

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR JULY 1937.

* Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.
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References to the I. L. O. ,

A communique on the speech of Mr. R.R.Bakhale at the Washington Textile Conference (issued by this Office on 10-5-1937) is published by the July 1937 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi.

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The June 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes the first instalment of a long article on the work of the Washington Textile Conference.

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The Indian Labour Journal dated 11-7-1937 publishes an article contributed by this Office on 5-6-1937 under the caption: "Washington Textile Conference: India's Interest in it."

* * *

A picture of the Indian delegation to the 23rd I.L. Conference is published by the Hindu dated 27-6-1937, the Times of India dated 5-7-1937, and the July 1937 issue of the Tisco Review, Jamshedpur. (A copy of the photo was sent to the Times of India by this Office).

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 6-7-1937 publishes a picture of Mr. W.V.R.Naidu, who attended the 23rd I.L.Conference as adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference.

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The Hindu dated 4-7-1937 publishes a picture of Mr.W.V. R.Naidu in conversation with Mr. Staal of the I.L.O.

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The July 1937 issue of the Tisco Review, Jamshedpur, publishes a picture of Mr. W.V.R.Naidu in conversation with the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 5-7-1937 publishes a picture of the 23rd I.L.Conference in session.(The photograph was sent to the Hindustan Times by this Office).

* * *

The Indian Social Reformer dated 19-6-1937 reproduces the item: "Lessons of the Slump" from I.L.O.News Bulletin No. 14(a) (June 1937).

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The Indian Social Reformer dated 19-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on the above, drawing attention to certain salient points brought out by the Director.

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The Indian Social Reformer dated 19-6-1937 publishes another editorial note on the above. The note draws attention to the remarks of the Director on social insurance, wage policy and reduction of hours of work.

* * *

The Indian Social Reformer dated 26-6-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "The Viceroy on the Constitutional Deadlock". The article, while directing attention to the several disabilities under which Provincial Ministries have to work in the new Constitution, refers to the various measures for alleviation of the distress occasioned by the slump indicated in the Director's Report to the 23rd I.L. Conference, and asserts that the new Provincial Ministries will be so handicapped financially that they will not be in a position to translate into action even one of them.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-7-1937 reproduces the item: "Spread of the Minimum Wage Principle" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(b) (June 1937).

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 21-7-1937 reproduces the item: "Reduction of Hours of Work" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(b) (June 1937).

* * *

The Indian Social Reformer dated 10-7-1937 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "Beggars or Unemployed?" It makes the following reference to the Director's Report: "The beggar problem cannot be solved by removing the sick and old to asylums. That would merely put it out of sight. It, like unemployment, is essentially a social problem as Mr. Harold Butler has pointed out prominently, as one of the lessons of the slump, in his annual report to the Labour Department of the League of Nations."

* * *

The Malabar Advocate, Trivandrum, dated 19-6-1937 publishes a Reuter's message dated 11-6-1937 from Geneva regarding the speech of Mr. S.C.Sen, the Indian workers' delegate, in the course of the debate on the Director's Report.

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A communique on the speech of Mr. Sen referred to above (issued by this Office on 23-6-1937) is published by the Leader dated 28-6-1937 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 11-7-1937.

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The Malabar Advocate, Trivandrum, dated 19-6-1937 publishes a Reuter's message dated 10-6-1937 from Geneva re. the speech of Sir H.P.Mody on the Director's Report.

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A leaflet was issued by the Employers' Federation of India, giving the text of Sir H.P.Mody's speech referred to above.

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A communique on Sir H.P.Mody's speech referred to above (issued by this Office on 24-6-1937) was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 26-6-1937; the Statesman dated 27-6-1937, ^{and} the Leader dated 30-6-1937, Excerpts from the speech were published by the July 1937 issue of the Indian Readers' Digest.

* * *

"Congress Socialist" dated 19-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The note criticises Sir Hormusji's speech stating that it "raises more questions than it succeeds in answering."

The Comrade, Calcutta, dated 26-6-1937, reproduces the opening portion of the above.

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The Hindustan Times dated 26-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on Sir Hormusji's speech drawing attention to the references made in it to the great poverty and indebtedness of the Indian masses.

* * *

The National Call dated 29-6-1937 publishes an editorial article on Sir H.P.Mody's speech in which his defence of capitalism and opposition to the move for a reduction of hours of work are criticised. The article, however, supports his demand for adequate protection being accorded to the industries of industrially backward countries, like India.

* * *

The Statesman dated 3-7-1937 publishes a long editorial article on Sir Hormusji's speech referred to above. The article supports his contention that the I.L.O. is not paying adequate attention to conditions in the East and defends the Government of India's policy in the matter of ratification of I.L.

Conventions. Reference, is also made to Mr. H.B. Butler's visit to India.

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The Leader dated 4-7-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Stop this Exploitation". The article supports the plea made at the 23rd I.L. Conference by the Indian employers' and workers' delegates for adequate protection being given to Indian industries.

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The July 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, ^{publishes} ~~of~~ an editorial comment on a communique issued by this Office on 24-6-1937 on Sir H.P. Mody's speech on the Director's Report at the last session of the I.L. Conference.

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A communique on the speech of Sir Frank Noyce on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 25-6-1937) is published by the Statesman and the National Call dated 26-6-1937 and the Hindustan Times dated 27-6-1937.

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The Leader dated 7-7-1937 publishes a short editorial note supporting Sir Frank's appeal for the appointment of more Indians in the I.L. Office.

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The Times of India dated 7-7-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Labour in India". The article defends the Government of India's policy as regards ratification of I.L. Conventions and says: "In the autumn of this year Mr. Harold Butler, Director of the Labour Office, is due to visit this country. Is it too much to hope that his examination of problems peculiar to India will bring about an orientation of Geneva's attitude and a better understanding of the difficulties under which this country labours?"

* * *

A communique on the Director's reply to the debate on his Report to the Conference (issued by this Office on 28-6-1937) is published by the Statesman dated 30-6-1937, the Hindu dated 1-7-1937 and the Leader dated 3-7-1937.

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The Hindu dated 2-7-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "The Next Depression", commenting on the above.

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A leaflet was issued by the Employers' Federation of India giving the speech of Sir H.P.Mody on the proposal of a 40-hour week for the textile industry.

The above speech was reproduced in the Statesman dated 4-7-1937, the National Call dated 6-7-1937, the Indian Labour Journal dated 27-6-1937, the Planters' Chronicle dated 24-7-1937 and the July 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal.

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A Reuter's message sent from Geneva (dated nil) regarding the speech of Mr. R.A.Butler at the 23rd I.L.Conference opposing the proposal for a 40-hour week is published by the Hindustan Times dated 14-7-1937, the Statesman dated 16-7-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 19-7-1937.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 9-7-1937 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "An Unreported Utterance". The paper endorses the view of Mr. Armstrong, the New Zealand Government's delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference, that the voice of Indian employers and Government delegates is the voice of vested interests, and not of India, and deplores the attitude of the British Government in denying publicity to Mr. Armstrong's speech.

* * *

The Leader dated 28-7-1937 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "Forty Hour Week". The note refers to the statement issued by the British Employers' delegation explaining why it opposed the proposal for a 40-hour week for the textile industry, and points out that if the 40-hour week will have such disastrous results on the oldest textile manufacturing country, its effects on a country like India, a late arrival in the field, are bound to be even more disastrous.

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A Reuter's message dated 22-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that the 23rd I.L.Conference adopted a Convention prescribing a 40-Hour Week for the textile industry, and that similar Conventions for the chemical and printing industries

failed to get the necessary majority, is published in the Hindu dated 23-6-1937, the Indian Social Reformer dated 26-6-1937 and "Federated India" dated 30-6-1937.

* * *
 The Leader dated 26-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the above, criticising the usefulness of a 40-Hour Week Convention in the textile industry.

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 The National Call dated 26-6-1937 publishes an ~~mb~~ editorial note, inspired by this Office, expressing satisfaction at the adoption of the 40-hour week Convention for the textile industry.

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 The Comrade, Calcutta, dated 3-7-1937 reproduces an editorial comment of the Tribune on the above news. The Tribune, while expressing satisfaction at the passing of the Convention re. a 40-hour week for the textile industry, expresses the fear that the Government of India may not ratify it.

* * *
 A communique on some of the resolutions before the 23rd I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 22-6-1937) is published by the Leader dated 27-6-1937 and "Commerce and Industry" dated 29-6-1937.

* * *
 The Indian Labour Journal dated 27-6-1937 publishes a summary of the general discussion in the 23rd I.L.Conference on the special provisions re. Asiatic countries made in the Minimum Age Conventions.

* * *
 The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during May 1937, publishes the views of the Association on the Partial Revision of the Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919. The Association recommended that Indian delegates should support the Convention.

* * *
 The Indian Labour Journal dated 27-6-1937 publishes a Reuter's message dated 21-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that the I.L.Conference accepted Mr. S.C.Sen's resolution regarding Burma's future relations with the I.L.O.

* * *
 The Hindu dated 24-6-1937, the Leader dated 26-6-1937

and the Indian Labour Journal dated 27-6-1937 publish a Reuter's message dated 23-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that Messrs. Erulkar and N.M.Joshi have been elected to the Governing Body.

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The Leader dated 7-7-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article contrasts the readiness with which Indians are elected to the Governing Body with the exclusion of Indians from the League Council, and asks: "Why, while Indians have been excluded from all positions of power and responsibility in the League organisation, Indians have been better recognised by the authorities of the International Labour Conference? It will be remembered that very early in its career the Conference asked Sir Atul Chatterjee to preside at its annual meeting. Is it because while on the one hand the more powerful nations are anxious to control the League organisation and to use it for their purposes, on the other they are afraid of the low standard of living of Indian masses, which they regard as a menace to the prosperity of their industry and therefore wish to popularise the Labour Conference?"

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-7-1937 publishes a long letter dated 24-6-1937 from the paper's Geneva correspondent of a review of the progress of the 23rd I.L.Conference.

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The Hindu dated 3-7-1937 publishes a Geneva letter dated 26-6-1937 from the paper's Swiss correspondent reviewing the work of the 23rd I.L.Conference.

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The Bombay Chronicle and the Hindustan Times dated 11-7-37 publish a letter dated 19-6-1937 from Geneva by a special Swiss Correspondent of the papers describing the work of the Indian delegation at the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference.

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A communique on the work of the 23rd I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 15-7-1937) is published by the following: the Statesman dated 17-7-1937, the Hindustan Times dated 18-7-1937, the Leader dated 19-7-1937, "Commerce and Industry" dated 20-7-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 28-7-1937.

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The Comrade, Calcutta, dated 26-6-1937 gives the personnel of the Indian delegation which attended the 23rd I.L.Conference.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-7-1937 reproduces an article contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey under the caption: "Paid Holidays and the Shorter Working Week: Why the Movement is growing", to "Industrial News" (Br. T.U.C.). (Copies of the article were sent to this and a few other journals by this Office).

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 21-7-1937 publishes the views of the Taxi Drivers' Union, Bombay, on the I.L.Convention re. holidays with pay.

* * *

The Leader dated 24_7-1937 publishes a news item to the effect that the Government of India has addressed a circular letter to the Provincial Governments on the subject of holidays with pay. The Central Government has suggested that special consideration should be given to the case of those workers in factories who, on account of being employed on continuous processes ~~if~~ or for other reasons, have to be deprived by exemptions of the benefits of the Factories Act relating to weekly holidays. Most provinces in giving such exemptions insist on fortnightly holidays, but even when this condition is imposed, the worker loses at least two rest days in every month. The Central Government is inclined to the view that a statutory provision in the Factories Act for a limited number of paid holidays in such cases would be reasonable and practicable. This would ensure to the worker the opportunity of recuperation which his more continuous work renders necessary and would afford in a particularly appropriate form compensation for the deprivation of the regular rest-day.

The information is published by the other papers and the June 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette.

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The July 1937 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes the views of the Committee of the Chamber on the International Labour Convention re. annual holidays with pay for seamen. The Committee informed the Government that it was not in favour of ratifying the Convention.

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The Hindu dated 17-7-1937 publishes the views of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce on the International Labour Convention re. holidays with pay for seamen. The Chamber recommended non-ratification of the Convention.

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The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during June 1937 publishes the Chamber's views on the question of holidays with pay for seamen. The Chamber is opposed to the proposal.

* * *

The Hindu dated 29-6-1937 publishes a Geneva letter dated 19-6-1937 from its Swiss correspondent in which reference is made to the monument unveiled at Geneva to the memory of the late M. Albert Thomas.

* * *

The Leader dated 28-7-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the late M. Albert Thomas. The article, after paying a warm tribute to the late Director, makes the charge that the high traditions set up by him are not being now followed by the I.L.O. It observes:

"His death was a great loss to the cause for which Geneva stands, and we are not quite sure that the traditions founded by him are being maintained. For instance, it appears from a letter in the Journal de Geneve that at the last session of the Labour Conference some members of the I.L.O. staff canvassed for votes in favour of the 40-hour convention, and that the matter reached so far that the vice-president of the Conference had to complain that some of the staff had engaged in activities which many thought to be entirely inappropriate."

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The Hindustan Times dated 2-7-1937 publishes a statement made by some of the Indian delegates to the 2nd session of the Asiatic Labour Congress recently held at Tokyo. In the course of the statement, references are made to the assistance given by the Tokyo Branch of the I.L.O. to the delegates and the resolutions passed at the Congress referring to the work of the I.L.O.

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The Hindu dated 5-7-1937 publishes an Associated Press message setting forth the impressions of the Indian delegates to the second session of the Asiatic Labour Congress held recently at Tokio, about the work of the Congress, and about conditions of labour in Japan.

* * *

An Associated Press message regarding the work accomplished at the second session of the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Tokio is published by the Bombay Chronicle dated 15-7-1937, the Leader and the National Call dated 17-7-1937, and the Hindustan Times dated 18-7-1937. The Union Herald, Bombay, dated 16-7-1937 publishes a summary of the message.

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The Hindu dated 15-7-1937 publishes a summary of the resolutions passed at the second Asiatic Labour Congress.

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The Servant of India dated 22-7-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the 2nd session of the Asiatic Labour Congress held recently at Tokyo. In the course of the note, references are made to the resolutions dealing with the work of the I.L.O. adopted by the Conference.

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The Hindu dated 1-7-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Industrialisation of Afghanistan: Regulation of Conditions in Factories", contributed by this Office. The article is based on a note on the subject published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 24-5-1937.

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The June 1937 issue of the Indian Readers' Digest, Bombay, publishes the reproduction of an article contributed by this Office to the Indian press under the caption: "Trade Unions and the Co-operative Movement in the U.S.A.: A Lesson to India". The article is based on notes published in "Co-operative Information". In the course of the article, reference is made to the interest of the I.L.O. in the Co-operative Movement.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 26-6-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "The Problem of Nutrition" contributed by this Office. References are made in the course of the article to the interest taken by the I.L.O. in nutrition problems.

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The May 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on "Trade Unionism in China" published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 26-4-1937.

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The May 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette reproduces the

note: "China and Unemployment" published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 29-3-1937.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 14-7-1937 publishes an article on "Factory Law in China" by Tien-Tsung Sih. In the course of the article reference is made to the help extended by the I.L.O. in shaping the existing factory legislation of China.

* * *

The Hindu dated 18-7-1937 publishes an article on "Unemployment Relief: Scheme to collect Employment Statistics" by Mr. P.R. Ram Chandra Rao. In the course of the article, attention is drawn to the unemployment statistics for different countries published by the I.L.O.

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The National Call dated 19-7-1937 publishes an editorial article (inspired by this Office) under the caption "Unemployment Insurance Bill: Punjab Cabinet's Obstructionist Policy." In the article references are made to the interest taken by the I.L.O. in popularising unemployment insurance schemes.

