourers of the approved standard but the total necessary expenditure may be divided over a period of four years. Every estate shall make available to every labourer two gallons of water per day from a water-supply approved by the Director of Public Health. Every estate shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, ~~so that there will be sufficient accommodation, at one seat per 20, for all resident labourers within a period of 4 years.~~ Every estate shall provide annually a number of latrines, which shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, so that there will be sufficient accommodation, at one seat per 20, for all resident labourers within a period of four years. Every estate shall keep the lines in which labourers are housed and stores and shops in which rice and other foods are stored and the surroundings thereof in a clean and sanitary condition.

Minimum Age and Hours of Child Labour: Every estate shall maintain a muster roll of resident labourers showing names, ages, date of employment, nature of work, etc. No child under the age of 10 years shall be employed on any estate. No child or young person under the age of 16 years shall be employed as a resident labourer on an estate without being certified fit to work by a medical officer approved by the Director of Public Health. No woman or child labourer shall be allowed to work on a plantation except between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Supply of Food Stuffs: Estates agree to supply to labourers, whose accounts are not settled in cash, at least once a month, a sufficient quantity of rice of good quality at cost price. They also agree to pay every labourer at least four times a month an amount in cash sufficient to cover the cost of other necessary food-stuffs. Estates agree to maintain a separate account for all food stuffs which they supply to labourers and this account will be available at the time of the periodical inspection and if any profit is made on food supplies, it will be either returned to the labourers or utilised for their direct benefit. No person under the control of the estates, who sells articles to the labourers or acts as a broker or commission agent or carries on a similar business, shall use any scales which are not stable, sensitive or accurate in their working or use any weights and measures which are not standard weights and measures specified in the schedule and stamped as such at a Government Treasury. A weight or measure stamped as aforesaid shall not, in any manner whatsoever, be altered or modified so as to affect the accuracy thereof. Every workman, measurer, trader, broker, or commission Agent who is working in any plantation estate, shall produce for examination and test, any scales, weights or measures used by him, when required to do so by the Director of Public Health for his deputies or by the District Magistrate or his deputies. In no case shall an estate be responsible for the infringement of this rule by petty traders not working under its control.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1937.) +

U. P. Congress Legislators' Programme:

Changes in Labour and Tenancy Laws. +

Reference was made at page 81 of our April 1937 report to the setting up of Interim Ministries in six provinces, where the Congress party had a majority but declined to take up office. The United Provinces is one of these six provinces. The Publicity Committee of the Congress Party in the U. P. Legislature has issued a statement, in the second week of May, regarding the Party's programme in the Provincial Legislative Assembly. The programme includes a complete overhaul of tenancy and labour legislation and of the present educational system.



Agrarian Problems: The Party has appointed a number of committees for this purpose. The Agrarian Committee which consists of about 25 members has discussed at considerable length the various problems regarding tenancy laws, rural indebtedness, arrears of rent, the present law of ejectment and similar other questions. It is hoped that by the time the legislature meets, the Party will be in a position to introduce bills and move resolutions for carrying out its programme.

Educational Problems: The Education Committee has also met and distributed the work amongst several sub-committees on compulsory primary, secondary, university and adult education. The existing education system needs complete overhauling and a re-orientation in its outlook. It needs to be made more realistic and practical. The institutions which it supports and recognises require much greater initiative and freedom to adjust themselves to the varying conditions of time and place.

Labour Problems: The Labour Sub-Committee is also considering several points affecting labour in the Province. A Maternity Benefits Bill, has already been drafted and is in circulation. The Committee has further decided to amend some of the existing labour laws and has directed its members to make a comparative study of similar Acts in force in other countries so as to enable the committee to finally consider the amendments. The Sub-Committee is considering the following measures: The question of a minimum living wage, old age pension and provident fund, security of service, limitation of working hours of shop employees, unemployment and sickness insurance, application of the payment of Wages Act to small presses etc.,

It is pointed out that the Congress Party is, however, conscious of great many handicaps it will have to face in carrying out fully its programme, and not the least of them being insufficient budgetary provisions.

*The Leader & the Statesman ("Bombay Chronicle", 23-5-1937.) +  
have not reported this.*

Maternity Benefits and Trade Disputes Legislation in Bengal:

Bills to be introduced by Government. +

The Ministry of Labour, Bengal is contemplating the introduction of two Bills in the next session of the Bengal Assembly for the welfare of Labour in general, namely, a maternity bill which has been circulated (vide page 8 of our January 1936 and page 13 of our November 1936 Reports) and opinions on which are

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being received and a trade disputes bill on the lines of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, 1934. The latter will provide for the creation of Labour Officers who will look after the interests of the workers, represent their cases to the employers and bring them closer together with a view to the settlement of disputes and differences among them. The Bill will also provide for the creation of conciliation officers who will enquire into labour disputes and mediate on behalf of the workers. The policy of the Government is to create machinery for the mediation and conciliation of disputes and to appoint officers who will continuously look after the welfare of the labourers and suggest to the Government various schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of labour.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-5-37.)

#### Labour Legislation in the Punjab:

##### Unemployment and Health Insurance Bills to be Introduced.

Dewan Chaman Lall, a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly (It will be recalled that Dewan Chaman Lall was the Indian Workers' delegate to the I. L. Conferences of 1928 and 1932), has given notice of certain Bills, containing proposals dealing with unemployment, health insurance, minimum rates of wages, hours of work and land revenue contributions by farmers. Following are the salient features of the Bills:

Unemployment Insurance: The scheme for unemployment insurance is based on the compulsory contributory basis with workers, employers and the State all making payments into an unemployment fund on the following proportions: workers, one anna per week; employers,

three annas per week; and the State two annas per week. All workers, whether under private, municipal or public authority, will be required to make contributions provided their ~~2~~ monthly income does not exceed Rs. 100. Workers below the age of 18 will be called upon to contribute half an anna per week. The scheme proposes to make the employer, in the first instance, responsible for paying in the contributions both of himself and of his employee, ~~and~~ he will be entitled to deduct the amount so paid on behalf of his employees from their wages. The Bill proposes that the Punjab Government through the Ministry of Finance, shall advance a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000,000 towards the Unemployment Fund, which sum shall remain a first charge on that fund. It is suggested that the central authority for the administration of the fund shall be the Ministry of Public Works and the weekly benefits for all workmen and women between the ages of 18 and 60 shall be Rs. 2-8-0 per week and for those between 14 and 18 Re. 1-8-0 per week. Provision is also made for dependents for whom the rate suggested is eight annas per week with a maximum of two dependents at any time. Benefits received under the Act shall not be attachable either in bankruptcy proceedings or under any other process of law. Failure to pay contributions will be punishable with a fine of Rs. 100.

Minimum Wages and Hours of Work Bills. There are two auxiliary Bills to the Bill, namely, the Minimum Rates of Wages Bill and the Hours of Work Bill. The first of these Bills provides for a minimum wage of Rs. 30 per month for all establishments governed under the Indian Factories and Mines Acts. For other kinds of labour the Bill lays down the principle that the minimum wage shall be a living wage and also provides machinery for the purpose. The other Bill provides for a maximum working week of 40 hours with no reduction in wages from those ruling at present.

Health Insurance. Another Bill deals with health insurance. This Bill is expected to harness every medical man in the Punjab to the work of improving and safeguarding the health of the province. The scheme proposed is of a contributory nature and provides for benefits for workers during periods of disablement through sickness and ~~through~~ medicine and medical attendance. All workers earning less than Rs. 100 per month will be entitled to benefits. Contributions will be made to a fund proposed to be created and called the Punjab Health Insurance Fund. They shall be one anna per week by every worker, three annas per head per week by employer and two annas per head per week by Government.

Land Revenue Contributions Bill. Dewan Chaman Lall has also given notice of a Bill affecting the farmer's contributions to land revenue. At present practically Rs. 90,000,000 out of the Punjab Budget of Rs. 100,000,000 is derived in direct taxation from peasantry in the shape of land revenue, water rates or ~~and~~ excise. There is no graduation in the scale of payments, as in the case of income-tax, nor is there a minimum income-tax limit for exemption. Rich and poor pay alike. Dewan Chaman Lall seeks to amend the Land Revenue Act making every tiller of a five-acre plot of irrigated land or of 12-acre plot of un-irrigated land exempt from payment of land revenue.

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CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter ending  
31-12-1936. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 4th quarter of 1936 ending 31-12-1936, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 44 disputes during the period, one of which was common to five provinces. The 44 disputes involved 68,181 workers and entailed a loss of 982,159 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where 19 disputes involving 17,326 workers entailed a loss of 2,34,968 working days. Next come Bengal with 9 disputes, involving 25,550 workers and entailing a loss of 274,154 working days, the Central Provinces and Madras with 5 disputes each involving 6,814 and 2,479 workers and entailing losses of 160,077 and 25,917 working days respectively, Bihar with 4 disputes involving 9,121 workers and entailing a loss of 171,819 working days, Burma with 2 disputes involving 414 workers and entailing a loss of 828 working days, Ajmer-Merwara, Assam, Orissa and the United Provinces with one dispute each involving 4,012, 350, 1,151 and 964 workers and entailing losses of 60,182, 5,425, 17,265 and 31,524 working days respectively, while there were no disputes in Delhi and the Punjab.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 20 disputes which involved 24,690 workers and entailed a loss of 382,177 working days; Jute Mills were responsible for 4 disputes involving 10,735 workers and entailing a loss of 80,759 working days. Engineering workshops, Railway

2.K.

workshops and Mines were responsible for one dispute each involving 8,996;~~22~~ 29; 26,542; and 800 workers and entailing losses of 58; 442,367; and 7,000 working days respectively. Other industries were responsible for 17 disputes involving 5,379 workers and entailing a loss of 69,798 working days.

Of the 44 disputes during the quarter under review, 32 were due to wage questions, 4 to personnel and 8 to other causes. In 6 disputes the workers were successful, in 13 partially successful and in 18 unsuccessful. 7 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report. (Strike Statistics for the quarter ending 30-9-1936 are given at pages 13-14 of our April Report.) +

Industrial Disputes in British India, 1936. +

According to a communiqué dated the 6th May 1937, on industrial disputes in British India during 1936, issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, the total number of strikes (including 4 strikes in progress on 31-12-1936) during the year was 157 and the total number of workers involved was 169,029, as compared with 145 strikes (including 2 strikes in progress in 31-12-1934) involving 114,217 workers during 1935. The total number of working days lost during the year was 2,358,062 as compared with 973,457 during 1935. The figures of working days lost during the year are about 2½ times the very low figure recorded for 1935, and is about equal to the average figure for the six years 1930-35. In all, cotton textile mills accounted for 37 per cent. of the strikes, 34.8 per cent. of the workers involved and 44.2 per cent. of the loss of working

3.K.

days. In 97 of <sup>the</sup> strikes, or 61.7 per cent., the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 49.3 per cent. of the total number of strikes ended during the year.

During the year under review, there were 49 disputes in the Bombay Presidency involving 35,323 workers and entailing a loss of 447,812 working days. Next come Bengal with 39 disputes involving 71,439 workers and entailing a loss of 675,170 working days, Madras with 24 disputes involving 13,121 workers and entailing a loss of 126,117 working days, Assam, Burma and the Central Provinces with 9 disputes each involving 3,233; 3,899 and 9,059 workers and entailing losses of 27,298; 11,081 and 236,427 working days respectively, the United Provinces with 7 disputes involving 8,383 workers and involving a loss of 86,831 working days, Bihar with 5 disputes involving 9,491 workers and entailing a loss of 195,831 working days, the Punjab with 4 disputes involving 1,267 workers and entailing a loss of 12,438 working days, Bangalore and Delhi with 2 disputes each involving 2,200 and 6,446 workers and entailing losses of 101,600 and 42,446 working days respectively, and Ajmer-Merwara and Orissa with one dispute each involving 4,012 and 1,151 workers and entailing losses of 375,746 and 17,265 working days respectively.

Of the 157 disputes during the year, 96 were due to questions of wages, 24 to those of personnel, 6 to those of leave and hours, one to that of bonus and 30 to other causes. In 31 cases the workers were successful, in 43 partially successful and in 76 unsuccessful, while 7 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

Classified according to industries, there were 58 disputes

4.K. in cotton and woollen industries involving 58,956 workers and entailing a loss of 1,043,461 working days, 14 in Jute Mills involving 47,742 workers and entailing a loss of 334,693 working days; 3 in engineering workshops involving 121 workers and entailing a loss of 176 working days, 1 in railway (including railway workshops) involving 26,542 workers and entailing a loss of 442,367 working days and 3 in mines involving 932 workers and entailing a loss of 7,192 working days. In all other industries together there were 78 disputes involving 34,736 workers and entailing a loss of 630,173 working days.

(The communiqué on Industrial Disputes in British India during 1935 is reviewed at pages 20-22 of our April 1936 report.)

Tata Iron and Steel Company:

Profits Sharing Scheme.

The Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur, have recently decided to introduce a profit-sharing scheme in the interests of the employees, by which the employees will receive a share of the profits on a sliding scale determined by the profits in good years. The following are the salient features of the scheme, which is the first of its kind in India:-

The scheme provides that when the amount to be paid to the shareholders as dividend exceeds Rs. 10 millions, each employee shall receive half a month's pay as profit-sharing bonus for every Rs. 2.5 millions (or part thereof) paid as shareholders' dividend in excess of Rs. 10 millions. Thus,

When the extra dividend above Rs.10 millions is Rs. millions.	Each employee will receive as bonus. Rs. millions.	
not over 2.5 millions	2.5 millions	1/2 Month's pay
Over 2.5 millions <i>but</i> not over 5 millions	5 millions	1 Month's pay
Over 5 millions " not over 7.5 millions	7.5 millions	1 1/2 Month's Pay
Over 7.5 millions " not over 10 millions	10 millions	2 Month's pay
Over 10 millions " not over	12.5 millions	2 1/2 Month's pay

and so on. If the share capital of the Company were altered, the

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5.R. bonus scale would be subject to revision.

In the past ~~the~~ bonuses have been paid in a single lump sum. In future, payments will be made as follows to employees whose pay is under Rs. 500 per month.

<u>Total bonus payable.</u>	<u>When paid.</u>
1/2 Month's pay	Single payment on dividend date
1 Month's pay ..	(Half on dividend date and half 3 months after dividend date.
1 1/2 Month's pay ..	)Third on dividend date. )Third 3 months after dividend date. )Third 6 months after dividend date.
2 Month's pay or over. .. ..	)Quarter on dividend date. )Quarter 3 months after dividend date. )Quarter 6 months after dividend date. )Quarter 9 months after dividend date.

If the service of an employee terminates from any cause while instalments are outstanding, they will be paid to him along with any other dues when he takes settlement.

For employees drawing Rs. 500 per month or over, the bonus will be invested in shares of the Company by Trustees acting on behalf of the employees. Dividends on such shares will remain in the control of the Trustees until the employee's service terminates, when they will be transferred to him or sold on his behalf.

(Indian Finance dated 8-5-1937. ~~2~~  
*Times Review, May 1937*)

Commenting on this scheme, Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated

8-5-1937 observes:

"The bonus payable to the staff and labourers is definitely linked to the dividend payable to the shareholders. There is significance in the provision that, for purposes of such bonus, only the excess over Rs. 10 millions will be taken into account. The preference shares will need Rs. 12 millions as annual dividend; and this must be deemed fixed charges. In simple terms, the fortunes of the staff and workmen as regards their bonus and of ordinary shareholders as regards their dividend are now placed on the same basis. That portion of the capital which is entitled to a fixed rate of interest must, necessarily, rank prior to those who have a stake in the equity. From the point of view of the bonus, the arrangement proposed is, therefore, on the one hand, fair and equitable, and, on the other, ~~is~~ generous and substantial. On the basis of the dividend recently announced, the total disbursement to shareholders will come to Rs. 16.2 millions. The excess over Rs. 10 millions is, therefore, Rs. 6.2 millions. The bonus payable in respect of the excess is graded. The grade applicable to the present excess of Rs. 6.2 millions is 1 1/2 month's pay as bonus. From present omens, it is not unlikely that the bonus for 1937-38 may work up to even 2 1/2 month's pay."



B. N. Railway Strike: Mudie Report published. ←

Reference was made at pages 25-26 of our March 1937 report to the appointment of Mr. R. F. Mudie, I.C.S. and Colonel Wagstaff to enquire into the dispute between the B. N. Railway Workers' Union and the Agent of the Railway. The Union representatives, it will be remembered, decided to boycott the Committee, expressing lack of confidence in it (vide pages 23-25 of our April 1937 report). In spite of the Union's boycott the enquiry was proceeded with and the report of Mr. Mudie was released for publication on 29-5-1937. The Report while exonerating the administration of victimisation or other charges brought against it by the Union, condemns the manner in which the Union is being run and recommends that "recognition should continue to be withheld". A summary of the report is given below:

Criticism of B. N. Railway Workers' Union: Mr. Mudie stresses the importance of a sound trade union if labour conditions are to be satisfactory. "But the function of such a union," he says, "must be to study the conditions under which the men work, bring grievances to the notice of the employer and support representations by reasoned arguments. A union that has the welfare of the workers at heart will never resort to a strike until hope of proceeding by negotiations has been extinguished." He also stresses the necessity for employers to pay adequate weight to the representations of unions and says: "The B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union has throughout the period covered by this report acted quite inconsistently with its claim to recognition. It is controlled entirely by outsiders. There are, it is true, a number of employees who are included in the long list of office-bearers, but this is only to achieve compliance with the Trade Union Act." Mr. Mudie says that the controlling persons in the executive of the Union are outsiders who do not bestow adequate time or thought over Union affairs. He comes to the conclusion that the union is quite unworthy of recognition and that the Agent's action in withdrawing recognition of the union 'as at present constituted and administered' was fully justified. This action was contemplated before there was any thought of a strike and, though the events which led up to the strike may have confirmed the Agent in his resolution, his action cannot be represented as sudden decision, of

which the Union had no warning, taken as an act of vengeance on the Union for the part which it took in the strike. There is another Union of B. N. Railway Employees which is recognized. In coming to the conclusion that withdrawal of recognition is justified, I have given full weight to the importance of trade unionism and to the difficulties under which those who are trying to organize the movement in India work. But a union of the type of the B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union cannot but hinder the growth of sound trade unionism. Recognition should continue to be withheld.

Victimisation. Dealing with the question of victimisation, Mr. Mudie in his report refers to a variety of cases, which he examined and of which he gives details. He remarks of the list of cases put in by the Union as being cases of victimization, that no effort whatever appeared to have been made by the Union to sift them and that any case seemed good enough to swell the list, which the Union must have known could not bear examination. He has found only two cases in which strikers may possibly have suffered because they went on strike. He remarks that considering the large number of strikers and the feelings engendered between subordinates and their inferiors, this should be considered a very remarkable result.

Short-Time Working. The evidence shows that the main points at issue for the strike were the working of short-time in the Kharagpur workshops and the demonstration of 27 coolie mechanics in the Adra district, the latter being the immediate cause of the strike. Regarding the coolie mechanics, the Report finds that if the Union had taken up their case, there might have been some grounds for representations, though the men were being kept on in preference to their being discharged. This the Union, however, did not do, though there was plenty of time for representations to be made.

The question of short-time in the workshops at Kharagpur is dealt with at length in the final part of the report where certain conclusions are reached. It is pointed out that if short-time in these workshops is abolished, then considerable unemployment would be caused. Short-time was introduced in 1931 in preference to cutting down the number of men employed. Owing largely to re-organisation, there is at present a surplus in the workshops and the view is taken that the policy at present being pursued by the Administration of working short-time and limiting recruitment to reduce the existing surplus is the correct one.

Unrecognised Railway Unions: Along with Mr. Mudie's Report, the Government has issued a <sup>list</sup> statement of the Trade Unions or Associations on different railways which are officially recognized and those Unions not so recognized. Those in the latter category are: The M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union, the A.B. Railway Indian Employees' Association, the S. I. Railway Workers'

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Union, the G.I.P. Workers' Union, the G.I.P. Moslem Employees' Association, the All-India Moslem Railway Employees' Association and the G.I.P. Railway Labour Union. Recognition has been withdrawn from 19-2-1937 of the B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union.

Government's Action on Report. The recommendations in the Mudie Report have been accepted by the Government. It is understood that if the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union puts its house in order and if it is conducted on proper lines the Railway administration would sympathetically consider its recognition.

(The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 29-5-1937.) +

Mr. Giri's Criticism of Report. Mr. V. V. Giri, issued a statement on 29-5-1937 containing a detailed criticism of the Mudie Report. He points out that the Union boycotted the Committee since it did not inspire any confidence as both offer officers of the committee are directly or indirectly connected with the Railways. This Committee was appointed with the fullest concurrence of the Agent, but admittedly without the least consultation with the Union. In spite of this definite feeling on the part of the Union, Mr. Giri advised the Union to place its case before the Committee unreservedly, and the Union did so.

Mr. Mudie, had declared on 24-4-1937 that most of the cases of victimisation alleged by the Union arose in respect of the terms offered by the Agent on 22-1-1937 (vide pages 24-25 of our January 1937 report) which expired on 28-1-1937 since the Union did not accept them before that date, and not under the terms offered by him (the Agent) on 6-2-1937 and on the basis of which the strike was finally called off. Mr. Mudie interpreted his terms of reference to mean that he was authorised by it to take cognisance only of matters arising out of the terms offered on 6-2-1937 and not out of the terms offered on 22-1-1937. This, Mr. Giri points out, is an erroneous interpretation, especially in view of the fact that the terms of 22-1-1937 lapsed on 28-1-1937 not through the Union's fault but through that of the Agent. Mr. Giri contends that the terms of 6-2-1937 are only supplementary to those of 22-1-1937 and declares that Mr. Mudie's interpretation is unjust and wrong. In the face of this erroneous and one-sided interpretation the Union feels that it could not with advantage have taken further part in the proceedings.