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The Times of India dated 26-6-1937 publishes a British Official Wireless message dated 26-6-1937 from London to the effect that the British Minister for Labour in the course of a statement in the Commons declared that his Government's policy has always been actuated by sympathy for the I.L.O. and I.L. Conventions.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 6-7-1937 publishes a report of the meeting of the All India Railwaymen's Federation at Simla on 4-7-1937. The Hon. Mr. Jammadas Mehta expressed regret that the Government has not as yet fully implemented the I.L. Convention re. Hours of work which it has ratified. (Report of the meeting was published in most of the Indian papers).

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 1-7-1937 publishes an article under the heading "Down with Forced Labour", contributed by Mr. S. Das. In the course of the article references are made to the action taken by the Government of India on the I.L. Convention re. forced labour.

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The Statesman dated 26-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the references made to forced labour in the presidential speech of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya at the Orissa States Peoples' Conference held recently. The note urges the abolition of forced labour in Indian States.

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A communique on the world unemployment statistics for the first quarter of 1937 (issued by this Office on 1-5-1937) is published by the May 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

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The Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1936 contains the following references to the I.L.O.

- (a) At pages 50-51 is published the views of the Association on the grant of holidays with pay which ~~20th session of the~~ figured as an item on the agenda of the 19th and 20th sessions of the I.L.Conference.
- (b) At pages 51-52 are published the views of the Association on the question of the reduction of hours of work in the textile industry.
- (c) At page 93 is published a note to the effect that, on a reference from the Employers' Federation of India, the Committee supported the suggestion that Sir H.P.Mody be nominated to represent Indian employers at the 23rd Session of the I.L.Conference.

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The Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1936 contains the following references to the I.L.O.:

- (a) At pages 40-41 are published the items on the agenda of the 23rd I.L.Conference and the recommendation of the Association regarding the nomination of the Indian employers' delegate to the Conference.
- (b) At page 41 are published the items on the agenda of the 21st (Maritime) Session of the I.L.Conference and the recommendation of the Association regarding the nomination of the Indian employers' delegate to the Conference.

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A message from Berlin sent by Air Mail to the United Press of India of extracts from the speech of Mr. G.L.Mehta on economic nationalism in India at the Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce is published by the Hindu dated 17-7-1937, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 20-7-1937 and the Hindustan Times dated 28-7-1937. In the course of the speech, references are

made to the report of the Director to the last I.L.Conference.

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The Leader dated 24-7-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the above. In the course of the note, reference is made to Mr. G.L.Mehta having been a member of the Indian delegation to this year's session of the International Labour Conference.

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A communique reviewing the I.L.O. publication: "Co-operative Movement and Better Nutrition" (issued by this Office on 19-3-1937) is published by the April 1937 issue of the B. and O. Cooperative Journal.

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The Servant of India dated 8-7-1937 publishes a review (contributed by a member of the staff of this Office) of the book "I.L.O.:The Unregarded Revolution" by Kathleen Gibberd.

The Hindustan Times dated 12-7-1937 publishes a review (inspired by this Office) of the above publication.

The Indian Labour Journal dated 11-7-1937 also publishes a review (inspired by this Office) of the above publication.

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The Hindu dated 15-7-1937 publishes a life sketch of the Hon'ble Mr. V.V.Giri, Labour and Industries Minister, Madras. In the course of the sketch, it is pointed out that Mr.Giri had represented Indian workers at the I.L.Conference.

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The Indian Labour Journal dated 18-7-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Mr. Giri: The Friend and Champion of Labour". In the course of the article, it is pointed out that in 1927, Mr. Giri represented the Indian workers at the I.L. Conference.

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The June 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a summary of the report of the British Ministry of Labour for 1936. It is pointed out that the Ministry collaborated with the I.L.O. in the various sessions of the I.L.Conference and of the Governing Body held during 1936.

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The Hindu dated 25-7-1937 publishes a news item regarding the autumn session of the Central Assembly. Reference is made to the efforts that are likely to be made to hasten the progress of the Trade Disputes Bill in view of Mr. N.^M.Joshi having to

attend the Prague Session of the Governing Body.

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The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them (The list is compiled only from newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses).

1. The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-7-1937 reproduces the item: "Spread of the Minimum Wage Principle" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(b) (June 1937).

2. The Indian Social Reformer dated 19-6-1937 reproduces the item: "Lessons of the Slump" from the I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(a) (June 1937).

3. The Bombay Chronicle dated 21-7-1937 reproduces the item: "Reduction of Hours of Work" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 14(b) (June 1937).

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

1. A picture of Mr. W.V.R.Naidu in conversation with Mr. Staal (source unknown).

2. A picture of Mr. Naidu in conversation with the Secretary General of the League of Nations (source unknown).

3. Sir H.P.Mody's speech at the 23rd I.L.Conference on the proposal of a 40-hour week for the textile industry.(source unknown).

4. A Geneva Letter dated 24-6-1937 (published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-7-1937) re. the 23rd I.L.Conference.

5. A Geneva Letter dated 26-6-1937 (published in the Hindu dated 3-7-1937) re. the 23rd I.L.Conference.

6. A B.O.W. message dated 26-6-1937 re. the Statement of the British Minister for Labour in the Commons, affirming the Government's policy of co-operation and sympathy with the I.L.O.

7. A Reuter's message (undated) from Geneva re. the speech of Mr. R.A.Butler at the 23rd I.L.Conference on the proposal for a 40-hour week.

8. A Geneva Letter dated 19-6-1937 (published in the Bombay Chronicle and the Hindustan Times dated 11-7-1937) re. the 23rd I.L.Conference.

9. An air mail message from Berlin re. Mr. G.L.Mehta's speech on economic nationalism at the last meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce (source and date not known). +

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Ratifications.Holidays with Pay for Seamen: Views of
Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, and
S.I. Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

The I.L. Convention re. holidays with pay for seamen has been circulated by the Government of India among the interests concerned in order to elicit their views on the question of ratification of the Convention by India. The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, has informed the Government that it is not in favour of India ratifying the Convention even though the Chamber sympathised with the demand for such holidays. The Committee is further of opinion that such questions should be dealt with by national collective agreements, the usual method by which such questions are dealt with in other countries, that Government should take early steps to establish a National Maritime Board representing both shipowners and seamen to which questions connected with conditions of work of seamen should be referred, that in any case India should not ratify the Convention till the leading maritime countries had ratified the same, and that the objects underlying the Convention should be left to be achieved in due course.

(Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber,
Bombay, July 1937).

The South Indian Chamber of Commerce, Madras, has intimated the Government that its view is that the Draft Convention should not be ratified by India and that grievances of seamen in this matter might be handled "in the normal way, if necessary, by an all-India board of representatives of the different interests" concerned. If the coastal trade of - - - - -

India, the Chamber states in the course of its communication, were restricted to vessels registered in India, there would be some justification for adopting the Convention. As matters stand at present, there is severe foreign competition and there is no certainty that those competing countries would adopt the Convention. Further, it points out that the present agreements of service with masters, officers, wireless operators and members of the crew of ships were generally for periods shorter than the minimum suggested in the Convention.

(The Hindu, 17-7-1937).

National Labour Legislation.Review of Labour Legislation in India during 1933-1937.Government of India publishes Bulletin.

A review of the labour legislation undertaken in the years, following the report of the Royal Commission on Labour, which was published in 1931, is issued on 30-7-1937 as a bulletin by the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India. The Review describes briefly the various central and provincial enactments based on the recommendations of the Whitley Commission, and just the amount of background necessary is given to show the need for each measure. For convenience the different legislation is split up under such headings as factories, housing and health, indebtedness, industrial disputes, mines, payment of wages and workmen's compensation. The period covered by the bulletin, January 1933 to April 1937 (on the latter date the constitutional reforms came into operation) saw the carrying out of the most of the extensive programme recommended by the Whitley Commission. The bulletin indicates the decisions taken and the results achieved in respect of all those recommendations of the Commission which involved legislation. To complete the picture, particulars are also given of the few labour measures adopted which did not arise out of the Commission's proposals.

Factory Reform: Discussing the Factories Act it is pointed out that the Government of India introduced a Bill in 1933, embodying most of the recommendations of the Commission on this subject, and that this was passed into law in 1934. Many important changes were introduced in the 1934 Act affecting the hours of work in perennial and seasonal factories, and of men, women and children, power being taken to extend the Act to small establishments. Hours during which workers, below the age of 15 could be employed were reduced, and general restrictions were made on the employment of women, children and adolescents. In addition, there were other

helpful innovations of a minor nature, such as imposing the obligation to provide first-aid boxes, supplies of drinking water for workers dealing with harmful substances and washbasins in factories where 50 or more women were employed.

Housing and Health: Attention was also drawn by the Royal Commission to the question of housing and health. This resulted in the introduction in 1932 of a Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act, which was passed the following year. This measure made it possible for manufacturers and others to secure land sufficient not merely for the workmen's dwelling houses but also for the provision of amenities connected with housing. Action has also been taken upon these recommendations by certain provinces, which have also passed legislation on such questions as public health and adulteration of foods.

Indebtedness of Workers: The problem of indebtedness of workers was dealt with not only by the Labour Commission, but also by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and by the Central and Provincial Banking Inquiry Committees. As a result, a large number of measures, some of them radical in character, have been passed for the protection of rural debtors, were passed between 1933 and 1936, while over a dozen more such Bills are still under consideration.

One of the most recent measures was an amendment in the Civil Procedure Code passed in the Legislative Assembly in February of this year, exempting from attachment and sale of property, movable property worth Rs. 100 a month. There has been also the Act of 1936 preventing imprisonment of debtors, other than those proved to be defaulters or fraudulent. Similar measures have also been passed in Bengal and the Central Provinces against intimidation and molestation by money-lenders.

Trade Disputes: Regarding trade disputes legislation, that part of the Commission's Report dealing with the necessity for conciliation is quoted. This is followed by a summary of the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1935, which is at present under consideration, and which meets the points raised by the Commission.

Conditions in Mines: The Commission made definite recommendations in respect of mines which resulted in important legislation, fixing, among other things, the daily limit of labour below ground at nine hours. This has been followed, as a result of the growing danger from fires in the main coalfields, by a special Act in 1935, giving power to make temporary regulations for safety, without previous notice or publication. On top of this has come the recent Report of the Coal Mining Committee, which has made other far-reaching recommendations.

Payment of Wages: One of the most important enactments has been the Payment of Wages Act of 1936. The Labour Commission came to certain conclusions about the regulation of fines and deductions from wages, the regulation of recruiting advances, delays in payment of wages and periods of wage-payment. The Bill passed by the Assembly prohibits the fining of children and implements other recommendations, such as prohibiting payment in kind and regulating fines. A further measure amending the payment of wages Act was

passed in March of this year, enabling employers to withhold pay of workmen who although present, were actually refused to work; in other words it covers "absay-in" strikes.

Recruitment for Assam Plantations. Another piece of legislation which has proved a marked step forward has been that dealing with the recruitment of labour for the tea plantations in Assam. This legislation has now been in force for three years, and has resulted in the abolition of certain abuses and general improvement in the conditions of labour.

Conditions in Workshops: One aspect of the Labour Commission's Report, it is noted, has yet to be implemented, namely, that section dealing with workshops. It is remarked that no all-India legislation as distinct from the Factories' Acts had yet been undertaken to deal with workshops, though private Bills had been introduced in one or two Provincial Legislatures. In this connexion steps for the regulation of workshops are under consideration of the Government, which placed the matter before the 1935 Industrial Conference.

Other Enactments: Progress is also described in respect of legislation applicable to workmen's compensation, to maternity benefit, to child labour, and in respect of children and women.

(A copy of the Bulletin is being sent to Genl.)

The Draft Central Provinces Unregulated Factories
Rules, 1937. +

Reference was made at page 18 of our February 1937 Report to the Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Act, 1937. The C.P. Government has now published at pages 1710 -1724 of Part III of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 9-7-1937 the draft of Rules, applicable to the Central Provinces, which the Government proposes making under the Act.

The Draft of Rules under the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937, applicable to Berar, is published at pages 1725 to 1739 of Part III of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 9-7-1937. +

Lanywa Oil Mine Regulations: Government Notification
Incorporating it in the Indian Oil Mines Regulation. +

Attention is directed to page 1332 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 10-7-1937 where the Department of Industries and Labour has published a Draft Notification (No.M-1028 dated 8-7-1937) ~~and~~ cancelling the Lanywa Oil Mine Regulations, 1933, and the draft of certain consequential amendments to the Indian Oil Mines Regulations which it proposes to introduce, by which the Regulations will be made applicable to the Lanywa Oil Mine. +

Supplementary Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1937. +

The Department of Industries and Labour has published at pages 1333-1334 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 10-7-1937 certain temporary regulations for coal mines with a view to prevent apprehended danger or to devise speedy remedy of conditions likely to cause danger. The Regulations relate to the working of mechanical ventilators, inspection of unused workings for inflammable gas, prohibition of workers carrying matches, smoking apparatus, etc., and testing of safety lamps. +

Trade Union Legislation for Mysore:

State to Introduce Legislation. +

During the Budget Session of the Mysore Legislative Council which concluded on 3-7-1937, a cut motion on the grant under 'Industries and Commerce' was moved on the last day of the session by Mr. T. Ramachandra to ~~request the Government to~~ direct attention to the need to introduce, at an early date, legislation for the statutory registration and regulation of Trade Unions in the State. In moving the cut, Mr. Ramachandra stressed the advantages of, and necessity for, healthy trade unions.

Mr. S. G. Sastri (Director of Industries and Commerce) said that as early as 1926, the Government of Mysore appointed a Committee to go into the matter and a bill was actually drafted. In the meanwhile, the Royal Commission on Labour in British India

came into being and the Mysore Government decided that they should await the recommendations of this Commission. After the publication of the Commission's report, the matter was taken up by the Board of Industries and Commerce. Recently the Board appointed a Sub-Committee to go into the question and the views of mill-owners, big employers, labour unions and leaders of labour were invited. The general opinion seemed to be that it was better to wait and see how the several labour regulations recently passed by the Government, viz., the ^{Mysore} Maternity Benefit Regulation, ^{the Mysore} Workmen's Compensation Regulation and the Mysore Factories Regulation worked. The Government, Mr. Sastri said, were of the view that it was desirable to pass Trade Union legislation, but they felt they could wait a little, in view of the conditions prevailing in the State at present.

On this assurance the cut motion was withdrawn.

(The Hindu, 4-7-1937.) ✓

Poisoning by Nitrous Fumes classed as Occupational
Disease: Punjab Government Notification.

The Punjab Government has published at page 977 of Part I of the Punjab Gazette dated 23-7-1937, the draft of a notification (No.3072-I. S. L.-37/27113 dated 21-7-1937) proposing to add to Schedule III to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, poisoning by nitrous fumes as an occupational disease. Compensation will have to be paid for disease contracted in any process involving exposure to nitrous fumes when pathological conditions of respiratory system manifest themselves within 48 hours; also when any subsequent pathological conditions of respiratory system and/or heart follow consequently thereon.

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Conditions of Labour. +

Industrial Disputes in British India, 1926-1935;
Government of India, Railways and other Public Works. +

A Review of industrial disputes in India during the years 1926-35, including a showing the trend of the disputes, is published on 2-3-1937 in a bulletin by the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India. The salient features of the review are given below:

Reaction in India to Disruptive Labour Legislation.—According to the Department of the Royal Commission on Labour, which published its Report in July, 1931, it is deemed that the recommendations of the Commission had begun to have practical effect. Since 1926, 10 outstanding measures of labour legislation had, in addition to minor ones, been undertaken by the Central Government, which, it is felt, must have had considerable psychological and social effect in quietening industrial scenes. In view of this Indian labour leader, it is suggested, at least as a goal, not to feel that the strike-weapon—and the general strike in particular—was unlikely to achieve more for the worker than could be attained by an atmosphere of peace in industry, and a cooperation with official efforts to improve conditions.