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Mr. Giri states that Mr. Mudie's remarks on the functions of trade unions and his recommendation regarding non-recognition of the B. N. Railway Labour Union are based on imperfect knowledge, as Mr. Mudie cannot claim to have first-hand experience of trade union in India or outside. Finally, Mr. Giri urges that the whole question should be gone into by a tribunal consisting of representatives of the Administration and the Union with an impartial ~~Mr~~ Chairman acceptable to both sides.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 31-5-1937) ←

Industrial Disputes in Bengal:

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Proposed Legislation by Local Government.

It is understood that the Ministry of Labour, Bengal, proposes to introduce legislation in the next Session of the Bengal Assembly scheduled to meet in August 1937, to constitute some sort of conciliation machinery as well as to provide for Government encouragement ~~x~~ to and recognition of bona fide trade unions.

The Ministry proposes to lay down two propositions. The first is that in the face of a subversive movement, such as the jute strike has shown itself to be, every step will be taken to preserve law and order. Secondly, the ministry will encourage and expect employers to ascertain and sympathetically consider any real grievances that lie behind ~~the~~ strikes.

It will be almost the end of the year before this legislation finds its way onto the statute book.

*(Reported by the Calcutta Correspondent  
of The Times of India, 11-5-1937.) +*

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for  
Various Centres in India during February 1937. +

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India, except Rangoon, registered no changes during February 1937 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay. - The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in February 1937 remained unchanged at 104. The average in the year 1936 was 102.

Ahmedabad. - The index number (Base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in February 1937 remained stationary at 74; in 1936 the average was 71.

.K. Sholapur. - The index number (Base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur was unchanged at 73. The average for 1936 was 71.

Nagpur. - The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in February 1937 remained stationary at 61.

Jubbulpore. - The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in February 1937 remained unchanged at 61.

Rangoon. - The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers fell by 1 point to 90 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from the February 1937 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India.)

Hours of Work of Boiler Firemen, etc.

Representation of Mining Organisations. +

The Indian Mining Federation addressed a letter on 4-3-1937 to the Government of India on the question of hours of work of boiler firemen, winding enginemen and pumpmen. The Federation pointed out to Government that although boiler firemen, winding enginemen and pumpmen were exempted from the provisions under Section 22A of the Indian Mines Act and were allowed to work 7 days in any week under Notification No.M-105 dated 1-10-1935 and amended by Notification No.M-1015 dated 11-12-1935, they were not exempted from the provisions of Section 22B(1) of the Act and were not allowed to work more than 54 hours in one week. In consequence, colliery owners were not in a position to give such employees 7 days work in 8 hour shifts which would mean 56 hours of work in one week. Colliery owners were therefore required to engage extra hands every week for

the sake of two hours' work. The Federation also drew attention to the fact that banksmen, on-setters and engine and power house attendants were not exempted from the provisions of Section 22B(1). They <sup>Federation, therefore,</sup> considered it was desirable that all these classes of workmen should be permitted to work 7 days in 8 hour shifts as in the case of watery and gassy mines their presence <sup>is</sup> always required. The Federation therefore urged <sup>the</sup> Government to issue ~~the~~ necessary orders permitting the classes of workers concerned to work 56 hours a week.

The Indian Mining Association has expressed itself in full agreement with the Federation's representation.

(Summarised from the Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association held on 22-4-37). +

The Bengal Jute Mills Strike Settled:

Work Resumed from 11-5-1937. +

Reference was made at pages 21-23 of our April 1937 report to the progress of the Bengal Jute Mills Strike, which began in February 1937. On 3-5-1937, the Honourable Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Minister of Labour, Bengal Government, made a long public statement on the strike situation and Government's labour policy. A brief summary of the statement is given below:

Government's Labour Policy. The welfare of the labour population is the approved policy of the new Government and the Ministry proposes pursuing a positive programme to implement the policy. This policy is totally irrespective of any labour organisation or trade disputes or collective demands. The Ministry's first concern is to bring about amicable relations between employers and employees. It is advisable that the employers and the employed should keep in close touch with each other and thus make for harmony and co-operation. In pursuance of this programme he announced that the Government have decided to provide a permanent machinery

the details of which are being worked out and which will be placed before the Legislature for sanction in the next session of the Assembly. The Ministry has also decided to welcome the establishment of sound bona fide trade unions and to give them proper recognition.

On the question of strikes as a weapon in labour's armoury, Mr. Suhrawardy said that strikes are permissible as the last remedy of labour; unfortunately they are a very painful remedy. It is only in authoritarian states like Russia that strikes are illegal and where the lives of the labourers are being ordered and their freedom curtailed.

Conditions offered by Labour Minister to Strikers. Referring to the present strike, the Hon. Minister observed that he had come to the conclusion that the present strike was not on account of any genuine dispute that labour might have entertained against their employers, but was a political strike. Therefore the terms of settlement that he offered on 12-4-1937 to members of the Central Jute Strike Committee and which were rejected by them could not remain open. The utmost that he could offer was that if the members signified their willingness to accept his terms of settlement made on 12-4-1937 and there was no condition imposed that before any settlement was made there must be an increase in wages, he would be prepared to offer the terms to them. He was prepared some time back to take steps under the Trade Disputes Act and was prepared to appoint a Conciliation Board to bring an end of the strike. He was then under the idea that it was a genuine trade dispute. But his idea had undergone a transformation since he was convinced that the leaders had political objectives in view. As regards the enforcement of Sec. 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, he said: "The Government neither desires to break the strike and force the people to go back to work, nor can it compel the employers to grant concessions which they are not willing to do. At the same time it must prevent breaches of the law and protect people who desire to go about their lawful avocations. I do not think there is any right-minded citizen who will desire that Government should relinquish its primary function of preserving the peace, and permit lawlessness and anarchy to reign." (*The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-5-1937*).

Chief Minister's Statement. On 7-5-1937 the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, Chief Minister, made a statement with the concurrence of the Labour Minister. The following are relevant extracts from it:

"Many of the grievances of the labourers are such as can reasonably be admitted to be genuine. There is no want of desire on the part of the Government to see them redressed. The mill-owners also are not unsympathetic to some at least of the grievances of the labourers, e.g. the abolition of the bribery. Genuine trade unions will be recognised. These being the circumstances, the continuance of the strike is, in my opinion, no longer necessary."

"The employers have assured us that there will be no victimisation for taking part in strike or trade union activities."



If a settlement is arrived at and the workers agree to resume work, the chance of a breach of peace disappears and with it the necessity for orders under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. the imposition of which has been forced upon the Government by circumstances which Government have all along deplored. The Government are anxious that a peaceful atmosphere should prevail for a satisfactory and speedy settlement of all disputes and I hope it will be possible to adopt a liberal policy regarding all cases arising out of the strikes."

"Some, however, of the demands of the labourers are such as require careful investigation and negotiation before they can be satisfactorily dealt with. The question of wages is one of them. Then there are the powers of the Sardars and overseers in the matter of appointments and dismissals, which have given rise to grave abuses; in such and other cases, there will be a thorough investigation, which will, I am confident, be satisfactory to all parties concerned."

"I can give the assurance on behalf of Government that no pains will be spared to help Labour and Capital to settle their long drawn out disputes and create a better atmosphere for arriving at a lasting solution of labour's troubles. I appeal to the strikers ~~and these interested in them to see~~ employers to move with the times and co-operate with the Government in its great and difficult task of ameliorating the conditions of labour and ushering in an era of goodwill between Labour and Capital." (*The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-5-1937*).

As a result of the Chief Minister's statement, the All-Bengal Jute Workers' Central Strike Committee issued a statement the same day calling off the strike with effect from 10-5-1937 on the basis of the following assurances of the Chief Minister:

- (1) There will be no victimisation of workers for taking part in strike or trade union activities;
- (2) That workers' trade unions will be recognised;
- (3) That a liberal policy will be adopted regarding all cases arising out of the strike;
- (4) That there will be a thorough investigation satisfactory to the workers into the question of wages and the powers of sardars and overseers in the matter of appointments and dismissals, which have given rise to grave abuses and into other grievances of the jute workers; and
- (5) That prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. will be withdrawn in view of this agreement and also in view of the earnest appeal made by the Chief Minister to the strikers and their leaders "to give the Government a chance of helping to give labour its due." (*The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-5-1937*).

The strike was called off on 10-5-1937 and all the mills resumed work from 11-5-1937.

Soon after the strike was called off, however, complaints were made by the Central Strike Committee that the millowners were violating the terms of the settlement and that the Government was not implementing the pledges given by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on the basis of which the strike was called off. The Jute Mills Association, on the other hand, have declared that the workers' allegations were groundless and that the Members of the Jute Mills Association were carrying out the terms of the settlement implicitly. The Minister for Labour met the Committee of the Jute Mills Association on 25-5-1937 and discussed matters with them. According to a statement issued by him on the discussion, the Committee handed to him a statement showing what they are already doing, and propose to do, for the welfare of workers, or to improve, where necessary, the general conditions under which workers were employed in the jute mills, with special reference to the questions (1) of the manner of recruitment, (2) bribery and corruption, (3) security of service, (4) dismissal and (5) contact between the employers and the employed. The Hon'ble Minister promised to consider the statement with a view to carrying out the terms of the policy outlined by him. As regards allegations of victimisation, the Committee promised to look into such cases as were brought to their notice. The question of the recognition of Trade Unions was discussed at considerable length and the Committee agreed to recommend to their members to recognise trade unions of their own employees which would be conducted in accordance with sound Trade Union principles, which would be constitutional in their outlook and would concern themselves solely with the interests and welfare of labour.

The workers are not satisfied with the Minister's statement and demand a Committee of Enquiry to go into their allegations.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated  
28 and 30-5-1937.)

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Workers' Organisations.

Kerala Labour Conference. ✓

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The All Kerala Labour Conference was held at Trichur on 25-4-1937 under the presidentship of Mr. S.S. Patliwala, ~~a prominent labour leader~~ of Bombay ~~and~~ a member of the All-India Socialist Party. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming the delegates, said that the Travancore and Cochin Governments should take immediate steps for the introduction of Trade union <sup>legislation</sup> ~~act~~ and of other labour legislation with an eye <sup>to</sup> ~~on~~ the welfare of the labour population in Kerala. The President exhorted the labourers of Kerala, peasants and factory workers alike, to unite in the fight against the forces of reaction and safeguard their rights.

Among the more important resolutions passed at the conference were those: (A)

(a) Urging the labour unions of Kerala to join the All India Trade Union Congress and to establish a Provincial Trade Union Congress for Kerala;

(b) requesting the Governments of Cochin, Travancore and Madras to enact the necessary legislation for protecting the rights of labourers and to give them proper representation in Legislative Councils and Municipalities. (The Government of Travancore was requested to delete the clause in their Travancore Trade Unions Act compelling labour unions of the State to register their unions - vide page 21 of our March 1937 report).

The Conference expressed the opinion that the fight for independence by the Indian National Congress should be continued in collaboration with the peasants and labourers and that a scheme <sup>should</sup> ~~be~~ drawn up for the working of the labour unions of Kerala on the

lines of Trade Unions. The Conference also appointed a committee to prepare<sup>a</sup> report to be submitted in six months' time about the condition of labourers and coolies in the rubber, tea and other estates of Kerala.

(The Hindu, 28-4-1937).

12th Annual Conference of the Travancore Labour  
Association.

The 12th Annual Conference of the Travancore Labour Association was held at Alleppey on 23-5-1937 under the presidency of Mr. V. V. Giri, M.L.A.,

Presidential Address: In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Giri, referring to the fundamental rights of workers, said: "Workers have a right to have their fundamental rights guaranteed by the State. The first of the fundamental rights may be stated as 'right to live and right to work'. No Government which calls itself civilised can deny this right. If a citizen of any State attempts to commit suicide and if ~~it~~ it is punishable even if it be on account of starvation, under the laws and regulations of the land, it should be equally the duty of the State to concede the principles of right to work and right to live."

Need for Organisation: The first duty of the workers in any organised industry is that there should be discipline and that they should do their day's work willingly and conscientiously for a good day's wages. This discipline could be achieved by a sound organisation of Trade Unions. A Trade Union is an asset to the workers and to the employers; to the workers because they will have the necessary sanctions behind their demands which will make the employer listen with respect to any reasonable and just grievances; to the employer because he will be able to deal with an organised body of workers, through their associations who can deliver the goods, rather than with irresponsible individual workmen who are incapable of representing the views of their class. Employers in India, whether in this State or elsewhere, are slow to learn the efficiency of an orderly Trade Union movement and grant recognition to every bona-fide Workers' Union by discussing with them matters relating to the industry including all staff matters. The sooner they learn, the better for the country and the industry as a whole.

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Unemployment Relief. Referring to the work done in America under N. R. A. and the activities of the Unemployment Assistance Board in England, Mr. Giri remarked that in all civilised countries the Governments attempt, week after week, to supply the nation with unemployment statistics and the way in which they are provided either with employment, or failing it with benefits in some state or form to the unemployed. It is, therefore, unfortunate that, either in Indian States or in British India, attempts have not been made to solve the problem of the unemployed. He suggested that in ~~order to~~ tackle unemployment that is facing this country, nothing can be achieved unless there is a regular plan and programme extending over a period of 5 or 10 years. In the first instance, definite steps must be taken to collect fullest statistics of the unemployed and underemployed in relation to both literate and illiterate workers and peasants. Next, there should be a free unemployment exchange to facilitate employment. Attempts at organisation of unemployment insurance schemes with the aid of the State and employers principally, and workers also if it becomes necessary, should be made. Another way to reduce unemployment is to put the unemployed on the land. It is the Government that must take direct possession of land that is left uncultivated but is cultivable and establish State farms with subsidiary industries attached to them. Relief can also be obtained for the unemployed by starting extensive relief works to increase employment. This course has many advantages. Firstly, all work undertaken is in the public interests; secondly, workers would be employed on a wider scale; thirdly, such works afford an impetus to industry. If the State takes the initiative in this matter, it will be a great incentive to public-spirited persons to start similar undertakings on a co-operative basis, it being desirable that the State should have a hand in them.

Economic Council. Mr. Giri, referring to economic councils, said that there should be a central Economic Council for the whole State set up, with District Economic Councils charged with the duty of preparing definite plans and programmes and this organisation must be helped with State finances to execute the programme suggested. In order that there should be contentment amongst wage earners which would go a long way in securing industrial peace, it was the duty of the State to establish a satisfactory wage fixing machinery with representatives of the employers' and workers' interests. The wages fixed must be not lower than the living wage standard. The lowest paid worker and his family must be guaranteed sufficient food, reasonable raiment and decent accommodation.

Resolutions. Numerous resolutions were passed by the Conference of which the more important are summarised below:

(1) Registration of Trade Unions. The Association welcomed the Government's earnestness in attracting outside capital for starting new industries, but informed the Government that it was

indispensable for industrial advance to safeguard labour interests by labour legislation, and requested the Government to remove the compulsory registration clause, and to bring into effect immediately the Travancore Trade Union Regulation and to amend the rules thereof enabling labour organisations to register easily.

(2) Plantation Labour. Another resolution urged the Travancore Labour Association to render all help to the Committee formed at the recent Kerala Labour Conference, Trichur, to enquire into the conditions of labourers in Kerala plantation estates.

(3) Labour Representation in Legislatures. Provision should be made for labour representation in the State legislature by election, and ~~that~~ for this purpose the legislative rules should be suitably amended; ~~and called upon the labourers to~~ agitate for adult franchise and responsible Government. The Conference put on record its gratitude to the Government for its action in nominating two labour representatives on behalf of the Association to the Legislature in connection with the bills dealing with factory labour, trade disputes and workmen's compensation, which are now before the State legislature.

(4) Communalism in Labour Organisation. The economic interest of all labourers being the same, the Conference pointed out that there should be no caste or religious tendencies within labour organisation.

(The proceedings of the 11th annual Conference of the Travancore Labour Association are summarised at pages 89-91 of our February 1936 report.)

(The Hindu, 23 and 24-5-1937.) +

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Economic Conditions.

Conservation of India's Coal Supplies and Safety of Mines:  
Report of Inquiry Committee. †

Reference was made at pages 31-33 of our October 1936 report to the appointment of a Coal Mining Committee by the Government of India in October last to examine India's coal resources and the need for their conservation, new regulations for safety and other matters. The Government have recently published the Committee's Report, a summary of which is given below:

Coal Resources: Attention is drawn to the prospects of the time arriving when India may exhaust her supplies of coal. The report states that India now has only enough reserves of all good quality coal to last 122 years, while the reserves of coking coal are only adequate for 62 years. The life of the reserves of all good quality coal in Jharia is placed at 81 years and of coking coal at 57 years. The Committee says that the reserves of coal of inferior quality are practically unlimited. As regards coal of good quality, the Committee remarks, avoidable waste was established in 1920, but this waste was not considered serious enough to justify Government interference and control in the interests of conservation, because the available figures of reserves were admittedly largely guess-work, while the leading Indian authorities did not agree even as regards those figures. Since then, a comprehensive survey of the Indian coalfields has been made by the Geological Survey Department between 1925 and 1929, and the Government of India has stated that this survey has removed all reasonable doubt regarding the importance of conserving the coal assets of the country, particularly in the higher grades.

The report emphasizes that the figures given above are calculated to arouse serious apprehension and to justify strong measures of conservation in the national interest. Other systems of conservation are discussed, but the conclusion is reached that sand-stowing is the best and should be enforced in the interest of the community as a whole.

Dangers of Depillaring: The Committee emphasizes the serious character of the situation created by the dependence of the industry — a dependence which will increase steadily — on 'depillaring' for securing coal supplies. The avoidance of premature collapses of roofs is a matter of planning ahead and particularly of limiting extraction at the first working. Unfortunately, first extractions in many mines have been carried to a point which leads the Committee to conclude that "there can be no doubt that the danger of premature collapse actually exists in most of the mines in which coal is standing in pillars." Such collapses lead to underground and



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surface accidents, explosions and fires, and may cause great waste of coal. The Committee points out the significant fact that "during the last 15 or 20 years the percentage of coal obtained from pillars has steadily increased until it now exceeds the percentage taken from galleries" and that "both in the Jharia and Raniganj fields the extraction of pillars has resulted in numerous collapses and fires, and in many major accidents involving life."

It is proposed that a cess of eight annas per ton on coal (including soft coke) and twelve annas a ton on hard coke should be imposed, to be administered by a statutory authority, to be used mainly to defray the cost of stowing mines with sand when coal is excavated in order to protect life and coal. The Committee proposes that the statutory authority should be entrusted with the control of the removal of these pillars. Sand-stowing under their direction will enable all these pillars to be extracted with safety, and vast amounts of coal will also be saved.

Sand-stowing: It is intended that sand-stowing should eventually be applied to all thick seams, but the view is taken that it will have to begin first in areas where there is urgent and immediate danger to life or where there is urgent danger of the loss of quantities of coal. At the same time, collieries which have voluntarily undertaken sand-stowing should be encouraged by receiving the actual cost of extracting, loading and conveying sand to the pit-mouth. With regard to collieries wishing to start stowing voluntarily after the cess is imposed, the Committee proposes that they should be required to submit their plans and estimates to the statutory authority, and that the latter should decide in each case the most equitable terms on which stowing should be assisted.

Defects in present grading system: The Committee examines the present grading system and concludes that it has resulted in waste of coal of commercial value and in an increase of danger from fire. It recommends that the grading of sections of seams should be cancelled and that only seams as a whole should be graded. Half the surplus as fund and income of the Coal Grading Board, it is suggested, should be handed over to the statutory authority that is to be set up to administer the proposed coal cess. The Committee considers that the railway should also contribute by collecting the cess free of any commission. At the moment the railway receive 5 per cent commission for collecting the cess on soft coke.

Composition of Statutory Body: Regarding the statutory authority, the report proposes that it should be an expert body, with an independent chairman (a senior Government official), the Chief Inspector of Mines, one commercial expert and three mining experts as members. The commercial and mining experts are to be selected from panels.

The statutory authority should, after the initial difficulties of control and conservation are surmounted, take the initiative in setting up a central marketing agency and it should consider the possibility of setting up organisations for the allocation of quota outputs based on ascertained demands and for the fixing of regional prices based on costs of production and freight rates.

The statutory authority should have power to arrange for the amalgamation of small and uneconomic or badly shaped coal properties, to adjust irregular boundaries of mining areas where such boundaries lead to waste of coal in barriers or other difficulties in mining methods, and to take over on fair terms and work abandoned mines which may contain underground fires or be in danger of collapse.

Safety Measures and Research: Various further proposals are made for securing safety, including the amendment of the Mines Act and the Coal Mining Regulations. Particular interest attaches to proposals to control the maximum dimensions of galleries in first workings.

Dealing with research, the Committee observes that it is obviously connected with safety and conservation and recommend that a coal research board should be set up under the statutory authority, half of the initial capital expenditure to be met by the Government of India and the other half out of the cess fund.

Nationalisation not practicable: Dealing with the question of nationalization the report states:-

"We have considered generally the alternative of nationalization of royalty-rights and nationalization of undeveloped properties. We are aware in this connexion that the French Government has announced its intention of nationalizing mines, and that the British Government is considering the nationalization of royalties. In India, apart from the financial difficulties of any kind of nationalization, there would evidently be great practical difficulties in valuing properties or royalty rights on account of the very large number of persons interested. A special tribunal would have to be set up to value properties or royalties, and the ~~new~~ process would probably not be completed for about 10 years. The serious state of India's coal reserves makes time the essence of the situation and demands that whatever measures of conservation and control are decided on should be put in force as quickly as possible.

"Further, the fact, that except in Bengal and Bihar, the State already owns the royalty rights over coal deposits has not so far made much difference to wasteful and dangerous methods of working. It has been suggested that, as the State already manages most of the railways adequately, there is no reason why the State should not also manage coal mines, but it seems to us that there is a great difference between running an administrative service and producing commodities or raw material for sale in a competitive market."

Rationalization Recommended: Rationalization is a compromise between State-ownership and complete individualism, and rationalization permits of various kinds and degrees of public co-ordination and control, aiming at the best form of efficiency which will benefit both the community and the individual directly concerned. We, therefore, consider that, for the present at any rate, rationalization and control on the lines suggested by us is the wisest policy for India more particularly at the existing stage of her political evolution."