Effect of Fall in Cost of Living. A second factor contributing to the reduction of disputes, according to the review, is to be found in the substantial decline in the cost of living throughout this period, coupled with a rise of 'real' wages, resulting from the inevitable time lag and other causes. In Bombay, the cost of living index number, based on 100 in July 1914, fell from 149 in January, 1932, to 103 in January 1935. A fall of 28 per cent occurred at Ahmedabad in the same period and figures available for Nagpur, from January, 1932, suggest that a similar fall occurred there. These figures, of course, make no allowance for any rise in the standard of living since the year in which the basic index figure was adopted, but a special inquiry, conducted by the Bombay Labour Office in 1934 showed that in the Bombay cotton textile industry real wages were 11 per cent higher in April, 1934, than in July, 1932. The industrial depression, which set in early in 1931, acted, with the rise in the value of real wages, to reduce the attractiveness or necessity of resorting to strikes. Not only was the worker on the whole materially better off, even if his money wages were slightly reduced from their highest level, but he realized that by striking he risked losing employment anywhere, since the demand for workers was so greatly reduced.

Change of Composition. During the eight years under review, marked reduction in the activities of extremist leaders is also

noticed. This is attributed, to a certain extent, to the effect of measures taken by the Government to suppress anarchistic incidents and to intimidation or violence.

Review of Strikes: The Bulletin reviews briefly the outstanding strikes occurring in the last eight years, giving their main features. The year 1922, during which the number of disputes and of working days lost was quite normal in comparison with the succeeding years, has been included in the table of the period under review in order to demonstrate the definite decrease in the number of disputes and days lost in the last eight years.

Working of the Trade Disputes Act: A useful survey of the working of the Trade Disputes Act is also made, giving details of the five occasions on which the machinery of this Act has been invoked. It is noted in connexion with the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act of 1924 that labour disputes in that district have, since its introduction, been comparatively unimportant. This result is attributed mainly to the work of labour officers in promoting harmony between workers and employers.

Statistical Information: The Bulletin contains numerous tables, giving such details as the number of disputes in which settlement was reached by conciliation, arbitration, and other means in a concise form, and also other statistics of value. The introduction points out that the Bulletin has been prepared in the hope that it will be of assistance to those interested in labour questions in India or engaged in the economic study of industrial conditions.

(A copy of the Bulletin is being forwarded to Geneva.) *

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Whitley Commission Recommendations:

Action taken by Millowners' Association, Bombay. +

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, submitted in June 1937 a statement to the Bombay Government setting forth the action taken since June 1936 by its member mills to implement various recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour. A summary of the Association statement is given below:

(1) Recommendation No. 2 (a) Jobbers should be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour (page 24 of Whitley Report): Scrutiny into Dismissals: Cases of dismissal by jobbers had been greatly diminished. In all proved cases of unfair dismissals reported to the Association's Labour Officer, the workers were either reinstated or compensated, and disciplinary punishment was generally meted out to the jobbers concerned. The result, it is pointed out, is that the number of unfair dismissals had been reduced to negligible proportions in member mills, and it was felt that it would be only a matter of time before unfair dismissal cases had disappeared altogether from the Labour Officers' records.

Badli Control System: The badli (substitute) control system, introduced during the year 1936, was working fairly well in the majority of the mills. The Labour and Technical Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee of the Association closely examined the monthly badli returns submitted by each mill, and where the system did not appear to be working satisfactorily, the fact was brought to the notice of the agents of the mills concerned. During the year, the Association appointed an assistant to the Labour Officer whose first duty was to put the badli control system into successful operation in all mills. As a result of his efforts, many mills, which had been employing consistently larger numbers of badlis than were actually necessary, had succeeded in reducing the turnover of substitute labour. With a more efficient working of the badli control system, the power of the jobbers ~~for~~ engagement, it is stated, would be effectively curtailed.

Direct Engagement Experiment: A detailed experiment of a system of direct engagement eliminating the jobber completely from engagement was ~~being~~ carried out in a member mill under the direct control of the Association's Labour Officer. The experiment had proved a success, and as a result of the experience gained, special instructions had been sent round to all member mills to maintain registers of the badli workers in each department. This enabled a ready and effective check on the day to day attendance of all substitutes and assisted in preventing the employment of new badlis when regular badlis were available. The new procedure also facilitated supervision of the badli control scheme by the heads of departments and by managers.

(2) Recommendation No. 2(d). Employers' Associations in co-operation with trade unions should adopt a common policy to stamp out bribery. (page 25): The action taken by the Association to eradicate bribery and corruption was summarised at pages 23-24 of our June 1937 report.

(3) Recommendation No.4. Workers should be encouraged to apply for definite periods of leave and should go with a promise that on their return at the proper time they will be able to resume their old work. (page 26): A defect of the old system was that leave applications were presented at irregular intervals and this caused a great deal of inconvenience in filling the vacancies. That ~~difficult~~ difficulty had been overcome by recommending mills to receive leave applications for long leave and for non-urgent purposes only twice a week. It had also been recommended that the workers should put in their applications three days before they desired to go on leave. In all cases of urgent leave, however, this previous notice might be waived and the mill managers had full discretion to grant urgent leave at any time. A further difficulty in the way of workers wanting leave for more than two months, which was the longest period for which leave could be granted under the old standing orders, had been removed. The mill manager had been given power to grant leave for any period. This reform, it was thought, was particularly necessary in the case of workers coming from long distances.

(4) Recommendation No. 3. The textile industries should endeavour to secure apprentices with a preliminary education (page 30): Individual mills had agreed to take up a few educated youths selected under a scheme drawn up by the Director of Industries and to give them full facilities for getting practical training. They had also agreed to pay them a small wage. The scheme is expected to come into operation during the year.

(5) Recommendation No. 37. The provision of shelter for rest and refreshment is in many cases necessary and the possibilities of workers' canteens should be examined with a view to their wider adoption. (page 65-7): Although the rest places provided by the mills were not fully utilised by the operatives, the canteens and restaurants, started by the mill managements themselves on a non-profit basis, had proved a signal success. A greater supervision by the management of the quality of the food supplied by tea contractors in mills, where the restaurants were being run by outsiders, had also helped to improve the quality of refreshments supplied to the workpeople. Following a recommendation by the Association, a further facility was being given to the workpeople in that tea and refreshments were being served to the workers at their machines in most mills.

(6) Recommendation No. 177. Every effort should be made to put into operation a policy of standardized wages in the Bombay Cotton Mills (page 215): On the suggestion of the Government Labour Officer, a few additions had been made to the original list adopted in 1934 for which a minimum scale of wage had been fixed. The scope for increasing the number of occupations with minimum wages was, however, limited, as there were practically no

occupations left in which a substantial number of workers were employed in each mill and where the duties attached to the occupations were the same in different mills.

As far as piece workers were concerned, the Association's tentative policy to aim at the prevention of low earnings in preference to the equalisation of rates was being followed up. Efforts were consistently being made to raise the earnings in mills where they were uniformly low, and at the same time to ensure, where wages were high, that no reductions were made unless very special reasons existed. A recommendation was sent out to all member mills in Bombay in 1936 suggesting that no changes in the rates of wages of either time workers or piece-workers should be effected without previous intimation to the Association and without due notice to the workers. The recommendation also stated that the rates of wages fixed for new sorts in weaving should ensure earnings corresponding to those being obtained in similar sorts. It was further pointed out that the Labour and Technical Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee of the Association were at the moment examining the 1929 standardization scheme as far as weaving rates were concerned with a view to ascertain whether the scheme could be modified to suit the present-day conditions or whether it should be entirely scrapped. If the scheme was to be scrapped, the Sub-Committee would be asked to formulate another scheme as an alternative to the standardization scheme of 1929.

(7) Recommendation No. 205. There should be a more general extension on the part of the employer of welfare work in its broader sense (page 260): The Association and individual mills had continued to give their full support to the extension of welfare work in its broader sense. The Association welcomed the progress made in establishing co-operative credit societies in the mills — the number at present being 41 spread over 24 mills in City and Island, they made it clear that the aim of co-operative societies should not be merely to make borrowings easy, but to encourage thrift and help to free the people from the clutches of usurious money-lenders. The debt redemption work carried out in certain mills had been praiseworthy. The Association also made progress with a scheme for increasing the recreational facilities available to mill hands.

(8) Recommendation No. 257. Every employers' organization should set up a special committee for the purpose of giving continuous consideration to the improvement of the well-being and efficiency of the workers in establishments controlled by its members. (page 317): The Labour and Technical Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee of the Association had been closely examining all problems relating to labour's welfare and efficiency. The Sub-Committee met at least once a month and their recommendations were usually adopted by the Association. The appointment of an Assistant to the Association's Labour Officer and the increased activity of the Technical Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee had enabled the Association to devote more time and thought to welfare and labour efficiency problems than ever before.

(9) Recommendation No. 344. The possibilities of experimental work with a view to discovering means of improving output and efficiency should be considered by large individual employers and by associations of employers. (page 449): Efficiency systems, of which the objectives were to improve individual output and earnings, were being steadily introduced in various mills, and satisfactory progress had been made during the last twelve months. According to the information collected by the Association at the end of 1936, 55% of the total number of spindles in Bombay mills were working on efficiency systems as against 53% in August 1934. Efficiency systems had also been introduced in the subsidiary departments in the spinning section, namely, blow-room, drawing frames and roving frames. The number of looms on efficiency systems was about 28% of the total number of looms working on day shift. This figure included the looms on the three-loom system, the four-loom system and the six-loom system.

In addition to the action taken on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour in India, the Committee have drawn the attention of Government to several reforms which had been recommended by the Association for the welfare of the workpeople employed in Bombay Mills. Particular reference was made to the following subjects:- (1) prompt payment of unclaimed wages; (2) payment of time workers on a monthly basis, instead of on a basis of the days actually worked in the month; (3) ticket system for piece workers; (4) publication of rates and yardage expected per day on weavers' tally boards; (5) payment of earned wages before pay-day to persons discharged or going on leave; (6) grant of service certificates to assist retrenched workers to obtain fresh employment; and (7) arrangements regarding payment of maternity benefits.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during June 1937.) *

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Legislation re. Trade Unions and Trade

Disputes in Baroda State: Government appoints Committee . .

The Government of the Baroda State has recently appointed a committee consisting of Mr. S. A. Budhalkar (Legal Remembrancer) as President, and Mr. A. B. Pandey, (Director of Commerce, Industries and Labour), Mr. Girdharlal Parikh (representative of millowners) and Mr. Rasul Khan Pathan (representative of labour) as members, for regulating Trade Unions in the State and to advise the Government about the measures to be adopted for the prompt settlement of labour disputes in the State. The appointment of the committee is in pursuance of the Government's policy of bringing about friendly relations between labour and capital, and thus preventing trade disputes which have recently become very frequent in the State.

(The Statesman, 1-7-1937.) +

Provincial Labour Legislation:

Meeting under A.I.T.U.C. auspices appoints Committee
to draft Bills. +

At a Conference of various labour representatives elected to the Indian legislative bodies held recently on the initiative of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the following decisions were taken: A Committee, consisting of Mr. R. S. Ruikar (Nagpur), Mr. Kalappa, M.L.A., (Secretary, B.N.Ry. Union, Nagpur) and Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar, M.L.A. (Madras), was appointed to draft labour Bills for introduction in provincial Legislative Assemblies and

to pilot these Bills in the Assemblies. The Conference has directed the Committee to prepare Bills on the following subjects (~~arranged in order of importance~~): unemployment relief; minimum wage; security of service; old age pensions and sickness insurance; maternity benefits; leave with pay; right of access to Trade Union officials and labour legislators to all workers' houses; recognition of Trade Unions; repeal of anti-working-class laws; eight-hour day; housing; sanitary arrangements and water-supply; and other suitable amendments to the Factory Act.

The committee will also co-ordinate all parliamentary activities of all members on matters affecting labour through labour groups formed in every Provincial Assembly.

The Conference appealed to the Trade Union Congress, the National Trades Union Federation, the Indian National Congress and other organisations to carry on mass agitation in support of labour legislation and called upon all labour legislators actively to participate in the same.

(The Hindu 2-7-1937.) +

Control of 'Badlis' in Bombay Textile Mills:

Scheme of the Millowners' Association, B o m b a y. +

According to a communiqué recently issued by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, the Association has devised a system for controlling 'badlis' (substitutes). The scheme provides for the issue on the first of every month of "badli cards"; holders of these cards are expected to be present for employment at the mill every morning, and preference is given to them for any temporary vacancies. As a result, substitute workers have been enabled to

obtain very much fuller and more regular employment than formerly, and the efficient and regular among them ~~are now the source of~~ filling permanent vacancies. The communiqué adds that the system has brought about an increase in the efficiency of substitute labour.

(The Times of India, 30-6-1937.)

Hours of Work in Jute Mills:

Working Time Agreements in 1936.

At pages 28 to 30 of our report for June 1936 was given a summary of the decisions taken during 1935 by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, in respect of curtailment of hours of work in jute mills. A brief review of the measures relating to hours in force in jute mills, during 1936, is given below:

Agreements in force in 1936: From the point of view of the regulations governing hours and conditions of work in mills in the membership of the Association, the year under review divided itself into two periods. From the beginning of the year up to 31-3-1936 the Association's Working Time Agreement of 6-10-1931 as amended in April 1934 and January 1935, and the arrangement between the Association and the outside mills dating from January 1933, continued in operation. During 1935, however, notice of termination of both these agreements were given (vide page 29 of our June 1936 report). As a consequence, during the second period, that is from 1-4-1936 until the end of the year, "outside mills" worked untrammelled by any restrictive agreement, while Association mills worked in accordance with the terms of a new agreement which was adopted at the special general meeting held on 30-12-1935.

Working Arrangements from 1-1-1936 to 31-3-1936: (1) Machinery: During this period some of the Association mills and the five "outside mills" continued to work as in previous years, with their full complement of machinery.

The other Association mills had, by the terms of the Association's Working Time Agreement, worked throughout 1932, 1933 and the greater part of 1934 with 15% of their total looms closed down under seal. Beginning from November 1934, however, and continuing throughout 1935, they had pursued a policy of gradually increasing production by the unsealing of small percentages of their looms with the result that, when the year commenced, only

5% of their total complement of looms remained under seal. This remaining 5% was released from seal on 17-2-1936.

(2) Hours of Work: With the exception of Premchand Mill — which worked under the agreement on precisely the same conditions as applied to the "outside mills" — all the mills in the membership of the Association continued to work, as they had done throughout the currency of the agreement, forty hours per week. Premchand Mill in accordance with the privilege referred to, was permitted to increase its production to an extent proportionate to the increase which the Association mills derived from putting into operation looms which had previously been sealed. When the Association mills unsealed the remaining 5% of their looms on 17-2-1936 Premchand Mill did not increase its hours of work.

As regards the "outside mills", the position at the beginning of 1936 was that the Adamjee and Ludlow Mills were working 60 hours 20 minutes per week; Shree Hanuman Mill was working 60 hours 15 minutes per week; Agarpara was working only 54 hours per week; and Gagalbhai was working 12 hours per day on six days of the week in order to make up extra time which it had become entitled to but had not worked during the previous year. On the remaining 5% of the Association mills' looms being unsealed on 17-2-1936 these "outside mills" were entitled to increase their hours of work to 63 hours 30 minutes per week, but none of them did so. They continued to work approximately the hours mentioned above until 31-3-1936.

(3) Inspection: Under the terms of arrangement with "outside mills", the outside mills were at liberty to exercise the option of inspection — with reference to productive machinery and hours of work — by the Association's staff of Inspectors or by the Factory Inspection Department of the Government of Bengal. Of the five "outside mills" two accepted inspection by the Association, while the remaining three were inspected by the Factories Department Staff. With the termination of the arrangement with the outside mills on 31-3-1936 further inspection by the Factories Department Staff became ^{un-}necessary.