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Minority Report: Nationalisation Recommended. Two members of the Committee, Mr. H.K.Nag and Dr. M.S.Krishnan, do not accept the majority view on the question of the nationalisation of the industry. In a note appended to the report, they state that they agree with all the recommendations regarding safety and they also support the recommendations for conservation and regard them as urgent. But they believe that the recommendations regarding rationalisation will prove inadequate for the object in view. After analysing the problems that confront the industry, they reach the conclusion that there is "only one solution, namely, State acquisition of the mines and minerals," at least in the Jharia and Raniganj fields in the first instance. Coal areas that have hitherto been regarded as of no value should be declared to belong to the State. As regards others they propose that the State should first acquire the royalty rights and then the mines "and thus eliminate the private interests completely." They estimate the cost at Rs. 150 millions for the Bengal and Bihar fields, excluding the railway collieries, and add: "This can easily be raised by a loan in India carrying interest of 5 per cent."

(The Statesman, 18-5-1937.)

Coffee Production in India:

Increase in Exports, 1935-36.

The statistics <sup>for 1935-36</sup> of the production and export of Indian Coffee compiled by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India, and published in the second week of May, show an all round improvement in the coffee industry and a substantial increase in its production and export.

Area Under Cultivation: The number of plantations was 6,823, covering a total area of 335,115 acres, as against 6,792 plantations with an area of 328,199 acres reported in 1934-35. The area actually under coffee in the plantations was 188,035 acres, as compared with 185,581 acres in the preceding year. New land planted with coffee during the year under amounted to 4,587 acres, while the area under old cultivation abandoned was 2,133 acres.

Before 1932-33 returns relating to estates or plantations with a area of less than ten acres were excluded from the scope of these statistics. But, as a result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, statistics of smaller plantations (having an area between five and ten acres) have also been included from 1932-33.

Increase in Production and Export: The total production of cured coffee, during the year under report, was 41,162,079 lb. as compared with 32,775,865 lb. in the preceding year — the yield per acre of plucked area being 333 lb. The total exports of Indian coffee improved from 156,000 cwts. in 1931-32 to 173,000 cwts. in 1932-33 and 186,000 cwts in 1933-34 but went down to 141,000 cwts. in 1934-35. In the year under report, however, the exports again rose to 216,000 cwts. The principal destinations of Indian coffee are the United Kingdom and France, their shares in 1935-36 being 73,000 cwts and 83,000 cwts. respectively, as compared with 36,000 cwts and 53,000 cwts, respectively, in 1934-35.

Cess on Coffee: The Indian Coffee Cess Act passed in 1935 provided for the levy of a customs duty on all coffee produced in India and exported therefrom to any place beyond the limits of British India or to Burma at the rate of Re. 1 per cwt or such lower rate as the Governor-General-in-Council may, on the recommendation of the Coffee Cess Committee lay down. The rate of cess has now been diminished and is leviable at eight annas per cwt.

(The Statesman, 20-5-1937.) +

Decline in Indian Tea Production:Drop in Exports in 1935-36. +

According to the Statistics of the production and export of tea for 1935 which have been recently published, the season during the year was marked by irregular rainfall, drought and floods and this affected the quality of the tea production except in Assam where generally a good standard was maintained. In Darjeeling, the first flush teas were up to the average but not equal to the best standard, while second flush teas were spoiled by excessive rains. The rains teas maintained the normal quality but autumnal teas were again disappointing.

Yield and Area of Tea Cultivation: During the year under report the total area under tea cultivation was 826,800 acres, a net increase of 500 acres. In 1935 the total production of both black and green teas was 394,429,000 lb. (of which black tea represented 390,230,000 lb.). The net decrease, as compared with the preceding year, amounted to 4,822,000 lb. The total quantity of green tea manufactured in the year 1935 was 4,199,200 lb. as compared with 4,519,500 lb. in 1934.

Decline in Export: Total exports abroad in 1935-36 by sea and land were 313,262,000 lb. and 15,838,000 lb. respectively as compared with 325,070,000 lb. and 22,117,000 lb. in the previous year. The total exports by sea decreased by 12 million lb. or 4 per cent. as compared with 1934-35. Compared with 1934-35 the exports of tea from the important ports in India during 1935-36 recorded decreases. The shipments from Calcutta, Chittagong, and Bombay and Karachi ports decreased by 12,532,000 lb., 1,681,000 lb. and 161,000 lb. respectively, while those from the South Indian and Burma ports rose by 2,551,000 lb. and 15,000 lb. respectively.

Foreign Tea: The total imports into India of foreign tea in 1935-36 were 5,126,000 lb. or 2,051,000 lb. more than those in 1934-35. The quantity re-exported as foreign tea was 6,100 lb. Deducting net exports in 1935-36 and the stocks left at the end of the year from the production in 1935 plus stocks left at the end of the preceding year the quantity available for consumption in 1935-36 may be placed at 83 million lb. as compared with 70 million lb. in the previous year.

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The total number of persons employed in the industry in 1935 was returned at 899,039 of which 845,028 <sup>were</sup> permanent and 54,011 temporary. This is a decrease of 2,064 permanent and 3,231 temporary than in 1933-34.

(The Statesman, 24-5-37.) +

Employment and Unemployment. 42

Middle Class Unemployment in India:

Government of India Circular to Provincial Governments.

The Government of India has recently addressed a letter to all Provincial Governments on the subject of collecting statistics bearing on the problem of middle-class employment. The Government of India desired to have the conclusions of the Provincial Governments on the following points:

- (1) Is it desirable to collect statistics as suggested?
- (2) Should Central legislation be introduced for this purpose?
- (3) Would Provincial Governments be prepared to co-operate in collecting and tabulating such statistics.
- (4) In the event of the proposals receiving general support from Provincial Governments, would the latter be prepared to place the necessary Resolution before their legislatures?

Difficulties of Collecting Unemployment Statistics: The Government indicate that legislation would be necessary to secure reliable statistics but as the Central Legislature is precluded from passing an Act for such a purpose, the consent of the Legislative Assemblies of the provinces is necessary. The letter states:

"There have been frequent demands for the collection of statistical material, but these have generally been for the direct collection of statistics of educated unemployed people. While sympathizing with the desire to secure such statistics, the Government of India are convinced that in the absence of a scheme of unemployment insurance or some other substantial inducement to unemployed to register, whether relating to educated unemployed or other classes of unemployed, no reliable statistics of this character can be collected. Few will take the trouble to make a return unless they have a direct interest in so doing, and attempts made at the last census, and subsequently in one or two provinces in this direction yielded no results of value. The collection of statistics of unemployment in other countries confirms the conclusion that this direct form of attack would be entirely infructuous in India. The only possible exception is the collection of particulars for very limited classes, for example the alumni of universities by persons or authorities, such as a college provides having some more or less personal contact with them, and the Government of India understand that in some universities an effort is being made to pursue this method."

Collection of Employment Statistics: "If more comprehensive statistical material is to be secured, a different method must be pursued, and in the opinion of the Government of India the most hopeful line is to collect statistics of employment rather than of unemployment. Thus it should be possible to collect particulars of numbers of men with specified educational qualifications who have found employment in various spheres and particularly in industry and commerce. If reliable material of this character could be collected it would be of distinct value. In the first place it would furnish a basis for estimating the needs of the various industries and commercial concerns for qualified men with different types of technical qualification for purposes of a better correlation of supply and demand. There is a faulty application of educational resources and injury is done to professions in producing 100 mining engineers where there is room for only 50, or 40 technologists in a specialized line where only 10 can find employment."

"In the second place the statistics would make it possible to form a general estimate of the potentialities of absorption offered by industry and commerce for educated young men, whether their qualifications are technical or general, and thus to reach a position where the probable effects of the different possible policies on unemployment can be gauged."

"In the third place the statistics would help to meet the public need and demand for statistical material bearing on this subject, and would enable the subject to be viewed in the light of facts rather than conjectures."

Necessity for Legislation: "The Government of India considers that in order to secure reliable statistics, legislation would be necessary, for, while many employers would doubtless be willing to supply particulars on a voluntary basis others would fail to do so and the value of the results would depend on the completeness of returns in the branches of employment selected. Further, it would seem to be preferable that this legislation should be central rather than provincial, so as to ensure uniformity and avoid provincial variations both in the form and in the method of conducting an inquiry. The type of legislation which the Government of India envisages is simple. It would enable the prescribed authorities to require such employers as might be prescribed to furnish certain particulars regarding qualifications, educational or technical, of persons or certain classes of persons employed ~~or recently employed~~ by them, and would provide a penalty for non-compliance."

Collection of Statistics to start with Organised Industries. "In the first instance it will probably be desirable to restrict inquiry to organized industry, that is regulated factories, mines and railways, both because such industry presents less difficulty from the point of view of collection of information, and also because any information obtained is likely to be more valuable for the immediate purpose in view. Thus employers in these establishments might be asked to state the number of posts in each establishment carrying more than specified minimum pay and furnish certain particulars of education or other qualifications of the incumbents of these posts."



"In most cases it will probably be necessary for an employer to supply particulars of only a small proportion of his appointments and employees. For example, a factory owner might be asked to state the number of posts carrying a salary of more than Rs. 50 a month, and give the number of graduates of various types and possibly of matriculates filling these or other posts. If this inquiry yielded a satisfactory result it would be possible to extend investigations thereafter to various commercial occupations and possibly less organised forms of employment."

Co-operation of Provincial Governments. "In the event of the necessary legislation being passed, the Government of India would be prepared to supply forms and complete final statistics, but they will be obliged if provincial Governments would agree to undertake the distribution and collection of forms and arrange for some tabulation of provincial statistics.

The Central Legislature <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ precluded from passing an Act for regulating a matter which appears to fall under Item 32 of List 2 (Provincial Legislative List) in the seventh schedule to the Government of India Act 1935 unless the consent of the legislative chambers in the provinces to be covered is secured under the provisions of Section 103 of the Act."

The Government of India, therefore, inquires if provincial Governments would be willing to place the <sup>subject</sup> ~~necessary~~ resolution before the provincial legislatures on the understanding that the proposal receives the general support of the provincial Governments. The replies from the Provincial Governments are to reach the Government not later than 1-10-1937.

(The Statesman, 16-5-1937.) +

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Unemployment in Bihar:

Government's Efforts at Solution. ✓

Reference was made at pages 41-44 of the report of this Office for November 1936 to the report submitted by the Bihar Unemployment Committee. A communiqué has been issued by the Publicity Officer of the Government of Bihar, in the third week of May 1937 giving information about the action taken by the Bihar Government on the recommendations of the Committee. Below are given the salient points of the communiqué:-

Information Bureau: The Information Bureau, which was originally started with a view to help Bihar young men with technical and scientific qualifications in securing employment by bringing them in touch with the industries of the Province, has since been enlarged by the inclusion of all posts in industries including those requiring general qualifications. There is a considerable number of posts in the industries of the Province for which only general qualifications are required and it is hoped that the Information Bureau ~~will~~ be able to help candidates with general qualifications also in getting posts in industries.