Working Arrangements from 1-4-1936 to 31-12-1936: The salient features of the new working time agreement which came into operation from 1-4-1936 were summarised at pages 29-30 of our June 1936 report. The Committee of the Association watched the stock and trade position carefully throughout April, May and June and on 26-6-1936 issued a circular recommending that all members of the Association should work a minimum of fifty hours per week on single shift as from the beginning of July. In the circular, the Committee stated for members' information that all Committee mills which up to then had been working 45 hours per week or less had decided to increase their hours of work to 50 per week ~~or less had decided to increase their hours of work to~~ as from July. This recommendation was accepted by all members of the Association with the result that with effect from the beginning of July the average number of working hours per week adopted by the association mills was increased to 50.42. The Committee again considered the stock and trade position at the end of July and as a result issued a circular on 4-8-1936 recommending that

all members of the Association should work 54 hours per week on single shift with effect from the beginning of August. This recommendation was accepted by all members with the result that all mills adopted a working week of 54 hours from the beginning of August. From then up to the close of the year no further alteration in working hours was made.

Negotiations with Outside Mills: Reference was made in ~~the~~ last year's report (vide page 29 of our June 1936 report) to the rejection by the Government of India of the Association's proposal to limit hours of work and production by statutory action so as to prevent "outside mills" taking unfair advantage of the Association's restricted production. The position at the beginning of the year was that as a result of further discussions with Government, ~~which subsequently took place,~~ Government gave further consideration to the Association's representations and examined the various proposals and alternative schemes which the Association had put forward. The Central Government's decision — which was that no legislative action should be undertaken — was conveyed in a letter dated 26-2-1936 to the Government of Bengal (vide pages 38-40 of our February 1936 report).

While pursuing since July 1936 this policy of increasing production, the Association did not give up the attempt to bring about an agreement with the mills outside its organisation. The negotiations with these mills, which were conducted mainly by the Chairman, extended over a period of several months. By the beginning of October 1936, however, it was apparent that the disparity between the views of the two parties regarding the basis for an equitable settlement was so wide that further negotiations were unlikely to bring about any useful result. Nevertheless the door to a voluntary agreement has not been closed to "outside mills".

(Summarised from pages 29-33 and pages 35-39 of the Report for 1936 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta) -

"Hawalla"(Advance) Payments to Mill Operatives

in Bombay: Rules made by Millowners' Association, Bombay. +

In view of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, the question ~~as to~~ whether "hawalla payments" (advance payments) arranged by mill agents to their operatives going ~~on~~ on leave should continue to be made since interest on such payments is no longer permissible, was recently considered by the Labour and Technical

Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, at the instance of a member mill and the Association has recommended all mills in ~~the~~ Bombay City to adopt the following procedure at an early opportunity:

- (1) That in the case of operatives going on sanctioned leave of more than two weeks' duration, the system of hawalla payment should be standardized as under:
 - (a) if the operative proceeds on sanctioned leave before ~~the~~ pay-day, he should be given a "pay order" in respect of the whole of the previous month's earnings;
 - (b) if the operative proceeding on sanctioned leave gave good reasons for being paid the whole of his earned wages for the previous month and for the days worked in the current month, his full earnings should be paid to him.
 - (c) if an operative proceeds on leave after ~~the~~ pay-day, a "pay order" should be issued to him for the days worked in the month when leave was taken.
- (2) It was further recommended that "pay order" should, as far as possible, be cashed by mills on the same or at least on the day following their issue and that they should be made payable to the worker himself except in very special cases. The practice of granting leave-pay-orders to Jobbers and other workmen should be discontinued.
- (3) Mill companies should not charge any interest on "pay orders" in respect of sanctioned leave.

In the case of workers leaving service without notice, it was thought that they should be made to attend personally to receive their dues on the next following pay-day. However, if an operative left service ~~after~~ due notice, the wages due to such operative would have to be paid within two days from the expiration of the notice.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, during May 1937.) +

Minimum Wages for Time-workers in Bombay

Cotton Mills: Millowners' Association extends list. +

References were made at pages 53-54 of the June 1954 and page 25 of the July 1954 reports of this Office to the consolidation by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, of minimum time rates of wages for certain of the unrationalsed occupations in cotton mills in Bombay City and Coorla. With regard to workers on time rates of wages, the Association decided (a) that rates in all unrationalsed occupations should be consolidated; (b) that the consolidated scales of pay should not be less than the wages specified for such occupations; (c) that in all mills where the rates for any particular occupations were less than the prescribed rates they should be raised to those levels; and (d) that wages not lower than those specified in the schedule should continue to be paid in unrationalsed occupations in all member mills in Bombay even after the introduction of the 9-hour day from the 1st January 1955. With regard to workers on piece prices, the Association, without touching upon the question of the existing wide variations in basic rates as between mill and mill, decided that the dear food allowance in the case of all mills where it had been reduced to below 35 per cent should be raised to that figure as from the 1st July 1954 and that after the introduction of the 54-hour week it should be raised to 40 per cent in order to compensate the workmen for the reduction in their earnings on the basic piece prices consequent on the reduction in daily hours from 10 to 9.

The question of extending the list of time-work occupations in Bombay cotton mills was recently considered by the Labour and Technical Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee of the Millowners' Association at the instance of the Government Labour Officer, and the following recommendations were made:

1. Hand Folders.- That a minimum wage of Rs. 22/- per month be paid for this occupation.
2. Biggaries.- That a minimum wage of Rs. 19-8-0 be paid per month to departmental biggaries including bobbin carriers and weft carriers.
3. Beam Carriers.- That a minimum wage of Rs. 25/- per month be paid to beam carriers.
4. Piece Examiners.- This designation was understood to have the same meaning as "Assistant Cut-Checker" for which a minimum wage of Rs. 32-4-0 had already been fixed.
5. Coal Coolies.- That a minimum wage of Rs. 21-8-0 per month be paid for this occupation.

These recommendations were endorsed by the General Committee and all members paying wages lower than those specified above for the occupations named were recommended to raise them as from the 1st June 1937 to the figures mentioned. Mills paying higher wages than the minimum indicated were, however, advised not to make any changes in their rates.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, during May 1937)

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam,

1 9 3 6.

According to the report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during 1935, published by the Government of Assam, there were 25 deaths, 12 cases of permanent disablement and 773 cases of temporary disablement in respect of which compensation was paid. During the year under report Rs. 21,700-0-0 was paid as compensation to the dependents of deceased workmen and to workmen permanently and temporarily disabled. Out of this amount Rs. 17,100-0-0 was paid through the employers and Rs. 4,570-0-0 by employers direct. Of the total amount of Rs. 21,700-0-0, Rs. 9,107-0-0 was paid as compensation for cases of death, Rs. 11,100-0-0 for cases of permanent disablement and Rs. 1,493-0-0 for cases of temporary disablement. The register record was compiled in detail for each individual and in respect of which compensation was paid.

The number of compensation cases pending at the commencement of the year was 2; 21 cases were filed before the Commissioner and 3 were received for disposal from other Commissioners, thus bringing the total number of cases to be disposed to 25. Besides these, 3 were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal. All the 28 cases which were not contested were disposed of.

(Extracted from the review (Government of Assam, Judicial and General Department, Branch - Immigration No. 20700.1) of the report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during the year ending 31-12-1935 submitted by the Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam to the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India.)

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Exclusion of Women underground workers:

Views of Indian Colliery Association, Jharia. †

Reference was made at pages 25-26 of our June 1937 report to the decision of the Government of India to postpone the date of complete exclusion of women from underground work in mines from 1-7-1937 to 1-10-1937. In this connection, the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, Jharia, has addressed a letter to the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India urging that 1-4-38 should be fixed as the date for complete exclusion of women from underground work instead of 1-10-1937.

The Association, in the course of the letter, points out that during the three months from July to September, labour is scarce, as most of the labourers leave the coalfields for agricultural operations. The crux of the problem, therefore is whether the extension of time, by three months, for the final exclusion of women labourers would produce the desired effect which the Government has in mind.

In the opinion of the Committee of the Association, the collieries would experience difficulties - first, in the selection of women loaders to work with male labourers, secondly, in making re-arrangements for the final exclusion of women labourers. The Committee has suggested that in the interest of the coal industry, the Government should allow matters to take their normal course and enable the collieries to adjust their position accordingly. If the Government desires an appreciable improvement in the raisings, thus enabling consumers to obtain an adequate supply of coal, the Committee would suggest the extension of time until 1-4-1938, with full freedom during that period of employing women labourers
out

restriction. In conclusion, the Committee expresses the view that either the extension should be given till 1-4-1938 with full freedom to employ female labour without any restriction, or, failing that, the total exclusion of women from underground work should be enforced from 1-7-1937, the date ^{originally} ~~normally~~ fixed.

(The Statesman, 28-6-1937). r

Forced Labour in Orissa States: Condemned
by 2nd Orissa States' Peoples' Conference. +

The 2nd session of the Orissa States' Peoples' Conference was held at Cuttack on 23, 24 and 25-6-1937, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramyya, President, All-India States Peoples' Conference, presiding. The prevalence of forms of forced labour in Orissa States was the subject of strong condemnation at the Conference.

Presidential Address: References to Forced Labour. After referring to the political backwardness of Orissa States and the political grievances of States' subjects, the President dealt at length with the wide-spread prevalence of forced labour in the States and strongly condemned the practice. The principal facts regarding forced labour in these States brought out in the speech are given below:

A Hoary Practice.— Bethi or forced labour is very prevalent in Orissa States even today. The practice is a hoary one, but in the old days there were mitigating factors. Because of old ideas of reverence for kingship, subjects willingly submitted to exactions of forced labour. The Rajas of those times, on the other hand, were more sympathetic and kept taxation low.

New Forms of Bethi.— At the present time, while taxation and other burdens are being enhanced, new forms of forced labour

also are being invented and exacted. For instance, motoring having become fashionable, long stretches of motor roads have been built in recent years in many of the Orissa States with Bethi labour. Public buildings like schools, officers' camps are also thus built with Bethi labour. Shikar (hunting) beats are becoming more frequent every day and demand Bethi labour in tens of thousands. These last clash with the paddy harvesting season, while road-metalling and repair work come in a rush during the ~~rain~~ cultivating season. The inconvenience caused thereby to the peasants can be well imagined.

Specific Instances. - Specific instances of huge works carried out with Bethi labour can be given, though the names of the States may not be mentioned for obvious reasons. Thus, in one State a palace worth in all about Rs. 200,000 was constructed with free labour and with free materials, including laterite stone supplied by the hard-worked peasants. Another State planted mango orchards in large numbers for the benefit of the Raj family, while all the preliminary work for them was done by Bethi labour, including the work of clearing jungles, digging pits, manuring the soil, planting the grafts, erecting individual enclosures and watching and watering them till they began to bear fruit. In still another State, the farm lands of the Raj family are prepared, cultivated, manured, watched, harvested and gathered — all with Bethi labour. To give another instance and the last one, for these can be multiplied ad nauseum, when elephants are caught, all the things necessary for their upkeep till they are disposed of, like straw, paddy, banyan branches and jute for ropes have to be supplied free, sometimes for months together.

Abolition Announcements misleading. - Pompous announcements made in the press, in durbars and otherwise informing the world about the abolition of Bethi in certain States are thoroughly misleading. In fact, the very announcements often contain exceptions in favour of some of the most oppressive forms of Bethi, like those on ceremonial occasions, Shikar and Khedas. In some cases, where forced labour is not exacted, commutation fees, in the shape of money payments ranging from 3 annas to 5 annas on every rupee of rent due for land, is levied from subjects.

Government of India's action re. I.L. Convention on Forced Labour Flouted. - A statement made by the Government of India detailing the action taken in India on the draft Convention on Forced Labour adopted by the International Labour Conference of 1930 was published in the Statesman, Calcutta, in its issue dated 3-3-1937. The last paragraph of the statement referring to the steps taken in Indian States ran thus - "Steps have been taken to induce all States which have not already taken action to enact legislation in regard to forced labour on the lines of the legislation now prevailing in British India, and the Political Officers concerned have been requested to ask States to ensure that the laws so enacted are duly enforced". It is not known what action the Crown Department has taken in this matter with reference to the Orissa States. But, whether it has moved at all or not, it has successfully been hoodwinked by many of the

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States of Orissa which are now able to enjoy the fruits of Bethi without the stigma attaching to them. The authority of the "Statesman" can be quoted in support of the statement about the existence of Bethi in the Orissa States today as, in its editorial columns of the 8th March, 1937, it wrote thus. "The States have been asked to fall into line; it is common knowledge that some will have far to travel before they do."

Other Illegal Exactions: Rasad and Magan. - Other illegal exactions current in Orissa States are Rasad and Magan. Rasad, which means provisions, including sometimes whisky and soda, has to be supplied gratis by the people of any locality when State officials or the Raja are on tour in it, the limit of the exaction depending on the officials or the Raja in question. Magan is help given to the Raja, at his request, in kind or coin on important occasions. In former times, such occasions were few and far between, being connected with a death or a marriage in the Raj family. But, nowadays, the ingenuity of many of the Rajas has multiplied them enormously, even so as to include, in one instance, the sending of a member of the Raj family abroad.

(The Observer, Cuttack, 23-7-1937).

Resolutions Adopted.- The Conference adopted the following resolution on forced labour:

Bethi to be abolished:-Investigation by Government of India Demanded.- The Conference, while appreciating the spirit of the Government of India's recent statement regarding prohibition of forced labour in pursuance of the Draft Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 1930, records its emphatic protest against the continuance of the practice in a much more severe form than previously in some of the States, and particularly against the double extortion in the shape of permanent additional taxation over and above the usual forms of Begar, and urges on the rulers the immediate abolition of every form of Bethi either in the shape of labour or a money levy or both, and requests the Government of India to investigate how far in reality Bethi has been abolished in the States.

Rasad and Magan. The Conference draws the attention of the rulers to the widespread distress among their subjects caused by the evil practices of extracting Rasad and Magan (various forms of forced labour) and strongly urges upon ~~the~~ ^{allied to} them the total abolition of these.

Committee of Inquiry Appointed.- The Conference notes with regret the prevalence of various kinds of illegalities and repression and hereby appoints a committee of enquiry to investigate these illegalities and to prepare a report. Mr. Sarangadhar Das, Secretary, Orissa States' Peoples' Conference, is to be the Convener of the Committee.

The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions dealing with the political grievances of the subjects of Orissa States.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
27-6-1937).

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Note on Orissa States.- The Orissa States consist of the Chota Nagpur Feudatory States of Kharsawan and Seraikela and the Orissa Feudatory States (24 in number). Their total area is about 28,664 sq.miles, and their total population about 4,600,000. The inhabitants are of Dravidian origin and their condition is still primitive. +

Working Class Cost of Living Index

Numbers for Various Centres in India during April 1937.

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India, except Bombay and Jubbalpore, registered increases during April 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 April 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 April 1937 rose by 2 points to 75; in 1936 the average was 71.

Sholapur.— The index number (Base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur rose by 1 point to 73. The average for 1936 was 71.

Nagpur.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in April 1937 rose by 3 points to 63.

Jubbalpore.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbalpore in April 1937 remained unchanged at 59.

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

Enforcement of Conventions.

Conditions of Mining Labour in C. P. and Berar, 1936.

Supply of Labour: According to the annual review on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31-12-1936, the improvement in the condition of the manganese industry noticed last year was maintained, but the trade in coal and limestone declined owing to a fall in demand and lower prices. The decline in the limestone industry is further attributed to the opening of new limestone quarries in the Rewa and Maihar States. During the year, 1 coal mine and 10 manganese mines were opened and 1 mine for other minerals was brought under the Indian Mines Act, while 7 manganese mines, 1 coal mine and 3 mines for other minerals were closed down. The total number of working mines thus rose to 94, as compared with 93 in 1935. There was an increase of 33 per cent in the labour force employed in manganese mines, but the number employed in coal mines and limestone quarries decreased by 5 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. The supply, which was mostly local, was adequate.

Wages: Wages are paid on a piece-work basis and the average earnings reflected the effect on the mining industry of the fall in demand or lower prices. The average daily earnings of male labourers employed in coal mines ranged from Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 1-6-0 for surface work and Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 1-10-0 for underground work, the corresponding figures for women being Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-3-6 and Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-7-6. In manganese and other mines unskilled male labourers earned on an average from Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-5-0, and women from Re. 0-1-6 to Re. 0-3-0, while skilled labourers earned from Re. 0-6-0 to Rs. 2.

Relations with Employers: Relations between employers and labourers continued to be cordial. The year was free from strikes or any other indications of dissatisfaction on the part of employees.

Health of Labour Force: The general health of the labourers was good, but epidemics occurred in some of the mining camps. The more important of the epidemic diseases were cholera (89 attacks with 61 deaths), small-pox (47 attacks with 4 deaths), influenza (526 attacks with no deaths), malaria (1,184 attacks with 7 deaths) and bacillary dysentery (55 attacks with 7 deaths). The main colliery hospital at Farasia in the Chhindwara district belonging to Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Company and the dispensaries at the Mahakali and the Ballarpur collieries in Chanda district continued to supply medical aid to the mine labourers. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company Ltd., at its dispensaries in the Balaghat district continued to take commendable interest in the supply of medicine. The Government

Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act (IV of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1936.- Nagpur, Government Printing, C. P. & Berar, 1937. Price-annas five. pp.7.

has suggested to them that in the interests of their women workers they should employ nurse-midwives with experience of infant welfare work at their dispensaries, and it hopes that the suggestion will be considered by the company in the near future.

Sanitation and Housing: The sanitary condition of the mining camps was generally fair and the supply of drinking water was adequate. It is pointed out that the Government has noted the reported aversion of the labourers to use the latrines provided by employers on the surface of coal mines in the Chhindwara and Chanda districts, but believe that, if steady pressure is exerted, it will ultimately succeed in weaning them away from their present insanitary habits.

the
Permanent quarters have been provided by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company and Messrs. Burn and Company and the Katni Cement and Industrial Company Ltd., for their labourers. In the Bilaspur, Akola and Betul districts, where the labour employed is generally local, temporary huts have been built. It is suggested that the Tawa Valley Coal Mine in Betul, where mining operations will be carried on on an expanding scale, the management should consider the question of providing permanent housing accommodation. Government regrets to note the indifference which proprietors of coal mines in Chanda, with a solitary exception, continue to show to the problem of providing adequate housing accommodation for their labour, in spite of the repeated emphasis that has been laid in previous reviews on this aspect of a mine-owner's responsibilities. It is clear that they have no intention of following the good example set by the majority of collieries in the Chhindwara district and that the time has arrived for ensuring a minimum of housing comfort to the workers by means of legislation. Government, therefore, proposes to examine the question of framing a suitable legislative measure for the purpose, which should, while imposing a statutory duty on employers to provide housing for labour on a prescribed scale and of an approved type, secure that the consequent liability shall fall lightly on those who have done their duty in this respect and heavily on those who have persistently neglected theirs.

Price of Food Stuffs and Clothing: During the year under report there was no appreciable change in the price of food stuffs and clothing. The labourers continued to obtain their supplies from the markets in the mining camps or from the weekly markets in the neighbouring villages.

Education: The special schools for labourers' children continued to be maintained in the Bilaspur, Balaghat, Chanda, Jubbulpore and Nagpur districts. In Bhandara no mine school exists. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company, however, proposes to open one. At other places the labourers' children attend neighbouring village schools.

Accidents: During the period under report, the number of accidents decreased from 107 in 1935 to 87 in 1936, of which 21 (as against 26 in the previous year) were fatal. The report points out that although it is true that a large proportion of accidents ar

due to the negligence of workers or to misadventure, incidental to coal-mining everywhere, there is a tendency to ascribe accidents to these causes too readily. Careful scrutiny by Government of the attendant circumstances has disclosed in several cases that the accident was in reality due to a disregard of regulations on the part of the management or to a lacuna in the regulations. In suitable cases steps were taken to secure an amendment of the regulations where the latter was found to be the case. 8 cases were dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Chhindwara district, and a total compensation of Rs. 4,680 was paid to the dependants of the victims of the accidents. Amounts of Rs. 490 and Rs. 654 (including Rs. 500 deposited in court) have been paid as compensation in the Nagpur and Chanda districts, respectively. A sum of Rs. 4,829-8-0 was awarded by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company on account of compensation for railway accidents in the Chhindwara district.

Inspection: The majority of the mines were inspected by the District Magistrates. The Civil Surgeons, Bhandara, Dnanda and Chhindwara, inspected respectively 1, 8 and 5 mines, and gave instructions regarding sanitary arrangements. The Director of Public Health also paid a visit to the Ballarpur Colliery, and gave necessary instructions to the manager of the mine.

Hours of Employment and Employment of Women and Children: The hours of employment on surface workings varied from 5 to 10 and for underground work from 8 to 9 per day. The regulations prohibiting the employment of women underground are being observed by all mine owners. No case of employment of children under fifteen years of age came to notice.

Receipts from Mines: The provincial receipts from mines increased from Rs. 400,755 to Rs. 437,085 owing mainly to increased demand for manganese ore. Of the total revenue, Rs. 203,353 was derived from coal mines, Rs. 140,779 from manganese mines and Rs. 92,953 from mines for other minerals. The pit's mouth value of coal fell from Rs. 3-10-0 to Rs. 3-6-0 in the Chhindwara district and from Rs. 3-6-0 to Rs. 3-2-0 in the Chanda district. +

Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara,

1936. * +

Number of Factories: The year opened with 45 factories under the operation of the Factories Act. 2 factories were brought on to the register during the year, namely, a printing press and a weaving mill. No factory was removed during the year. Of the 47 registered factories, 40 actually worked and 7 remained closed throughout the year. Those which remained closed were cotton ginning and pressing factories. The closure of these factories was due to the formation of a pool at Beawar and Kekri. Of the 47 factories in commission, 9 were perennial and 21 seasonal.

Number of Operatives: The total number of operatives in all factories was 13,781 as compared with 13,481 in 1935, the net increase being 300. Of the 13,781 operatives, 12,455 were males, 1,124 females and 202 child workers, as compared with 12,235 males, 1,101 females and 235 child workers in the year 1935.

The total number of children certified by the Certifying Surgeon during the year under report was 166 as compared with 203 in the previous year; of these 137 were declared to be over 15 years of age and 25 were rejected as being physically unfit to work in a factory. No certificate was cancelled during the year under report.

Inspection: Of the 40 factories which worked during the year, 9 were inspected once, 14 twice and 17 thrice. The total number of inspections, therefore, was 88, as compared with 82 in the previous year.

Sanitary Conditions, Ventilation, etc.: It is pointed out that during the year under report water supply was on the whole ~~xxx~~ satisfactory in all factories both for industrial and drinking purposes. Drinking water was generally found to be good and sufficient for the needs of operatives. Lighting arrangements in all the factories showed little change from the previous year. Sanitation remained much the same as in the previous year, and conditions were generally satisfactory. Provisions regarding annual lime-washing were carried out in all factories and no difficulty was experienced in getting this rule observed.

The standard of ventilation in cotton spinning and weaving mills and railway workshops was well maintained during the year. Ventilation in seasonal factories remained much the same as in the previous year. Rules controlling humidification in textile mills were complied with throughout the year.

*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1936 - New Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press:1937. -"Gratis". pp. 16

Wages: During the year under review, wages of engine drivers, boilermen, blacksmiths and oilmen remained the same as in the previous year, those of fitters, carpenters and cobblers registered increases over 1935, while wages of spinners, weavers and women reelers decreased.

Health of Operatives: The health of operatives was generally good throughout the year. No epidemic was reported from any of the factories; neither was any case of occupational disease brought to the notice of the department during the year.

Hours of Work: The rest interval of one hour was observed by 35 factories, and 4 factories availed themselves of the provisions of Section 37 (b) of the Act. Exemption from Section 37 was availed of by one factory on the usual condition that sufficient time, though not a fixed period, was allowed for rest.

Labour Disputes: During the year one strike occurred involving 3,950 workers. The cause of the strike was a slight reduction in the dearness allowance of the workers. Negotiations between the employers and the workers were carried on for several months to have the strike ended but failed. The workers returned to work unconditionally after the lapse of 3 months and 11 days.

Accidents: 605 accidents were reported to have occurred during the year under report, as compared with 729 during the previous year. Of these, 565 were reported from the B. B. and C.I. Railway Workshops and 40 were reported from all other factories. Of the total accidents reported, 602 were minor and 3 serious, while none was fatal.

(The annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for 1935 is reviewed on pages 33-35 of our March 1937 report.)+

Factory Administration in Burma, 1936.* +

According to the annual report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Burma for the year 1936, the Act worked smoothly, although the hours of employment restrictions presented, as always, difficulties in enforcement. Factory occupiers and

*Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act (XXV of 1934) in Burma for the year 1936. Rangoon, Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma 1937. Price, -Rs.2-3⁰⁰. pp.30

managers became more familiar with the extended provisions of the new legislation, and appeared to have adapted themselves to new conditions reasonably well.

Number of Factories: At the close of the year, the number of establishments registered as factories under the Act in Burma, was 1,035 as against 1,013 in 1935. Of these, 985 were working during the year as against 965 in 1935. 30 factories were newly registered and 8 deleted. The additions include two hosiery factories and a match factory. ^{the} 12 more rice mills were added. Of the total factories working during the year, 933 were perennial and 52 were seasonal.

Number of Operatives: The total average daily number of persons employed in factories in Burma, as obtained from returns submitted by the occupiers, was 89,250 as against 90,522 in 1935. It is pointed out that there has been some increase in the number employed in seasonal factories, due to the re-opening of a large sugar factory which was closed during the previous year. The number employed in perennial factories, however, decreased by over 1,500, although 19 more such factories were working. The decrease is reported to be due to a drop of about 2,000 in the workers employed in rice mills. Since rice mills have increased in number, the indication is that individual mills are either doing less business owing to keen competition or are effecting economies in labour.

Employment of Women, Adolescents and Children: The average daily number of women employed in all factories during the year was 11,447 as against 11,924 in 1935. The decrease has been pointed out to be due to a drop in the number of women employed in miscellaneous establishments in Rangoon.

The annual returns show 867 adolescents and 95 children as being employed in factories as against 638 adolescents and 88 children in 1935. It is pointed out that the definition of adolescent in the Act is little understood by the smaller factory occupiers and the figures given in their returns are unreliable. Returns received from Certifying Surgeons as to certificates granted to adolescents and children under section 52 of the Act indicate that the figure for children is approximately correct, but that the number of adolescents actually employed is probably little more than 100. The bulk of those returned as adolescents by the factory occupiers are over 17 years of age and are adults for the purposes of the Act.

Hours of Work: In seasonal factories the 60-hour week allowed by law is generally worked. Saw-mills almost invariably work the permitted 54 hours weekly, and engineering works average 8 to 9 hours daily. The 8-hour shift is general in factories engaged on continuous processes. The rice-milling industry retains its preference for a 12-hour milling day, which means "interval-in-turn" or what amounts to a system of overlapping shifts. It is pointed out that although system of registers and notices may enable an irregularity to be occasionally detected, no rigid control over

hours of employment is possible under such circumstances. Owing to shipping requirements in the ports, and to jungle trade factors in the districts, exigencies arise in the rice-milling industry in Burma which differentiate rice mills from manufacturing establishments in the usual sense of the term. It is impracticable, therefore, to enforce the strict letter of the law as it stands in relation to hours of employment in such mills.

Exemptions re. Hours of Work: Exemptions were granted under section 44 (2) of the Act for limited periods to certain private concerns and to the Government Press to permit of overtime in order to cope with urgent work.

Wages: The report remarks that, during the year, wage rates appear to have remained substantially the same in the main industries. One large printing works restored a 10 per cent cut previously in force. The same firm has also provided for free medical attention and for sick leave with pay for their workers. Some firms pay a bonus for regular attendance at work.

Sanitation and Health: The co-operation of the Public Health Department and District Health Officers has been of value in this direction, and with the impending appointment of further whole-time Inspectors it is hoped to improve standards considerably.

Safety Provisions: In this connection, the report urges the need of more frequent inspection than has been possible in the past as essential to see that protective devices are adequate and are duly maintained in good order.

Amendments to the Act and Rules: The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1936 strengthened section 5 of the Act in its application to notified premises. It is pointed out that so far no use has been made of this section in Burma. Hazardous Occupations Rules under section 33 (4) were under consideration during the year in respect of certain industrial processes. No such rules, however, came into force during the year.

Accidents and Prosecutions: The total number of accidents reported during the year was 1,287 as against 1,235 in 1935. Of these, 15 were fatal, 249 serious and 1,020 minor, as against 18 fatal, 264 serious and 953 minor accidents in the previous year. The seasonal factories reported only 11 cases, of which none was fatal, as against 4 fatal and 13 others reported last year. Of the fatal cases only three were caused by machinery in motion. Three of the deaths were due to septicæmia supervening on comparatively mild injuries.

During the year, 8 cases of prosecution were instituted, of which 6 resulted in conviction, one in acquittal, and one case remained pending at the close of the year. Fines ranged from Rs. 25 to Rs. 75 and the average was Rs. 46.

Inspection: Of the factories working 411 were inspected during the year. The total number of visits made to these factories was 426, of which 310 were made by departmental inspectors and 116 by Additional Inspectors.

Special Report re. Wood Working and Lumbering Trades: In response to a request from the I.L.O., Geneva, the Chief Inspector of Factories, Burma, has for the first time appended to the report a Note on the prevention of accidents in the wood working and lumbering trades in Burma. The following is a brief summary of the note:

Wood Working Trade: With the exception of a small plant, *kept for demonstration,* ~~the~~ modern types of cabinet-making machinery are practically absent in Burma. It is machinery of this class which provides most dangers in its operation and for which the more elaborate mechanical safety devices are required. The bulk of the wood-working establishments in Burma are saw-mills ~~x~~ for converting logs from the jungle into the squares, slabs, posts, planks and other trade forms which find a market overseas or for local constructional needs. In these mills the plant consists generally of rack-benches for cutting the virgin log, a variety of table-saws for further conversion of slabs, and planing machines for planks. There are lifting appliances such as cranes and pulley-blocks for handling the heavier timbers. Modern band and frame saws are only employed in a few large mills.

Hazards and their Prevention: Many hazards result from transmission machinery common to most factories. Apart from these, special hazards are divided as follows:

(a) Contact with teeth of saws, (b) Throw-back of timber from revolving saws, (c) Falls of stacked timber, blows from swinging timber in slings, and trips and falls generally.

Rules made under the Factories Act in Burma provide for the guarding of the undersides of saws beneath the bench; for riving knives to be fitted on benches used for cutting the lighter timber liable to throw-back; and for locking devices on belt shifting gear to prevent a stopped saw being accidentally started. In view of the facts given above, it has not been found necessary further to elaborate the rules.

Statistics of Accidents: In Burma during 1936 there were 120 saw-mills working employing 11,391 persons. 7 persons were fatally injured, 88 received serious injuries, and 257 received minor injuries. Of the 7 fatalities, 1 resulted from throw-back of timber from saw, 4 from falls or blows, and 2 from transmission machinery. Amongst the non-fatal cases, 88 fell within class (a), 20 in class (b) and the remainder in class (c).

Lumbering Trade: Although mechanical extraction of timber has been tried in Burma, local conditions make it uneconomical except in one or two areas, and time-honoured customs prevail. From some forests the felled logs are hauled by elephant or buffalo to the nearest stream, and the monsoon flood carries them more or

less unattended down to the junction of stream and main waterway, where they are rafted; in other cases the logs are transported to the railway instead of being rafted; and in some cases logs are sawn in a jungle mill near the forest in which they are felled.

Accidents: 21 cases of fatal injuries and 2 cases of serious injury to ~~such~~ workers were reported in the lumbering trade. Of the workers killed, 13 were engaged in attendance upon elephants, 1 was mauled by a bear, 1 attacked by a bison and 6 received fatal injuries due to falling trees or rolling logs. The men employed in forest work are normally experienced and reasonable precautions are taken during felling and logging operations.