Cottage Industries: Steps are being taken to push agriculture ~~as a~~ Cottage Industry for the agriculturists with the help of the demonstration party. The question of the establishment of a Cottage Industries Institute at Pusa is under the consideration of the department of industries. With a view to develop the glazed pottery industry, and cane work and basket making, new sections have been added to the Cottage Industries Institute to teach these subjects. Introduction of celluloid work and pith hat-making in the Cottage Industries Institute is also under the consideration of the department of industries. Two stipends have been granted outside the Province for learning pith-hat-making. A section for teaching tailoring under a qualified master cutter has been introduced in the Cottage Industries Institute. The department of industries is also investigating the possibility of (1) training selected boys from technical schools in wood work and cabinet making and (2) developing the umbrella making industry.

Training for Young Men: The director of industries has submitted a scheme for the training of some educated unemployed young men in pisciculture. For the development of the woollen industry a marketing scheme has been started recently, with a grant from the Government of India. This, it is hoped, will absorb some of the educated youngmen trained in the Wool Weaving Institute. The department of industries is drawing up a scheme for the introduction of tanning and shoe-making demonstration parties

Organisation of Information: Action is being taken to issue instructions to the Head masters and Principals of schools and colleges to maintain records of their passed students. Orders have been issued to the Circle Officers to prepare "District Books" giving a general survey of the industries of the district with full particulars regarding the supply of raw materials, skilled labour and the import, export and consumption of various manufactured commodities.

Amendment in Legislation: Amendment of the State Aid to Industries Act and Rules to authorise the acceptance of personal security of a third party and a lower rate of interest in the matter of small loans for the development of cottage and small industries is under the consideration of the Government.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika 23-5-37)

Deputation Waits on Premier: It is understood that a deputation on behalf of the Bihar and Orissa Unemployment Association waited on 26-5-37 on the Chief Minister, Bihar. The deputation made the following demands: (1) the creation of a portfolio of unemployment in the cabinet, (2) undertaking of an industrial and economic survey of the province, (3) establishment of employment bureaus in each district, (4) opening of industrial and technical schools in the districts, (5) provision for training of psychology for teachers in order to enable them to judge students' aptitude for particular vocations, (6) establishment of land mortgage banks. The deputationists expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Government to deal with the problem of unemployment. The Premier promised to give due consideration to the demands.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika 28-5-37) +

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Public Health.

Safety First Propaganda Among Railwaymen:

Sub-Committee's Plans. †

A meeting of a special Sub-Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association was held at Simla in the first week of May to consider the steps to check the incidence of accidents among workers in Indian Railways.

The Sub-committee discussed the issue of a comprehensive "Safety First" booklet for the guidance of all grades of railwaymen with suitable illustrations of the more common accidents. It was felt that such practices as sleeping under wagons, leaning out of moving trains, stepping between points, and using water in attempts to ~~disin~~ extinguish electrical fires offer suitable material for illustration and are of frequent occurrence. In order that these instructions may reach the lower paid staff, it was suggested that railways may consider the translation of these booklets into vernaculars suitable for the areas in which they are required. The final recommendations of the sub-committee will probably be submitted to this year's Conference of the Indian Railway Conference Association, scheduled to be held in October next.

Figures in the Administration Report of Railways show that each year a considerable number of railway servants are killed or injured. "Safety First" propaganda in other countries has resulted in a decrease in accidents. It is believed that a reduction in the number of cases of death and injury now recorded will soon be effected, in India.

(Statesman, 10-5-1937.) †

Medical Facilities for Industrial Employees:

Madras Government's Memorandum.

The following is a memorandum which has been issued by the Education and Public Health Department of the Government of Madras regarding charges for medical treatment for employees in industrial concerns, including tea, coffee and rubber estates.

The Present Position.- The following instructions are now in force in regard to the treatment of employees in railways, factories, etc., in Government medical institutions:-

General Wards.-(i) Except as provided in clause (ii) below, in -patients whose income is less than Rs. 50 a month shall be treated free in the general wards. They will also be given free diet.

(ii) In the case however of employees in mines, quarries, mills, factories, tea, coffee and rubber estates, steamers, railways and railway workshops drawing less than Rs. 50 a month, who are admitted as in-patients at the instance of their employers, a charge of annas eight a day for each patient will be levied from the employers to cover the cost of medical advice, nursing and diet. This amount will be collected in advance for a period of ten days at a time, but this condition may be relaxed with the Surgeon-General's permission in the case of well-established firms who undertake to pay the hospital stoppage claimed by the Superintendents of hospitals in accordance with the rules.

If employees of the above class drawing less than Rs. 100 per mensem are treated as in or out-patients at the instance of their employers, the latter should be charged for the expensive drugs used on behalf of their employees ~~at the rates specified in note 5~~

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to rule 10 besides the usual charges levied to cover the cost of medical advice, nursing and diet.

(iii) Employees in mines, quarries, mills, factories, rubber, coffee and tea estates, steamers, railways and railway workshops when attending Government hospitals at their own instance should be regarded as members of the general public for purposes of hospital stoppages.

It has been suggested in certain quarters that railway companies and big business concerns such as mills, factories, etc., should provide medical treatment at their own cost to their employees. A proposal has, therefore, been made that employees in mills, quarries, factories, tea, coffee and rubber estates, railways and railway workshops should not be entitled to free medical attendance in Government medical institutions, that medical attendance or medical advice or treatment should be given to the employees in such institutions only if they produce a letter from their employers, and that if they produce the letter a the ~~free~~ fee should be recovered from the employers.

(The Planters' Chronicle, 15-5-1937) .

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Nutrition.

Nutritive Values of Indian Foods: Report of  
the Scientific Advisory Board of the Indian Research  
Fund Association for 1936. +

The report of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Indian Research Fund Association, on medical researches conducted under the aegis of the Association, during the year 1936, was published in the middle of the current month.

Amongst the subjects that received the attention of the research workers during the year, mention may be made of cholera, anti-malarial drugs, malaria transmission, black-water fever, nutrition, leprosy, plague, anti-rabic vaccine, tuberculosis, indigenous drugs, maternal mortality, drug addiction, cancer, typhus, snake venoms, epidemic dropsy and kala azar, and the problems presented by each were investigated in their different aspects with particular reference to Indian conditions.

Nutrition Research.- Important researches in nutrition were carried out during the year at the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, and at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. Attention was focussed at Coonoor on the study of two problems: the nutritive value of Indian foodstuffs and the diet and "state of nutrition" of the population. A systematic survey of Indian foodstuffs was undertaken. The first stage of this investigation has been completed, some 200 common foodstuffs having been investigated for energy, value and content of proximate principles of calcium, phosphorus and iron. The majority of these foods had not previously been analysed in India.

Planning of Diets.- Data obtained in a survey of foodstuffs have already been used for the investigation and planning of diets;

in fact, much of the field work carried out during the year would have been impossible without such information. The report points out that the effect on nutritive value of Indian cooking methods is also being studied, and attention is being given to the availability of minerals, for instance, iron and calcium in various foods. Though much work yet remains to be done, sufficient material has been accumulated for practical application, and all available information about the nutritive value of Indian foods, together with accounts in simple language, of the principles of nutrition, instructions how to devise "cheap balanced diets", etc., are being passed on to the public in "Health Bulletins."

(The Statesman, 18-5-1937)+



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Co-operation.

Co-operation in Baroda State, 1934-35\* +

General Progress.- During the period covered by the report, (1-8-1934 to 31-7-1935) the severe frost in January 1935 effected an almost complete devastation of the crops-particularly of the cotton crop. This calamity was a very great strain upon the agriculturists. Government met the situation by remitting Rs. 2.5 millions and suspending Rs. 2 millions of land revenue nearly all over the Raj. This calamity had its effect upon the co-operative movement also. Recoveries had to be suspended and the overdues jumped up by about 5 per cent. The co-operative banks extended the period of instalments and ~~re~~ refrained from charging penal interest when the societies hypothecated their members' properties and applied for extension of time. 12 new societies were registered, while 55 societies were cancelled. The total number of societies on the register is 1,103 as against 1,146 in the preceding year. The societies under liquidation numbered 72. Thus the number of actually working societies was 1,031. Though the number of the societies decreased by 43, the membership rose from 45,760 in 1933-34 to 49,133 in 1934-35 and the working capital from Rs. 7.6 millions to Rs. 8 millions. The rural areas, however, with which really the co-operative movement is more concerned had unfortunately a definite set back because the membership of agricultural societies fell from 29,756 to 28,933 and the working capital rose by Rs. 231,000

\*Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1934-35.- Baroda State Press.1935.-Price Rs.1-15-0. -pp.96

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which was under loans from banks and not from deposits. The total reserve fund has increased from Rs. 1.275 millions to Rs. 13 millions similarly the deposits have increased from Rs. 4.184 millions to Rs. 4.268 millions. These increases are due to the urban societies. Loans outstanding in the beginning of the year in respect of all kinds of societies were Rs. 5.424 millions; fresh loans of Rs. 2.059 millions were made and after a recovery of Rs. 1.494 millions the year closed with Rs. 5.998 millions; of these, Rs. 2.161 millions were overdue as against Rs. 1.373 millions last year, the percentage of overdue being 36.1 against 31.1 last year. The owned capital, i.e., share capital, deposits from members and reserve fund, amounted to Rs. 4.494 millions, which comes to 55.8 p.c. of the working capital.

Classification of Societies. - The 1,103 societies at the end of the period under review consisted of 19 central institutions, 886 agricultural and 198 non-agricultural societies. Of the 886 agricultural societies, 718 were credit societies, 24 thrift societies, 72 consolidation societies, 17 cotton societies, 10 pump societies, 1 water works, 11 milch cattle societies, 3 cattle breeding societies, 1 milk supply society, 1 cotton ginning society, 14 rural reconstruction societies, 7 supply and purchase societies, 6 pure seeds societies, and 1 other kind of society. The 198 non-agricultural societies consisted of 155 credit, 8 thrift, 7 supply, 22 students' stores, 5 housing, and 1 mutual help societies.

The Financing Institutions and Central Societies. - During the period under report, there were 11 financing institutions, out of which 7 were co-operative banks and 4 agricultural banks. The Shree Sayaji Sangh continued to do useful service to the

movement. During the year its membership rose from 524 to 584. It held 2 classes for training select members of societies in the work of co-operation in 2 village centres and organised 7 informal conferences of members of co-operative societies. The Institute's monthly "Gram-Jivan" continued to discuss questions of village uplift, co-operation, agriculture, social economy and other educational matters.

Agricultural Societies.- The membership of the 886 agricultural societies decreased from 29,756 in 1933-34 to 29,033 in 1934-35. The decrease in the number of members was inevitable as a number of bad societies had to be cancelled. The share capital, reserve fund and working capital of these societies increased from Rs. 16,111, Rs. 959,668, and Rs. 3,587,174 in 1933-34 to Rs. 120,850, Rs. 1,000,278 and Rs. 3,610,391 respectively during the year under report.

Cotton Sale Societies. - The work of Cotton Sale societies was seriously affected by the frost. Of the 25 societies at the beginning of the year, 8 had to be cancelled because they could do no work probably on account of their unsuitable situation. Out of the remaining 17, only 10 did any work. Vigorous efforts are being made to concentrate the work of cotton sale by organising them into an association for ginning also.