Nature of Hazards: Handling of elephants forms a very serious hazard in the extraction of Burma's timber. It is pointed out that elephants, ~~however~~, can do what neither man nor machine can do in quite the same way, and it will probably be many years before their services can be dispensed with in the forests. They have, however, practically disappeared from the timber yards, to which mechanical appliances are more adaptable. It may be said that the elephant riders are sometimes inclined to be reckless, and out of bravado take undue risks. Their control over the animals, however, is a very personal one, and their charges are temperamental. The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act have been applied to extraction work, as also to factory labour. Local lumbering practice has evolved from local circumstances and resources, and it is unlikely that any written code of rules would substantially reduce the hazards or the casualties.

(Factory Administration in Burma in 1935 is reviewed at pages 34-39 of our June 1936 report.) +

Holidays with Pay: Government of India's
Circular to Provincial Governments. +

The Government of India has issued a circular letter to all provincial Governments regarding the action the Government proposes to take on the Convention concerning annual holidays with pay. The Government states that it does not propose to ratify the Convention as its application to all the establishments mentioned in the Convention is administratively impracticable. It, however, believes that the system of holidays with pay, already in force in most Government establishments and in some private concerns, is capable of a wider extension and adaptation, and has requested the Provincial Governments to give their views on the subject.

Factory Administration in Bengal*

Number of Factories: According to the Annual Report on the administration of the Factories Act in Bengal during 1936, the number of factories on the register at the close of the year was 1,667, a decrease of 72 compared with the previous year. 1,279 were perennial factories and 388 were seasonal. 97 factories were brought on to the register. Under section 2(j) of the Act, 169 factories were crossed off the list during the year under report, as compared with 46 in 1935. The powers conferred on Local Governments by section 5(1) of the Act, under which any premises employing ten or more persons may be declared to be a "factory", were exercised on one occasion only during the year.

Number of Operatives.- The average daily number of workers employed in registered factories is as follows:-

	Men.	Women.	Adolescents.	Children.	Total.
perennial factories	430,510	52,456	5,425	1,073	489,464
seasonal factories	30,232	6,815	3,935	789	41,771
Total ..	460,742	59,271	9,360	1,862	531,235

The report observes that further increase in the number of persons employed is again noticeable in the principal industries; the total increase compared with the previous year being 18,036. The following table shows the respective increase or decrease in the principal industries:-

	<u>Number of workers.</u>		<u>Increase.</u>	<u>Decrease.</u>
	1936	1935		
ockyards. ..	1,719	2,100	..	381
lectrical engineering.	2,438	2,123	315	..
eneral engineering.	21,776	23,568	..	1,792
ailway workshops.	26,954	26,508	446	..
ate -pumping stations.	1,445	1,040	405	..
ite presses.	35,047	31,668	3,379	..
otton (spinning, weaving and other) factories.	27,297	27,883	..	586
osiery.	2,242	1,598	644	..
ite mills.	271,746	263,399	8,347	..
ipbuilding and engineering.	12,440	13,123	..	683
on and steel smelting and rolling mills.	11,874	9,398	2,476	..

* Government of Bengal - Annual Report on the Administration of the Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1936 by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal. - Supdt., Govt. Printing Bengal Govt. Press, Alipore, Bengal-1937. - Price - Annas 8 or 10d. - pp.91

	<u>Number of workers.</u>		<u>Increase.</u>	<u>Decrease.</u>
	1936	1935		
Flour mills.	1,715	1,381	334	..
Rice mills.	16,305	13,951	2,354	..
Matches.	5,560	6,333	..	773
Glass.	2,059	1,537	522	..
Leather and shoe.	1,607	1,158	449	..
Rubber goods.	4,849	3,664	1,185	..

An increase of 8,347 in the number of workers employed in jute mills again reflects the decision of the Jute Mills' Association to further increase production and in this connection it is to be noted that the hours of work in these mills were increased from 40 to 54 in March 1936.

Women, Adolescents and Children.- At the close of the year the number of women workers employed in factories was 59,271 as against 57,733 in the previous year, an increase of 1,538. The number employed in jute mills was 38,050 and in cotton mills 1,766, the remaining 19,455 being distributed throughout the other industries. Illegal employment of women was detected on 9 occasions, but in two instances only, were the offences considered sufficiently serious to warrant prosecution proceedings. These cases related to the employment of women on a Sunday contrary to the provisions of section 35. Convictions were obtained in both the cases.

As regards the new class of workers (adolescents) the returns for the year under report show a total of 9,360 as against 10,879 in the previous year, a decrease of 1,519. Jute mills account for an increase of 139, while cotton mills and other factories show a decrease of 976 and 682 respectively. Although the number of adolescents employed in jute mills shows a slight increase compared with the previous year, a number of mill managers have stated that it is their intention to eliminate gradually this type of worker in the same way as child labour has been eliminated from these mills.

The average daily number of children employed in registered factories was 1,862 as against 2,328 in the previous year, a decrease of 466. The number of children employed in jute mills was 4 and in cotton mills 249, the remaining 1,609 being distributed over the other industries. The elimination of child labour from jute mills can now be said to be complete. Illegal employment of children was detected on 72 occasions, but on four occasions only were the offences considered sufficiently serious to justify prosecution proceedings. Six cases were instituted, four of which ended in conviction and two in acquittal. During the year 875 children were examined by the Certifying Surgeons, and of that

number 621 were certified as being 12 years of age or over and physically fit for employment. 3,827 adolescents were examined by the Certifying Surgeons, and of that number 3,721 were certified as fit for employment as adults and 106 were rejected being either under 15 years of age or physically unfit.

Inspection.- During the year a total of 3,438 visits were made by the inspectors of the department to registered factories and 271 to unregistered concerns. 903 factories were visited once, 283 twice, 185 three times and 205 more than three times. The figures include 473 special visits for investigation into complaints, enquiry into accidents, collection of statistics, etc., and also 216 surprise visits outside legal working hours. 91 factories were not inspected, primarily for the same reason as given in last year's report, viz., many were known to be closed, whilst others were unimportant concerns in rural areas which had been inspected the previous year.

Working Hours.- The report points out that although the average hours worked by the majority of factory operatives in perennial factories did not exceed the legal limits of 10 per day and 54 per week, a considerable number of firms took full advantage of the provisions of the Act which enabled them to post more than one set of working periods. Under the old Act the 11-hour day and 60-hour week allowed a sufficient margin between the hours actually worked and the limits laid down by the Act to deal with any abnormal work. Under the new Act, however, this margin has disappeared, and therefore provision has to be made for additional groups of workers to deal with extra work at short notice. On paper the additional groups or shifts are supposed to be manned by entirely different sets of workers. It is obvious, however, that quite apart from the inconvenience, not to say impossibility of engaging additional labour at short notice, such a policy is so uneconomical as to make it impracticable, and therefore, when extra hours beyond 10 per day or 54 per week have to be worked, the same labour is undoubtedly employed. As the new Act only requires the posting of sets of working hours in the form of groups or shifts, all that is necessary in such cases is to make the necessary transfers in the register of workers. Such transfers do not require to be notified to the inspector; consequently the chances of detecting illegal employment or excessive hours are negligible. Although it is only occasionally that proof of such irregularities is obtained, two instances, which typically illustrate the methods adopted, came to the notice of the department during the year. The register of shift workers in an oil mill showed a certain process operative to be working beyond his legal hours.

It is reported that in jute mills, which are members of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the spirit of the Act is being observed. These mills are now working a 54-hour week. In regard to non-association mills, however, hours of work vary from 72 to 144 per week and in these mills it is not possible to ensure that workers are not being employed illegally or for excessive hours.

Although every endeavour has been made to detect illegal working or excessive hours by means of surprise visits and special inspections; the multiplicity of working periods which the Act permits, the ease with which a worker can be transferred from one set of working periods to another and the collusion which takes place not only between employer and employed but also between worker and worker, nullifies all attempts to control working hours.

Contract Labour.- The problem of controlling the working hours of labour employed through a contractor in the ship-building and kindred trades is linked with that of directly employed labour. It still defies a solution and although the question was again carefully considered during the year, it was decided that until the control of working hours of registered labour could be made effective, no further action was possible.

Wages.- As far as could be ascertained, there had been no material change in the rates of wages in the principal industries. In regard to jute mills, the Secretary of the Indian Jute Mills Association had given the following information:-

"In 1931 an effort was made by the Indian Jute Mills Association to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India that the jute mill industry should take steps to investigate the possibility of standardising wages, by arranging, as a start at any rate, for mills situated in the same districts to try to bring their rates of wages into line with one another. In many cases this was done and information submitted by members in 1935 showed that wages generally were moving towards standardisation. During 1936 there was no general alteration in the basic rates of the wages paid by the mills, but the adjustments of rates which were made by a number of mills during the year, had the effect of carrying this movement still further. With regard to the effect on wages of the successive increases which took place in the weekly hours worked by the mills during the year, it may be said that generally speaking the workers' earnings increased proportionately to the successive increases in working hours."

In regard to the rice mill industry, the Secretary of the Rice Mill Owners' Association stated that:

"There has been no movement of wages among the rice mill employees here or at Daspara and Barrackpore, as the said employees have been getting regular jobs and usual wages since the new season.

"Further I beg to add that so far as I gather from enquiries, there has been no such movement in any rice mill throughout the province."

Sanitation.- The reports of Inspectors show that sanitary conditions in factories remained much the same as reported in previous years. In the larger factories, such as jute mills,

every endeavour was made to maintain the factory premises in a clean and sanitary state. The smaller factories, however, particularly those situated in outlying areas, the reverse was more often the case. In such concerns it frequently happened that until orders were issued by the inspector, no attempt whatever was made to maintain the factory in even a moderately clean and sanitary condition. It is pointed out that on more than one occasion, when inspectors drew the attention of ~~x~~ local bodies to serious insanitary conditions, no effective action was taken. If municipal bodies took a greater interest in these matters and exercised more rigorously the powers which they possess, a marked improvement in general sanitary conditions would result. Orders issued in connection with cleanliness and general sanitation chiefly referred to the painting or limewashing of interior walls and ceilings, the flushing down of drains and factory precincts with strong disinfectant, the removal of filth and rubbish, petty repairs to latrines and flushing systems and the provision of night soil buckets. Legal action to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Act and the rules concerning latrines was resorted to on ten occasions.

Generally, it can be said that the water-supply, both in quality and quantity, has been adequate and that the requirements of the Act and rules in regard to drinking water have been well observed.

Ventilation and Lighting.- The report states that the steady progress made in the lighting and ventilation ~~x~~ of factories during the previous years had been maintained during the year under report.

Housing Conditions and Welfare. - The report points out that no outstanding improvements in the housing of factory operatives, **their** conditions of living and the welfare work carried out on their behalf had been made during the period under review; nevertheless, the continued improvement in trade enabled a number of the larger firms to add still further to their housing accommodation or otherwise improve the amenities provided for their workers. It is, however, in regard to the general living conditions of operatives employed in the smaller type of factory that the need for improvement is greatest and conversely the desire of the employer to make improvements the least. The report, however, emphasises that in such cases no all round progress can be expected so long as improvement is dependant upon voluntary effort. Generally such improvements as have been made are the same as reported in previous years, viz., extensions or alterations to existing housing accommodation, bathing and washing facilities, additional appointments to the medical and welfare staffs, enlargement and refitting of dispensaries, improvements in the systems of dhai training, additional beds in maternity wards and development of work in connection with leprosy clinics. In one jute mill a new baby clinic with a staff of two doctors and two compounders has been started, whilst in another mill a maternity ward has been constructed in the cooly lines.

Health.- During the year under report, malaria was prevalent in all areas, a protracted epidemic of small-pox also existed, and influenza, in a moderately severe form, was prevalent during October and November 1936.

Accidents.- Of 6,816 accidents during the year, 58 were fatal, 1,423 were serious and 5,335 were minor. Women were involved in 46 serious and 116 minor accidents and children in 11 minor accidents. Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase of 17 fatal, 218 serious and 1,230 minor accidents, i.e., an increase of 1,465 in the total accidents reported. It is pointed out that although the standard of safeguarding in factories has improved enormously in recent years, attempt has been made in only one or two factories to educate the workers in safe practices.

The report observes that the majority of accidents were due to failure on the part of the injured person or another to realise the danger. Such ignorance or indifference can be overcome only by educating the worker in safe practices, and therefore, unless and until the employer is prepared to interest himself in such work, progress on these lines must necessarily be slow. The formation of a branch of the safety first movement in this province during the year is a step in the right direction and if it is able to influence public opinion sufficiently to induce employers to introduce safety education into industrial establishments, it will have more than justified its creation.

Safety.- Further progress in the safeguarding of machinery and plant had been made during the year; nevertheless inspectors still complained of the inability or unwillingness of certain factory managements to construct guards and safety devices which fully comply with the Act and rules. Although the more general use of steel in the construction of guards resulted in a marked improvement in the standard of fencing, especially in the smaller factories, inspectors still pointed out that guards which permit of a person passing between the fencing and the moving part, violate rule 46 of the rules and, therefore, cannot be accepted.

In previous reports reference was made to the policy of encouraging adult male workers in jute mills and certain other large factories to wear shorts. This policy has been continued during the year under review. It is recorded that adult operatives in jute mills are also wearing shorts as their factory dress.

(Factory Administration in Bengal during 1935 is reviewed at pages 40-44 of our July 1936 report). +

Workers' Organisations.

14th Half-Yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and
Railway Board Meeting postponed to September 1937. +

Attention is directed to pages 40-42 of our June 1937 report where it was mentioned that the 14th half-yearly meeting between the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board, would be held on 5 and 6-7-1937.

According to a communique issued by the Railway Board on 5-7-1937 the meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which was arranged for July 5 and 6, was, at the request of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, postponed till September, 1937 owing to ^{its} ~~their~~ desire to discuss the report of the Indian Railway Inquiry (Wedgwood) Committee with the Railway Board as early as possible. The exact date fixed for the postponed meeting is to be announced later.

(The Statesman, 6-7-1937) +

Annual Meeting of the A.I.R.F., Simla, 4-7-1937. +

After an interval of 30 months, an annual meeting of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Simla on 4-7-1937 with Mr. Jammadas-Mehta, its president, in the chair. About 50 delegates representing railway unions of the following railways attended the meeting:- The E.I.R., the E.B.R., the M.S.M., the N.S.R., the N.W.R., the B.B. and C.I., the Bombay Port Trust and the G.I.P.

Organising Secretaries.- The Federation accepted Diwan Chaman Lall's suggestion to appoint four organising secretaries, one for North India, one for East India, one for West India and one for South India, with a view to extending the activities of the Federation. Mr. M.A.Khan was appointed Organising Secretary for the northern and Mr. K.C.Mitra for the eastern section. The working expense of both were guaranteed, the former's by Diwan Chaman Lall and the latter's by workers of the ~~east~~ eastern area. The two other organising secretaries will be appointed when provision of funds has been made.

Organisation of Workers.- It was agreed that the Federation should hold conferences every three months under the presidency of Mr. Mehta, the first one to be held at Calcutta. The objects of the conferences will be, among others, to organise railway workers, to conduct propaganda in favour of the Federation and to give effective expression to railway workers' grievances. The Federation agreed to a suggestion to appoint a sub-committee to prevent the evil of multiple unions on the same lines.

Hours of Work in Railways.- Mr. Mehta, winding up the conference, pointed out that railway workers had lost ground as a result of retrenchments. He deplored that the Government of India had not implemented the International Labour Convention fixing minimum hours of work in all railways, and that Indian railway Agents were following a policy of withdrawing recognition from railway unions. He urged the fixing of minimum requirements for the recognition of unions.

Resolutions Adopted.- 1. Wedgwood Report Condemned.- On 5-7-37, the General Council of the A.I.R.F. passed resolutions disapproving the Wedgwood Report recommendations, as they take no note of the workers' point of view in the management of Indian railways. The Government of India and the Railway Board were requested not to reach any decision on the report without giving the Federation an opportunity of placing before them the views of the railway workers.

2. Inroad on Conditions of Service.- Other resolutions were passed strongly protesting against the Mudie Report, condemning the "series of inroads made on the railway workers' conditions of service in the shape of new-scales of pay, new pass rules, etc." refusal to appoint courts of inquiry and conciliation ^{boards,} and calling on railway unions to organise protest meetings all over the country on any day in the first week of August 1937.

Office-bearers.- The following office bearers were elected:- Mr. Jammadas Mehta, President; Diwan Chaman Lall, Mr. J.N.Gupta and Mr. Mandabe, Vice-Presidents; Mr. V.V.Giri, General Secretary, and Mr. S. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-7-1937,
and the Statesman, 7-7-1937). +

Training Mill workers in Subsidiary

Occupations: Initiative of the Textile Labour Association,

Ahmedabad. -

Mahatma Gandhi has contributed an article in "Harijan", his weekly paper, giving details of a scheme inaugurated by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association for giving training to mill workers in subsidiary occupations.

Need for Subsidiary Occupations: The essence of the experiment consists in training its members to a supplementary occupation in the mills, so that in the event of a lock-out, strike or loss of employment otherwise, they would always have something to fall back upon instead of being faced with the prospect of starvation. Thrift and economy, Mahatma Gandhi says, no doubt provide a sort of remedy and it would be criminal to neglect them. But the savings thus made cannot carry one far, seeing that the vast bulk of mill labourers are always struggling on the margin of bare subsistence. Moreover, it would never do for a working man during strike or unemployment to rest idly at home. There is nothing more injurious to his morale and self-respect than enforced idleness.

Details of Scheme: The idea of subsidiary occupations for millhands was first conceived by Mahatma Gandhi during a strike of Ahmedabad mill-hands in 1918. His suggestion, however, was not acted upon till the next strike, when a sort of beginning was made. The idea has now been revived and an organised and systematic effort is being made by the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad. Mill-hands are being taught to select occupations which they can practice in their leisure hours at home and which would give them substantial relief in times of unemployment. The subsidiary occupations in which training is now given are ginning, cleaning, carding and spinning of cotton, weaving, tailoring, soap and paper making and type-setting.

Employer-Employee Relationships: Explaining his views about right employer-employee relationships, Mahatma Gandhi says:

A working knowledge of a variety of occupations is to the working class what metal is to the capitalist. A labourer's skill is his capital. If both labour and capital have the gift of intelligence equally developed in them and have confidence in their capacity to secure a fair deal, each at the hands of the other, they would get to respect and appreciate each other as equal partners in a common enterprise. They need not regard each other as inherently irreconcilable antagonists. But the

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difficulty is that whilst to-day capital is organised and seems to be securely entrenched, labour is not. The intelligence of the working man is cramped by his soulless, mechanical occupation. It is the grossest of superstitions for the working man to believe that he is helpless before the employers. The effort of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, is to dispel this superstition in a concrete manner. Its experiment, therefore, ought to be welcomed by all concerned.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-7-1937.)+

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Intellectual Workers.

Provident Fund for Secondary School Teachers:

Scheme Submitted to Bombay Government. †

The Committee of the Bombay Secondary Teachers' Association had recently made a representation to the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, urging the necessity for the creation of a Provident Fund Scheme for teachers in Secondary Schools throughout the Bombay Presidency.

Details of Scheme.—The scheme embodies a standard scale of *monthly* salaries for teachers, namely, Rs. 30-5-85 for matriculates and Rs. 45-5-120 for graduates in the mofussil; the corresponding scales for Bombay ^{city} are to be Rs. 50-5-100 and Rs. 75-5-150 respectively. On this basis, it is estimated that the total salary bill for aided schools throughout the Presidency would be nearly Rs. 4.2 millions per year, of which about Rs. 1.4 millions would be Government's contribution by way of grants-in-aid. With regard to contributions to the Provident Fund proper, the Committee proposed a levy of one anna in every rupee from the salary of each teacher, to be supplemented by the payment by school authorities and Government conjointly of an equal amount. It was estimated that this would cost Government about Rs. 130,000 annually. The Committee suggested that the Fund, membership of which should be compulsory, should be a Central Fund administered by Government.

The scheme was considered by the Director of Public Instruction. It is understood that he has suggested some modifications in the original scheme. The scheme has been forwarded to the Minister for Education for final approval and sanction.

(The Times of India, 21-6-1937)

Economic Planning in U.P.:
Government Resolution^{on} Sub-Committee's Report.

The report of the sub-Committee appointed to draw up a 5-year plan of economic development for the United Provinces and suggest financial measures necessary to give effect to its recommendations was summarised at pages 55-57 of our August 1936 report.

The main recommendation of the Sub-Committee was that intensive development in all directions should be taken up in a number of circles in every district in the province; each such circle may consist of 15 villages in charge of one organiser; three circles should be contiguous to form one unit, for which there should be special staff for dealing with various beneficent activities; there should ordinarily be 3 such units in a district, and a special inspector should be responsible for supervising the work, under the guidance of a District Development Officer. For superior inspection and supervision there should be a Development Commissioner aided by 3 assistant Commissioners. In the villages there should be village panchayats and co-operative societies, in every district a development board and for the province a board of economic development and planning. It is considered that if the work is properly attended to in the various circles, no staff would be needed for them after 5 years and it will be possible with the same staff to take up similar work in other circles. In the meantime, however, "demonstration work of a broadcast kind" should be undertaken in the rest of the villages, in extending circles from the centres of intensive development through the agency of patwaris and village panchayats. Allowing for 9 circles in each district the cost has been worked out at 2 millions a year.

The Government of the U.P. adopted on 13-7-1937 a Resolution (No. 2428/XVII-259 of the Industries Department, Dated 13-7-1937) reviewing the recommendations of the Sub-Committee. A brief summary of the Government Resolution is given below:

Rural Development: The Resolution states that Government agrees generally with the proposals made by the Sub-Committee and is taking steps to give effect to them. The scheme of rural development started by Government in 1935 has continued to make steady progress. Village organizations in the form of panchayats and co-operative societies are growing and becoming live and stable bodies, while agricultural, sanitary and cultural improvements are steadily gaining ground. Practical steps are being taken to

improve cattle and progress has been made in the construction of wells and bandhis where required. Above all, the villager is being educated to help himself. Government intend to continue and develop these activities in so far as their resources permit. In pursuance of this policy, Government proposes shortly to appoint a Development Commissioner for the Province, who will study the various problems and supervise and guide development along right lines, co-ordinate ~~and~~ the activities of the various departments working for the welfare of the rural population, and examine the various suggestions in the report and take such action thereon as may be found feasible. It may be mentioned in this connexion that questions connected with the relief of rural indebtedness and with the provision of adequate facilities for marketing are also engaging the attention of the Government.

(The U.P.Gazette, 17-7-1937, pages
159-160 (Part VII.) +

3rd Session of Industrial Research Council,

Bombay, 5 and 6-7-1937. +

The third meeting of the Industrial Research Council (the agenda for this meeting was given at pages 45-46 of our June 1937 report) was held at Bombay on 5 and 6-7-1937 and was attended by 24 members representing the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and the more important Indian States. Mr. A.G.Clow, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, was in the chair.

Investigation in Progress: The Council passed in brief review the various research investigations that are being carried on under its auspices, and discussed the progress registered. The researches in progress include work on paints, lime, cements, and concretes, glass-making sands and felspars, glass bangles, colouring materials, the manufacture of dry cells and the use of vegetable oils as lubricants and fuels for internal combustion engines.

On the subject of glass furnaces, it was reported that arrangements have been made for the erection in a glass factory at Firozabad, United Provinces, of a furnace on specification and plans prepared in the Research Bureau.

Bulletins on Industrial Research.— The Council considered proposals for the issue of bulletins on Indian industrial research, including a memoir on the handloom industry. It also considered the possibility of undertaking surveys to be conducted by industries, the results to be collected by the provinces and Indian States and co-ordinated by the Industrial Research Bureau. It was agreed that the most suitable industries to be given priority were the oil-seed crushing industry, the tanning industry and the ceramics industry.

{The Bombay Chronicle, 7-7-1937
and the Times of India, 8-7-1937}.

Government Central Statistics Bureau:

To be set up in New Delhi in 1938. +

It is understood that the Government of India is giving serious consideration to the question of setting up a central statistical organization in New Delhi. According to the Associated Press, a new organization of this nature will start functioning in New Delhi from the beginning of 1938. Indian commercial bodies have been urging for a long time that the prompt publication of full and reliable statistics is of paramount importance to the business community. It is also felt that such statistical data will provide a sound basis for shaping commercial and industrial policy, as well as, for the conduct of trade negotiations with other countries.

(The Statesman, 26-6-1937). +

Collection of Employment Statistics:

U.P. Merchants' Chamber Opposes Legislation. +

Reference was made at pages 42-44 of our May 1937 report to the Government of India's circular letter to all Provincial Governments on the subject of compilation, under legislative enactment, of statistics of employment of educated persons. In this connection, the Merchants' Chamber of the United Provinces has addressed a letter to the Industries Department, U. P., setting forth its views on the subject. The following are the salient points brought out in the letter.

Futility of Employment Statistics.- Regarding the Government's opinion that statistics of employment will lead to an avoidance of misapplication of the educational resources of the country, the Chamber remarks that, even admitting that a statistical survey at the present stage of educated employment will make for a better economic planning of the educational system, it would hardly be a correct view to take that such a survey will result in anything approximating a proper balance of the supply and demand of educated persons in the sphere of economic employment.

Wanted Unemployment Statistics.- In the opinion of the Chamber, the number of educated persons employed bears only a small proportion to the number of educated persons fit and seeking for employment, and, therefore, statistics of employment cannot serve the purpose of statistics of unemployment. The Chamber further points out that, as the state of productive enterprise represented by trade and industries is now in an insufficiently progressive stage, statistics of present employment will not convey any accurate idea of the future possibilities for absorption of educated persons in trade and industries, which constitute an important field of employment.

Legislation not Needed.- Further, discounting the need for enforcing compulsory submission of employment statistics by employers, the Chamber points out that in the U.P. 60 per cent of the joint stock companies returned figures of employment to the U.P. Unemployment Committee in response to a request of the latter, without having to be subjected to any statutory obligation. In the circumstances, the Chamber does not favour the enactment of any legislation, even if ~~any~~ importance were to be attached to the compilation of statistical data relating to the employment situation. It therefore sets itself against legislation enforcing submission of employment returns from employers.

(The Leader, 1-7-1937). +

Unemployment Insurance Bill in the Punjab Assembly:

Motion to Introduce Lost. +

The Unemployment Insurance Bill sponsored by Dewan Chaman Lall (vide pages 13-14 of our May 1937 report) came up before the Punjab Assembly on 16-7-1937. On leave being asked of the House to introduce the Bill, the Minister for Development urged that leave should not be granted in order to save the time of the House; but the objection was over-ruled.

Dewan Chaman Lall, in asking the leave of the House, said that his main object in bringing forward the Bill was to educate the Ministers about "this type of legislation." There was nothing in the Bill which had not been successfully tried in other countries. As regards finances, he had put forward a scheme on the basis of actuarial assessments compiled by other countries.

The Minister for Development opposing the Bill said that the Whitley Commission had fully considered the question of unemployment insurance for Indian workers, but was of opinion that in the peculiar conditions prevailing in India no workable scheme could be devised. As regards finances, the Minister said that supposing there were a million unemployed workers in the Province, the scheme will cost the Government Rs. 6.5 millions annually at the rate of 2 annas per week per unemployed worker. In the absence of any suggestions from the author of the Bill about ways and means to finance the scheme, the Government could not support it.

On votes being taken, Dewan Chaman Lall's motion was lost by 26 to 71 votes.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-7-1937.) +

Public Health.

Leprosy in Jute Mill Areas: Action by
Jute Mills Association in 1936. +

Reference was made at pages 64-65 of our June 1935 report to the measures taken during 1935 by the Indian Jute Mills Association to eradicate leprosy in jute mill areas. It was mentioned there that as the result of the tour of the jute mills made by the Leprosy Propaganda Officer in June 1935, the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association had put forward certain proposals for improving the anti-leprosy work then being done in jute mills. The Committee ^{of the Jute Mills Association} considered it important that the anti-leprosy work done in the jute mills should continue, that it should be extended and that steps should be taken to make it more effective. Accordingly, in drawing attention to these proposals, the Committee asked members (a) if they were agreeable to send their mill doctors to undergo a course of instruction in leprosy work, (b) if they were prepared to provide the necessary equipment and accommodation for leprosy clinics at their mills and (c) if they desired that a re-examination for leprosy of all jute mill workers should be made.

Refresher Courses for Mill Doctors: The information contained in members' replies to these enquiries was passed on to the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which, at the end of February 1936, made further suggestions for dealing with leprosy in jute mills, covering the training of mill doctors, the examination of jute mill workers for leprosy by the mill doctors themselves, the dismissal of infectious cases and the medical supervision of non-infectious cases. The Committee agreed

with the proposals put forward and in recommending their adoption by all mills in the membership of the Association asked members to state (a) whether they were agreeable to send their mill doctors to undergo a course of instruction in the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy, or to attend a refresher course if they had already received the necessary instruction and (b) whether they were agreeable that an examination for leprosy of (1) all workers at present employed in the jute mills and (2) of all newly recruited labour, should be undertaken by the mill doctors themselves. A summary of members' replies to this reference was forwarded to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which arranged three short classes of instruction, each lasting one week, the first for doctors who had not previously attended such a course and the other two for those doctors who wished to take a refresher course. These courses were held at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine during July 1936 and were attended by forty mill doctors, six of whom took the first course of instruction. Dr. J. Lowe, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, is of opinion that the course had served a very useful purpose.

(Summarised from pages 89-90 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1936.) +

Progress of Co-operation in the Madras Presidency, 1935-36. *

Number and Classification of Societies.— According to the annual report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act in the Madras Presidency for the year 1935-36, only 211 societies were registered in the year, though there were applications for the registration of as many as 773 societies. All the districts contributed to this number. 89 of the 211 societies registered were agricultural credit societies, 17 were non-agricultural credit societies, 52 were purchase, purchase and sale societies, 6 were land mortgage banks, 6 were production, production and sale societies and the remaining 41 were societies of other types. The policy of reconstruction and consolidation of existing societies was continued. At the same time the co-operative department did not hesitate to weed out the worst societies. 334 societies were cancelled during the year as against 281 in 1934-35, 462 in 1933-34 and 691 in 1932-33. There were at the close of the year 13,330 societies as against 13,453 in the preceding year.

Agricultural Societies.— The report states that at the end of the previous year the total number of all types of agricultural societies was 11,647. During the year 128 societies were registered, while the registration of 260 societies was cancelled. Thus, at the end of the year there were 11,515 societies, composed of 80 primary land mortgage banks, 10,989 ordinary credit societies, 93 purchase, purchase and sale societies and 353 other types of societies. 33 societies had not started work by the close of the year. The membership of these societies rose from 584,201 to 585,401, including 1,371 society members. Among the agricultural non-credit societies, there were only 93 societies for purchase, purchase and sale at the end of the year as compared with 79 societies in the previous year. The purchase made by these societies amounted to Rs. 539,000 and the sales to Rs. 2,100,000.

Non-Agricultural Societies.— At the end of the year, there were 1,480 societies with a membership of 302,287 as against 1,446 societies with 291,700 members at the end of the previous year. 12 of these societies had not commenced work by the close of the year. The number of non-agricultural credit societies fell from 1,067 in 1934-35 to 1,063 in 1935-36, while the membership of these societies registered an increase from 257,428 in the previous year to 264,858 during the year under review. Among the non-agricultural non-credit societies, there were 225 societies for purchase, purchase and sale and production, production and sale as against 200 in the previous

year. These societies had on their rolls 23,440 members (inclusive of 269 society members) with a paid-up share capital of Rs.329,727. The total working capital amounted to Rs.1,747,616. The net profits made by some societies amounted to Rs. 52, 406 and the loss sustained by the rest was Rs. 152,665.

Weavers' Societies.— During the year under report there were 50 societies exclusively for weavers; of these 20 societies were dormant. The rest purchased raw materials worth Rs. 49,375 and members' finished products to the value of Rs. 63,975. Finished products were sold to the public and to the members to an extent of Rs. 76,199. The working capital of all these societies was 144,000, while the profits earned by some of these societies amounted to Rs. 2,290, and the loss sustained by the rest was Rs. 9,943. The number of credit societies, in which weavers contributed more than 60 per cent of membership, fell from 86 to 81 at the end of the year. They had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 41,809 and a working capital of Rs. 275,718. The profit and loss made by these societies were Rs. 4,996 and Rs. 13,052 during the year.