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The 198 non-agricultural societies had ~~now~~ between them 17,986 members during the year under review as against 13,960 members in 1933-34. In spite of 2 societies having been cancelled there <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ an all round improvement

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in membership, reserve fund, share capital, and working capital. The share capital, reserve fund and working capital of these societies increased from Rs. 304,904, Rs. 103,126 and Rs. 2,454,991 in 1933-34 to Rs. 393,817, Rs. 103,463 and Rs. 2,819,201 respectively during the year under report.

Credit Societies. - Of the 155 credit societies in non-agricultural areas, 16 were urban, 14 employees' 56 flood relief, 41 weavers', 12 chamars', 8 bhangis' and 8 other societies.

Employees Societies. - There were 14 employees societies as in the last year; 5 of them worked well, 2 did not work at all, 2 suffered heavily on account of defalcations, 1 is under liquidation, 1 has asked for liquidation during the current year while the work of the remaining three was fair. They had a membership of 2,733 as against 1,626 and the working capital amounted to Rs. 307,607 as against Rs. 209,347.

(The progress of co-operation in Baroda State during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 46-48 of our February 1936 report.)

Progress of Co-operation in N.W.F.P., 1935-36.\* †

General.— In his annual report on the working of co-operative societies in the North West Frontier Province during 1935-36, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Province remarks that the co-operative movement continues to gain strength in the Province. In the northern circle, where the movement is well established, the expansion of ~~their~~ thrift and credit societies is proceeding under favourable conditions; in the southern circle, there is a demand from the people for new societies.

General Progress.— During the period covered by the report (1-8-1935 to 31-7-1936) there has been an all round increase in the number of societies, membership and the working capital. The number of societies, members and working capital in 1935-36 was 622, 22,854 and 2,281,406 as compared with 629, 19,659 and 2,2,105,622 respectively in the previous year. During the year under report 94 new societies were registered, while one society was cancelled. Thus there was a total increase of 93 societies compared with 78 societies in 1934-35 and 69 in 1933-34, and the working capital increased by Rs. 175,784. Of the new societies 84 were concerned with credit, and of the remaining 10 three are thrift societies, three better living and three for consolidation of holdings.

Training and Education of Staff.— The Joint Refresher Course for the staff of the Province was held at Kohat in October 1935. A good deal of interest was taken in the discussions and in lectures given by the staff and also by representatives of other departments. This staff's main objective is the improvement of the standard of co-operative education of the office-holders and members of societies, but their attention will also be directed to the improvement of the training of the departmental staff.

Training of Members.— Funds allotted by the Government of India enabled the Department to increase its educational activities among members of societies. The report points out that in the Northern Circle the education ~~is~~ of members in the principles and methods of co-operation is being paid greater attention. The potentialities of the movement as an effective measure towards rural reconstruction are being realised and appreciated. The movement is no longer regarded merely as an agency for cheap loans. Before a society is started the Inspector has to discover whether the members of the proposed society are actuated merely by a desire to get loans or have appreciated co-operative principles. Broadcasting has now established itself as one of the means of co-operative education. During the last two years, 23 lectures on various aspects of the movement have been ~~was~~ broadcast and during the year under report some members gave their impressions of co-operation "over the air". Two societies have installed radio sets

\*Government of the North-West Frontier Province. Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1935-36. Printed and published by the Manager Government Stationery and Printing, North-West Frontier Province, Peshawar. 1937. Price - Re.0-11-9 or £ 0-1-0. pp. 22 +xiii.

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in their village offices and the president of a third allows the members the daily use of his set. "Co-operative Day" was celebrated and co-operative conferences were held during the year. The Inspectors on these occasions explained to the members the working and benefits achieved in each circle. In many cases the co-operators themselves told how they themselves had been benefitted. Besides the usual teaching on the right use of credit the encouragement of thrift and the discouraging of extravagance great stress was laid this year on the education of children, improvement of agriculture, and improvement of cattle. Pamphlets on the disadvantages of habitual murders were distributed among tribes addicted to the practice. Efforts were made to advise agriculturists in finding subsidiary occupations. Evidence of the effect of co-operative societies on the liquidation of outside debts and the discouragement of borrowing from any other source is afforded by the fact, that the average indebtedness per member in the Southern Circle has decreased from Rs. 119 to Rs. 38; a very remarkable achievement, even if co-operation is not the only factor at work to produce the reduction.

Central Banks.— There are three central banks financing societies in the Province. Their working capital decreased from Rs. 870,000 in 1935 to Rs. 850,000 in 1936, while the owned capital investments in Government securities and deposits increased from Rs. 85,000, Rs. 138,000 and Rs. 602,000 in 1935 to Rs. 94,000, Rs. 167,000 and Rs. 654,000 respectively in 1936. For owned capital the prescribed standard is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the total working capital. Owned capital at present is just over 8 per cent. of total working capital. This is due to two of the banks being new. Their owned capital will increase as they grow older and 25 per cent of future profit continues to be allocated to reserve fund. The percentage of overdues to the amount on loan at the beginning of the year of the three banks was 6.9 per cent in 1935-36 as compared with 8.4 per cent in 1934-35.

Agricultural Credit Societies.— The report points out that the number of these societies was 549 in 1935-36 as compared with 470 in 1934-35, an increase of 79 compared with 62. Membership increased from 11,241 to 13,690; the average membership was 24.9 (i.e. 25) members per society. 1,239 new members joined old societies compared with 699 members who left societies. The report points out that the increase of societies and membership naturally involves increased loan business, but it was satisfactory to note that the average indebtedness per member decreased from 6.9 millions to 6.6 millions in 1935-36. The Department has continued to restrict all borrowing in agricultural societies to productive, short-term loans, and the figures show that these efforts have been largely successful.

Consolidation of Holdings Societies.— Work continued in 12 villages during the year, three new societies being registered. The area consolidated during the year was 5,186 acres, 10,091 blocks being reduced in the process to 1,946. Out-turn per Sub-Inspector was 602 acres in the Northern Circle and 324 in the Southern Circle and the cost per acre in these two circles was Rs. 2-1-7 and Rs. 4-7-0.



assets Rs. 10,904,250 or 47.7 per cent. are in cash and liquid form and Rs. 3,028,939 or 17.6 per cent. in other fixed assets. It is remarked, however, that despite a succession of adverse years the intrinsic financial position of the movement continued to be sound.

General Position.- It is remarked that the department continued to follow the dual policy of consolidation and reconstruction and cautious advance. The task it has set itself before it is to nurture the existing societies as far as possible and to form new societies on sound lines. As a result, for the first time during the last six years, the number of newly registered societies has exceeded the number of those wound up. The experience of last year shows that the bugbear of joint liability is not so formidable an obstacle to formation of new societies as it is often made out to be. If propaganda is carried out on right lines and the principles of co-operation are properly explained to the people, societies can still be organized under the existing rules and byelaws. Indeed with the contraction of other credit facilities for the agriculturists due to legislative measures of relief, the co-operative movement has a vast field for expansion. The report also draws attention to the fact that the village society in the province, as in other parts of India, has been organized on the Raiffeisen system which presupposes the spirit of thrift. It was expected that the members of such societies would raise capital from small savings which they would lend out among themselves. This Raiffeisen essential has been, however, largely absent and the deposits have come from persons higher in wealth and social status than the borrowers. It has been well said that "the unlimited group of thriftless persons is something which is worth nothing. Indeed it is worth less than nothing because it prevents persons of moderate substance from joining. Therefore the village bank should be selective and exclusive and confined to those who are thrifty enough and honest enough to be credit worthy". The report emphasises that it is this aspect of thrift, rather than of credit, which must be impressed and emphasised on the mind of the members of the primary society.

(The progress of <sup>the</sup> co-operative movement in the C.P. and Berar during 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 63-64 of the report of this Office for August 1936.)



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Agriculture.

Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1935-36\* +

The crops dealt with in the report under reference are: rice, wheat, sugar cane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, sesamum, castor-seed, groundnut, coffee and rubber.. The estimates for these crops in the forecasts for earlier years did not relate to all the producing areas in India, but only to those tracts where the respective crops were grown on an extensive and commercial scale. Tracts of minor importance have been added gradually. At present the estimates for cotton, wheat, castorseed (in the case of castorseed, no estimates are framed for the mixed crop of the United Provinces), and jute, as also those for tea, coffee (in the case of coffee, estimates were hitherto framed for plantations having an area of 10 acres or more; but from 1931-32 statistics of smaller plantations having an area between five and ten acres are also included), and rubber, relate to all the tracts in India where these crops are grown to any extent, excluding certain unimportant outlying tracts such as Baluchistan, Kashmir, Nepal, and Sikkim. For other crops, however, the estimates relate to all the British provinces where they are grown to any considerable extent, but exclude Indian States, except certain States in the Central Provinces, the Ram<sup>p</sup>ur State in the United Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency, Khairpur State in Sind, the States of Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda, the Bhopal State in Central

\*Dept. of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.- Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India 1935-36 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council -Delhi: Manager of Publications 1937.-Price Re. 1-4-0 or 2s. -pp.55.

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India and the Alwar and Kotah States in Rajputana in certain cases.

Rice.— The total area under rice in 1935-36 according to the returns received from tracts comprising 97 per cent of the total rice area of India, was reported as 81,841,000 acres, as compared with 82,507,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was good in Burma and fair elsewhere. The total yield was estimated at 27,902,000 tons, as ~~gat~~ against 30,238,000 tons in 1934-35. To this figure should be added about 962,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of about 2,821,000 acres), for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat.— The total area under wheat in 1935-36 according to the returns received from tracts comprising a little over 98 per cent of the total area under wheat in India, was reported to be 33,605,000 acres, which was less than the area of the preceding year by 3 per cent. The crop suffered from insufficient rain and was also adversely affected in places by frost, hailstorms, strong wind, rust, etc., but its condition was reported to be, on the whole, fairly good. The total estimated yield was 9,426,000 tons, which was 3 per cent less than the yield of 1934-35. An addition of some 151,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (having an area of about 538,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Sugarcane.— The tracts under sugarcane for which returns are available, contain a little over 96 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India. The total area reported under sugarcane in 1935-36 was 4,003,000 acres, as compared with 3,481,000 acres in the preceding year. The estimated yield amounted to 5,903,000 tons of raw sugar (gur), which exceeded the preceding year's record crop of 5,140,000 tons by 15 per cent. To this figure should be added approximately 198,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 134,000 acres), for which no separate estimates are made. The condition of the crop was reported to be good on the whole.

Tea.— According to the information so far available, the total area under tea in 1935 was 826,500 acres, as compared with 826,300 acres in the preceding year. The total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was 396,660,400 lbs., as against 400,095,600 lbs in the preceding year.

Cotton.— The total reported area under cotton was 25,994,000 acres in 1935-36, as against 23,972,000 acres in 1934-35. The condition of the crop was reported to be good. The total estimated outturn was 5,963,000 bales of 400 lbs each, as compared with 4,857,000 bales in 1934-35, or an increase of 23 per cent. The following statement compares the estimates of yield for the years 1934-35 and 1933-34 with the sum of exports and internal consumption (in thousands of bales).

	1934-35 (1000 bales)	1933-34 (1000 bales)
Exports. . . . .	3,115	3,406
Mill consumption. . . . .	2,612	2,336
Extra-factory consumption (conjectural). . . . .	750	750
Approximate crop. . . . .	6,477	6,492
Estimated in forecast . . . . .	4,857	5,108

Jute.- The total area and yield of jute in 1935 were 2,181,000 acres, and 7,215,000 bales (of 400 lbs each), which showed a decrease of 18 per cent in area and 15 per cent in yield as compared with the preceding year. The area and yield of jute in 1936 are estimated at 2,546,000 acres and 8,711,000 bales.

Linseed.- The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts (93 per cent of total area under linseed) in 1935-36 was 3,402,000 acres, as against 3,410,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 384,000 tons, as against 420,000 tons in the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 28,000 tons for other tracts (having an area of 244,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Rape and Mustard.- The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts (comprising 96 per cent of the total area under these crops) in 1935-36 was 5,268,000 acres, as against 5,338,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crops was reported to be fair. The total estimated yield was 954,000 tons, as against 900,000 tons in the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 49,000 tons in respect of other tracts (having an area of 270,000 acres), for which no reports are made.

Sesamum.- The total area under sesamum reported in 1935-36 (comprising 89 per cent of the total area under sesamum) was 5,633,000 acres, as against 5,230,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield was 461,000 tons, as against 406,000 tons in 1934-35. An addition of approximately 60,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts (containing an area of about 730,000 acres under sesamum), for which no reports are made.

Castor-seed.- The total area sown ~~in these tracts~~ in 1935-36 was estimated at 1,447,000 acres and the yield at 119,000 tons, as against 1,448,000 acres with an estimated yield of 105,000 tons last year.

Groundnut.- The total area under groundnut ~~in these tracts~~ in 1935-36 was reported to be 5,784,000 acres, which was slightly greater than that of the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield was 2,228,000 tons of nuts in shell, as against 1,884,000 tons in the preceding year.

Coffee. - The total reported area under coffee in 1934-35 was 185,700 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 32,744,100 lbs. Prior to 1931-32, statistics of plantations of less than ten acres were not taken into account; but from that year the statistics were made more complete by the inclusion of figures for plantations having an area between five and ten acres.

Rubber.- The total area under rubber in 1935 was 228,800 acres, as against 225,000 acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 48,545,000 lbs, as against 37,156,300 lbs in 1934.

(The estimates of area and yield of principal crops in India during 1934-35 were reviewed at pages 60-62 of our March 1936 report).

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Migration.

Indians in Zanzibar: Anti-Indian Legislation  
and Retaliation. +

Reference was made at pages 73-74 of the February 1937 report of this Office to the intention of the Zanzibar Government to adopt certain anti-Indian legislative measures, and the steps taken by the Government of India to protect Indian interests. On 27-5-1937 four decrees, all adverse to the interests of Zanzibar Indians, <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>to be</sup> presented to the Zanzibar Legislative Council, a nominative body. These are: the Settlement of Rights to Land Decree, the Mortgage (Settlement and Redemption Loan) Decree, the Purchase and Exportation of Cloves Decree, and the Zanzibar Land Alienation Decree.

Commenting editorially on these decrees, the Hindu of 11-5-1937 says:

Indians are not opposed to any measure calculated to improve the position of agriculturists, if there was any real need for such assistance. The data, however, on which legislation regarding moratorium and conciliation is based have been found to be inaccurate and misleading by certain inquiries instituted at the instance of the Zanzibar Government. What is still more objectionable is that Indians are threatened with ruin all along the line because transfer of landed property to Indians in the ordinary course of business ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> sought to be prevented and a European monopoly has been created in the clove trade. It is true that in regard to the last, some control by the Government is proposed to be provided for. But the Government is so entirely under the influence of European interests, that there is not much hope that such provision would materially alter the obnoxious character of the monopoly.

An emergent meeting of the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature was held on 8-5-1937 to consider the situation. Mr. Tyab Ali, a barrister practising in the Protectorate, was also present by invitation. The discussions at the meeting were confidential. It is, however, understood that the Committee came to an unanimous decision to recommend retaliation as an effective

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way of making the Protectorate Government realise the intensity of the feeling in India with regard to racial discriminatory legislation undertaken in Zanzibar. The Committee did not accept the proposal for sending a deputation to London to represent the Indian case before the Colonial Office.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-5-1937.)+

Social Programme of U.P. Interim Ministry. ✓

Reference was made at pages 81-82 of our April 1937 report to the social programme of the Bombay Interim Ministry. The following is a summary of the programme of the United Provinces interim Ministry:

Agrarian Reform and Economic Uplift. The Ministry is contemplating the examination of the amendments to be made in the Agra and Oudh Tenancy Acts. So far as the question of remissions of rent goes, temporary remissions amounting to Rs. 45 millions were granted in 1931 owing to the situation created by the unprecedented slump in prices. It might have been argued now that with the return of prices which has taken place during the last year or two justification does not exist for maintaining these remissions. It is, however, the intention of the Ministry not to touch these remissions and if they are varied it will only be as a result of normal settlement and revision operations.

Relief of Agricultural Indebtedness. The Ministry proposes to tackle the problem of rural indebtedness, first, by the establishment of banks, secondly by affording facilities for marketing, thirdly, by setting up of village debt conciliation boards and, fourthly, by providing for the compulsory registration of money-lenders. The Ministry is also considering a scheme designed to enable landlords to sell their land on a voluntary basis to tenants against an issue of Government bonds, thus enabling the tenants to become proprietors of their holdings in course of time.

Cottage Industries. The Ministry plans to encourage on a comprehensive scale the development of cottage industries in the rural areas. So far as finance is concerned, the Ministry has a scheme for an industrial credit company ready. The Industrial Credit Company will also set up a separate marketing association and the department of Industries will try and arrange for more expert advice in connexion with production and the technique of manufacture. Two cottage industries which may be encouraged on a large scale are weaving and tanning.

Co-operation. The Ministry is devoting attention to the establishment of marketing societies which will take over for disposal the produce of the cultivators and secure for them a better price and the consolidation of holdings on a wider scale than at present.

Public Health. The Ministry proposes the establishment of more and better dispensaries, the prevention of disease by establishing public health units in all districts, and the extension of child welfare and maternity benefits.

Relief of Unemployment. The Ministry hopes to solve the problem of educated unemployment, by giving effect to the recommendations of the Sapru Committee with as little delay as possible. (Vide pages 43-47 of January 1936 Report). The Ministry directs attention to the fact that action has already been taken in regard to the setting up of an Unemployment Board at Allahabad and the establishment of an Industrial colony for training young men in the commercial side of certain industries is being proceeded with. The Industrial Credit Company and the marketing associations, when started, will provide much needed facilities to young men desirous of starting new industries. (Vide pages 39-41 of our October 1936 Report.)

Re-organisation of Education. The Ministry has also plans for the stoppage of wastage in connexion with primary education so as to enable compulsory education to be introduced more rapidly and with greater success, the encouragement of the education of the depressed classes, and the stimulation of the education of girls and Muslims by grant of special facilities where necessary.

(The Leader, 9-5-1937.) +

The Social Programme of C. P. Interim Ministry. +

The Gazette Extraordinary of the Central Provinces and Berar, dated 25-5-1937 publishes in full the programme of the C.P. interim Ministry. Below are given the salient features of the programme:

Land Revenue Administration: The Ministry having regard to the recognized inequality in the pressure of rents and revenue in the different parts of the province, proposes to examine the question with special reference to the areas where the pitch of assessments is suspected to be markedly above the average, with a view to re-adjustment where necessary.

Tenancy Legislation: In regard to land tenures in the Central Provinces the problem that has most exercised the minds of those responsible for land revenue administration is the conferral of transferrable rights in land on tenants and raiyats. The Ministry will seek to find a satisfactory solution to the problem and will examine the desirability of (a) the grant of absolute occupying rights to all occupancy tenants, and (b) the conferral of power to alienate on raiyats in raiyatwari villages in the Central Provinces.

Extension of Grazing Facilities and Colonization: The Ministry will take concerted measures not only to facilitate the cultivation of land already occupied, but also to extend the area occupied by promoting colonization schemes. In connection with the former objective, the Ministry will consider the feasibility of extending the operation of Consolidation of Holdings Act. Th



The Ministry will also examine the possibility of extending the system of reserving grazing areas and preventing the further breaking up of uneconomic waste land.

Rural Indebtedness and Agricultural Finance: In the sphere of agricultural credit and rural indebtedness, the Ministry's aim will be to supplement and perfect the measures already taken in recent years. The Ministry will examine the adequacy of the scale on which taccavi loans are advanced at present and will consider the feasibility of extending it so as to provide about 15 per cent of the amount required annually to finance agricultural operations. The Ministry contemplates not only the establishment of more debt conciliation boards in order to give the benefit of their operation to parts of the province where they are needed, but also an attack on the problem of debt redemption from another angle: it will examine the possibility of introducing legislation for the setting up of permanent machinery for the reduction and liquidation of excessive debts in rural areas by the application of the principles of insolvency law to agriculturists, with suitable modifications. Further, to ensure that the borrower gets a fair deal, the control of money-lending will be tightened up by means of a system of licences and fixation of maximum rates of interest and credit limits.

Co-operative Credit: In the allied sphere of co-operative credit, the Ministry intends to find a solution of what is among the most perplexing problems of the department — land in the possession of central banks. Large areas have passed to them in default by borrowers, and the position is fraught with danger from the co-operative point of view. The Ministry will, therefore, evolve a scheme for the restoration of such land, to be followed by legislation to prohibit the involuntary acquisition of land by corporations other than land mortgage banks in future. At the same time the number of land mortgage banks will, as far as practicable, be increased so as to extend the facilities of long-term finance to the whole province.

Public Health and Medical Facilities: As regards public health and medical facilities in the province generally, the Ministry recognizes that the scope for improvement is almost unlimited. It will, therefore, direct efforts towards drawing up a plan of development and expansion of public health services and medical facilities and executing it as rapidly as the resources of the province will permit.

Education: As regards education, the Ministry will pay attention to, (i) Development of mass education, including girls' primary education and adult education, and liquidation of illiteracy, (ii) Legislative measures to transfer the control, management and administration of primary education to the State, (iii) Educational reconstruction and vocational education, including the problem of the educated unemployed, (iv) Improved facilities for the teaching of Agriculture in vernacular middle schools, (v) Establishment of more village libraries in rural areas, and (vi) Restoration of the percentage cut in maintenance grants to schools and colleges and payment of building and furniture grants withheld during the period of financial stringency.

Industrial Development and Welfare of Labour: In the sphere of industry, the Ministry attaches a great importance to the introduction of subsidiary occupations or industries in villages in order to provide the cultivator with the means of supplementing his income in the off season, and will make efforts to introduce suitable industries for this purpose. A serious handicap to the formulation of any ordered plan for the industrial development of the province is the absence of statistical data regarding the present stage of progress, and the Ministry hopes to remove this obstacle to development by putting into operation a scheme that has already been drawn up for an industrial survey of the province. The Ministry will not neglect the welfare of the industrial worker and will pay immediate attention to the solution of the problem of improving the housing conditions of labour. The Ministry will also investigate the best means for fostering the development of electric power stations in the Province with a view to supplying cheap electric power for industrial and other purposes.

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