Labour Contract Societies.— During the year there were 18 societies of this type as against 19 in the preceding year. Of the 18 societies, 10 did no work in the year. The total number of all societies was 980, of whom 74 were helpers and the rest were actual workers. They had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,628 and a reserve fund of Rs. 12,160. Work to the value of Rs. 1,806 was pending execution at the beginning of the year and fresh work for Rs.28,964 was secured in the year. The societies executed work to the value of Rs. 6,681 pending execution. The members derived Rs. 13,848 as wages and non-members were paid Rs. 2,225. Some of these societies made a net profit of Rs. 1,205, while ^{one} Labour Union alone sustained a loss of Rs. 632. The bonus paid to members was Rs. 165. During the year a District Labour Society was organized with the object of helping labourer members to obtain building and other contracts and also to provide continuous labour with suitable provision for old age and disability through accidents. It made a good beginning by securing a contract for building two houses and made a net profit of Rs. 573. With the expansion of its activities, the report points out that the society will achieve better results in 1936-37.

Co-operative Credit Societies for Mill-operatives:

Conference held at Ahmedabad.

A conference attended by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, and a few government officials and a few Ahmedabad mill-owners was held at Ahmedabad to concert measures to extend the operation of co-operative credit societies catering to mill hands. The millowners promised to extend their wholehearted support in starting industrial co-operative credit societies in their mills and to begin by starting such societies in about half a dozen mills in the first instance. It was also agreed that each mill should deposit Rs. 2,000 with its co-operative credit society at nominal or no interest.

(The Labour Gazette, June 1937.)

4th All-India Co-operative Conference,

Bangalore, 3 and 4-7-1937.

The 4th session of the All-India Co-operative Conference was held at Bangalore on 3 and 4-7-1937 under the presidency of Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Ramadas Pantulu deplored the many handicaps under which Indian peasantry was placed, the more important of them being the uneconomic character of their holdings, the repressive system of land tenure, the evils of absentee landlordism, a heavy land revenue assessment,

infeudations and sub-infeudations, crushing indebtedness, closing of the over-seas markets to India's commercial crops and an unfavourable exchange ratio. He stressed the necessity for reform of the land revenue system on a more equitable basis, relief of the present in-ordinate pressure on agricultural land by reclaiming fresh land, consolidation of small holdings, grant by the State of financial assistance to agriculturists, development of the transport system with due regard to the needs of agricultural interests, fostering of agricultural education, revival of village crafts and industries and the according of fair treatment in the determination and recovery of agricultural debts. He also stressed the importance of rural reconstruction work, organisation of better living societies and the role of the co-operative credit movement in the rural economy of the country.

Resolutions were passed laying down the part of the Reserve Bank should play in liquidating rural indebtedness and criticising the preliminary report on rural indebtedness issued by the Reserve Bank (vide pages 67-70 of our January 1937 report). The Conference urged the Reserve Bank to provide agricultural finance through Provincial Co-operative Banks and criticised the proposal of the Reserve Bank regarding the Apex Land Mortgage Banks on a joint stock basis.

Resolutions were also passed defining the aim of co-operative societies to be the provision of cheap credit; recommending the starting of multiple purpose societies in view of the success of the existing societies of this description; urging the necessity for popularising the movement among women; recommending the utilisation of the movement for rural reconstruction work; and suggesting compulsory licensing and registration of money-lenders and exercising control over the rates of interest charged and the

account books maintained by them.

(Summarised from the text of the presidential address forwarded to this Office by the Secretary All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association, Lahore, and the Hindu dated 5-7-1937.)

Women and Children.

Women and Public Services:

Prohibition to work in certain Departments of the Civil
Service. +

Attention is directed to Notification No. 6560 F dated 25-6-1937 at page 1651 of the Calcutta Gazette dated 1-7-1937 debar-ring women from certain Civil Services of, and civil posts under, the Government of Bengal. These services belong to the Departments of Commerce and Labour, Communications and Works, Forest and Excise, Finance, Public Health and Local Self-Government, and Agriculture and Industries, and all posts (other than posts specially reserved for women) in the Jail and Police services.

(The Calcutta Gazette, 1-7-1937
Part-I, pages 1651-1652.) +

Women's Fellowship of Service, Bombay:

Report for 1936-37. +

General: The Women's Fellowship of Service, Bombay, was inaugurated on 12-6-1936 under the auspices of the Servants of India Society. The formation of the fellowship was the outcome of the efforts of two women social workers of Bombay, Miss Bhalerao and Miss Gokhale. The fellowship has for its object the training of women for the service of the country on the lines of the Servants of Indias' Society and will be controlled by that Society for the first three years.

According to its report for 1936-37, the fellowship consisted

of two members, viz., Miss Bhalerao and Miss Gokhale. The salient points in the report are summarised below:

Work Done by Members: It is pointed out that the first worker visited chawls occupied by the employees of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, established contacts with them, found out their grievances, helped to get the same redressed and made suggestions for their comfort and welfare. She organised literacy classes for women scavengers on behalf of the Bombay City Literacy Association. She also carried on various other activities for the welfare of the municipal employees.

The second worker joined the Social Service League, Bombay, on 22-6-1936 and worked there during the year. Her work was mainly connected with the Mahila Seva Mandal (women's branch of the League). It chiefly consisted in conducting and organising industrial schools for women. Since July 1936 she has been the convener of the Labour Sub-Committee of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council.

Welfare work among Municipal Employees: In connection with her work amongst the employees of the Health Department of the Bombay Municipality, Miss Bhalerao moved amongst the employees to develop friendly contacts with them in order to create a desire for better living amongst them and to enable them to express their grievances and needs in the proper way. It is pointed out that through her efforts they gradually learnt to state their legitimate grievances without fear. She helped them to take advantage of existing labour regulations for their benefit, and certain new regulations in their favour came to be framed. As a result, payment of maternity benefit and of advances from the provident fund has been accelerated. Arrangements have also been made for giving lighter work to pregnant women, or those who join duty after maternity leave.

Inquiries Conducted: Two inquiries were carried out by the members during the year under report: an inquiry into welfare work in the municipal chawls and an inquiry into the incidence of sickness among scavengers. The methods of welfare work in the municipal chawls were studied closely and the broad conclusion arrived at was that the welfare work ~~carried on~~ did not receive adequate response from the employees. In this connection, at the instance of the Health Department, a scheme was prepared for carrying on welfare work as a branch of that Department. The other inquiry among scavengers was conducted with the help of the care-takers of municipal chawls who were daily required to collect records in the various chawls. It is observed that since the chawls are too many and are scattered over a wide area and the people from whom information is collected are ignorant and prejudiced, the inquiry is not as exhaustive and as accurate in detail as it should have been.

(Summarised from the Report of Women's Fellowship of Service for 1936-37 forwarded to this Office from the office of the Fellowship). +

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Agriculture.

Rural Indebtedness in Bihar:

Government Proposes to Introduce Legislation. +

Reference was made at page 187 of our March 1936 report to the introduction of a non-official Bill, i.e., The Bihar Agriculturists Relief Bill, 1936, in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on 24-2-1936. The Government of Bihar, it is understood, now proposes to introduce fresh legislation to provide relief to debtors from exorbitant interests on loans.

It is understood that the Ministry of Revenue, Bihar, has prepared a draft Money Lenders' Bill, which provides that money-lenders should be compelled to keep account books and to give statements of accounts to debtors every six months. Money-lenders not giving such accounts within six months would be deprived of the cost of suits filed by them for recoveries of loans and also of the interest for the period for which they fail to give account. The Bill does not allow compound interest; it also lays down that interest should not exceed the principal. Stamped receipts are to be given for all payments to debtors.

Conciliation Board.- As regards settlement of debt disputes, another Bill is shortly going to be drafted with a view to creating a Conciliation Board for debtors whose debt does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Bill will be on the lines of the C.P. Act. (vide pages 45-46 of our January 1933 report). There will be one official chairman of the Board and two to eight non-official members. If creditors, to the extent of 40 per cent of their debt,

agree to settlement by the Board, the Board will draft an agreement which would be registered under the Act and the Government would guarantee the realisation of the amount. In the case of a creditor not agreeing to settlement, the Board will grant a certificate to the debtor, and the creditor, on the basis of that certificate, would be deprived of the cost of the suit filed by him for recovery of his loan and interest would run at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. Lawyers will be prohibited from appearing before the Board for their clients. There will be no appeal against settlements arrived at by the Board which would, under the Act, be in a position to fix instalments of the amount settled according to the income of the property of the debtor.

(The Statesman, 23-6-1937). +

Maritime Affairs.Marking of Weight on Heavy Packages: Government
of India Notification re. Cochin Port. +

Attention is directed to pages 1324 to 1325 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 10-7-1937 where is published a draft Notification (No.342-M.I/36 dated 10-7-1937 of the Department of Commerce (Ports)) ^{re:} for the marking of weight on heavy packages handled at Cochin Port. The draft rule proposed is reproduced below:

No person shall load or ship or attempt to load or ship or tender for loading or shipment on or into any vessel within the port of Cochin any package or object of which the gross weight is one metric ton (2,204 lbs.) or more, unless and until the gross weight of such package or object has been plainly and durably marked upon it. If the exact gross weight of any exceptional package or object is not available such package or object must be marked "Weight not more than.....", and the gross weight so marked must not be less than the actual gross weight.

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Migration.

Indian Labour in Malaya:

Malaya Government's Decision to Raise Wages.+

Reference was made at pages 88-91 of this Office's report for March 1937 to the report submitted by Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri on conditions of Indian labour in Malaya, wherein he recommended to the Malaya Government the restoration of the wages of Indian labourers there to the 1928 level. In accordance with the recommendation, the Malaya Government has now, according to an Associated Press message published in the Statesman dated 3-6-1937, restored the wages of Indian labourers to the 1928 standard, which means an increase of 20 per cent. on the present earnings of the community. It is recorded that this step by the Government has been made possible by the steady rise in the price of rubber.

Reference was also made at page 79-80 of our April 1937 report to the criticism of the Sastri report by the Indian National Congress to the effect that unless the wages of Indian labour are standardised at a rate similar to the rates of wages of Chinese labour in Malaya, wages of Indian labour would remain inadequate. The Associated Press message, in explanation of the disparity between the wages of Indian and Chinese labour, says:

Inquiries show that in some branches of employment the wages of Chinese are higher than those of Indians. For instance the Chinese are preferred in tin mines, where, owing to their greater efficiency and the hazardous nature of the work they are generally entrusted with, they receive higher wages. Actually, the wages of Indians, who are largely and predominantly employed on rubber estates, are not less than those of the Chinese, because Indians get free lodging, medical attendance and education for their children. Indians are normally given preference on account of their delicacy of touch which ensures longer life to the rubber trees.

It is pointed out that the number of Indian labourers in Malaya

has increased since the restoration of the 1928 wages, which may be regarded as an indication that they have favourably taken the decision of the Government. It is understood, however, that the Government of India are not committed to the mere restoration of the 1928 standard of wages, and the whole question of wage rates is under their careful examination.

(The Statesman, 3-3-1937.)

Indians in Zanzibar, Malaya and Ceylon:

Views of the National Liberal Federation.

A meeting of the Council of the National Liberal Federation of India was held at Poona on 10/1/37. The Council adopted, inter alia, resolutions relating to position of Indians abroad; the resolutions pertaining to Indians in Zanzibar, Indian labour in Malaya and Indians in Ceylon are given below.

Indians in Zanzibar: The Council while appreciating the strong representations which the Government of India are understood to have made to the British Government which led to the legislation recently introduced in the Legislature of the Zanzibar Protectorate, which seriously affects Indian interests, is strongly of opinion that if the legitimate rights of Indians are not adequately protected, the Government should take steps to prohibit the imports of slaves originating from the Protectorate into India.

Indian Labour in Malaya: The Council puts on record its appreciation of the work done by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastry, which has already led to the restoration of the 1928 standard of wages for Indian labourers working on rubber estates (vide pages 9-12 of this report), and urges ~~on~~ the Government to negotiate with the Malaya Government regarding the early implementing of the various recommendations contained in Sastry's report in respect of the abolition of the distinction between "key" and "non-key" areas, application of the standard wage with statutory force throughout the country, prevention of illicit recruitment of Indian labour, extension of co-operative societies, and appointment of Indian members on the Indian Emigration Committee on State Councils and other public bodies.

(ii) The Council welcomes the restoration of wages to the 1928 standard and notes with satisfaction that the Government of India do not regard this as a final settlement of the ~~wage~~ question of wage-rates as a whole. The Council hopes that the new rates will be so fixed as to enable Indian labour to have a due share in the prosperity of the rubber industry.

The Council further urges ~~on~~ the Government to press for the provision of better educational facilities for Indian children both in the estate and non-estate areas and the removal of the prohibition now in force against the admission of non-Malayan born Indian children to higher Government educational institutions.

Indians in Ceylon.- The Council expresses its deep concern at the growing estrangement between the Ceylonese and the Indians and regrets that measures calculated to endanger the interests of Indians, such as the Destitutes and Village Communities' Ordinance, are under consideration by the Ceylon State Council. In view of the contribution which Indians have made and are making to the prosperity of Ceylon and the ties which bind India and Ceylon, the Council hopes that questions at issue between Indians and Ceylonese will be amicably settled.

(The Servant of India, 24-6-1937) +

Protest against Move to repatriate Indians
from Ceylon: Ceylon-Indian League's Memorandum
to Government of India. +

The Ceylon-Indian League, is understood to have submitted an important memorandum to the Government of India inviting its attention, among other matters, to ^{the} agitation that has been carried on by a section of the Sinhalese to repatriate Indians, the resolutions passed in the State Council to restrict and control Indian immigration which led to the appointment of the Immigration Commission whose report is expected to be shortly published, and the introduction of legislative measures curtailing the rights of Indians, such as, the Land Development Ordinance, the Destitute

Immigrants Ordinance Amending Bill, and the Village Communities Ordinance Amending Bill. ~~Reviewing~~

Reviewing the present position, the memorandum states that questions of inter-state relationship are of vital importance to the Indian settlers in the Island forming one-fifth of the population who have no adequate and satisfactory representation in the State Council; and in consequence the League suggests (a) overhauling of the Indian Agency in Ceylon, making its functions wider and more comprehensive to meet the new situation; (b) calling for a comprehensive report regarding the disabilities of the Indian settlers in the Island; and (c) the taking of necessary steps to secure adequate representation for them in the State Council commensurate with their numerical strength and economic importance.

(The Hindu, 10-7-1937). +

Clerical Unemployment in Selangor (Malaya):

Enquiry Committee's Report. +

The Selangor (Malaya) Clerical Unemployment Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Selangor has recently submitted its report.

Competition of Indian Clerks: The report attributes as one of the chief causes of clerical unemployment the influx into Malaya of persons—principally of the educated clerical classes (chiefly South Indians and Jaffna Tamils)—who arrive in search of employment, stay with relatives or friends, and accept low wages to get a footing. Although the Committee does not recommend restricting or prohibiting the entry into Malaya of people of the

clerical class from India, Ceylon and China, it is of opinion that the time has arrived for the Malayan administrations to consider and formulate an immigration policy applicable to all races. The Committee thinks that the Government of India would object to restrictions on the immigration of Indian clerical workers, while Malaya required a large number of Indian labourers for the estates. The Committee recommends repatriation of all unemployed persons who have neither a legal domicile of birth nor a legal domicile of choice in any part of Malaya, or who have not lived and worked in Malaya for a period of ten years.

Other Recommendations: Other recommendations of the report advocate the formation by Malayan administration of an Employment Board and the provision of training ~~in~~ facilities in schools to teach their own languages to Indian and Chinese school-children.

(The Times of India, 15-7-1937.) ↓