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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for June 1941. r

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

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Government of India.-

Draft Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

The Government of India proposes to amend the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to provide that, if work in the extraction or reduction of pillars in mines within 50 yards of any railway is to be undertaken, at least 60 days' notice should be given to the Chief Inspector of Mines and to the Railway administration concerned; the draft is to be taken into account by 15.9-1941.

(Notification No. M.76 dated 12-6-1941:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
14-6-1941, page 865.)

Bengal.-

Draft Amendment to Bengal Shops and Establishments
Rules, 1940.

The Bengal Government proposes amendments^{4/5} to the Bengal Shops and Establishments Rules, 1940, so as to ~~perm~~ permit during certain specified holidays and occasions over-time work for employees in shops and in establishments for public entertainment or amusement. The Draft amendments are to be taken into consideration by 19-7-1941.

(Notification No. 1968 Com. dated 11-6-1941:
The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated
19-6-1941 page 1483.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941.

The Government of Bengal intends introducing shortly a Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, in the local Legislative Council with a view to regulate maternity benefits for women in tea factories and plantations. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the Whitley Commission recommendations in regard to maternity benefits have been implemented, as far as perennial factories are concerned, by the Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, 1939. The object of the present Bill is to implement the Commission's recommendations regarding plantations. On enquiry it transpired that the system of paying maternity benefits in some form or other was in vogue in the majority of the plantations, but it is considered that some sort of legislative compulsion is necessary to regularise the system and to extend it to those plantations where it does not exist at present. The Bill is designed to secure this object. The matter was discussed in a Conference with the representatives of the majority of the tea plantations and the provisions contained in the Bill are based mainly on the conclusions reached at that Conference.

The main features of the Bill are: (1) prohibition of employment of women for four weeks immediately following confinement; (2) payment

of maternity benefits of Rs. 12, either fully in cash or partly in cash, and the balance in kind, in respect of a period of 8 weeks, 4 before and 4 after child-birth; (3) qualifying period to be 150 days worked under the employer in the twelve-month period immediately preceding the day of delivery; (4) benefits to be conditional on the applicant attending, during the 4 weeks before confinement, ante-natal clinic or other medical institutions prescribed by the Inspector of Factories (the provision of medical facilities is an obligation of the employer); (5) light work in factory or plantation during the 4 weeks of pre-natal period is permissible, if medically declared fit, and the work is to be paid for at the prevailing rate for such work; the wages for the work are in addition to the maternity benefits; (6) the woman's death during confinement or after does not put an end to the payment of benefits; the entire benefit due should be paid to the guardian of the new born child or if the child also dies, to the woman's nominee or legal representative; if death occurs before confinement only half the benefit need be paid to her nominee; (7) no notice of dismissal within 6 months of delivery except for sufficient cause ~~and~~ during maternity leave is valid.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-B,
dated 26-6-1941, pages 46 to 51.)

Bombay.-

Date of Commencement and Industries covered by Compulsory Arbitration Provisions.

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our May 1941 report to the amendment of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, so as to provide for compulsory arbitration of disputes which could not be conciliated. The Bombay Government has now notified that the amending Act has come into force on 14-6-1941 and that the new section 49A extends to the whole of the province. This section is to apply to ~~cotton~~ cotton, silk and woollen goods manufacturing concerns using power and employing 20 or more workers.

(Notification No. 4599/34 dated 14-6-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part IV-B, dated 14-6-1941, pages ~~544~~ 544 to 545.)

Central Provinces and Berar.-

The Berar Laws (Provincial) Act, 1941.

Reference was made at page 1 of our March 1941 report to the adoption of the Berar Laws Act, 1941, by the Central Government with a view to assimilate the position of Central Acts passed before 1-4-1937 (which did not automatically apply to Berar) to that of Acts passed after that date which apply automatically to Berar as well. The result has, however, been only achieved in part by that Act because now the legislative competence of the Central Legislature is confined to matters enumerated in List I and List III of the seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. So far as the Central Legislature is incompetent to achieve the result completely because the subject-matter of the Act to be extended is

included in List II, it is proposed to supplement the Central Act by an Act now adopted by the Government of Central Provinces and Berar. The intention is to bring the Central Act and the C.P. Act into force simultaneously, the two Acts together completing what each Act by itself could not complete. This Act also provides for the proprio vigore extension of all the Provincial Acts which were applied or deemed to be applied to Berar under the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.) Among the provincial Acts now extended to Berar are the C.P. Maternity Benefit Act, the C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial Workers' Debt Act and the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III, dated 20-6-1941, pages 887 to 896.)

U.P.-

The U.P. Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1941.

The U.P. Government has on 23-6-1941 adopted the Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1941, which apply to certain Government employees in the Province. Government employees who are under the rule-making control of the Governor, serving in a civil capacity, whether their appointment is permanent or temporary, on time-scale of pay or fixed pay or piece-work rates, come under the Rules.

The Rules provide for the grant of gratuity or pension to the victims of an injury or disease met with or contracted in the course of his duties according to the nature of the injury. Injuries are graded as: (1) equal to loss of limb, (2) very severe, (3) severe and likely to be permanent. In case the victim dies of an injury or disease, his widow and children are granted a gratuity or pension as the case may be; in assessing the amount of compensation, contributory negligence of the victim will be taken into account. The benefits under these Rules will not affect any other pension or gratuity to which the victim or his widow and children are otherwise entitled. For the purpose of the Rules "disease" means (i) venereal disease or septicaemia contracted by a medical officer as a result of attendance in the course of his official duty on an infected patient or of conducting a postmortem examination in the course of that duty, or (ii) disease solely and directly attributable to an accident.

(Notification No. M-1157/X-406-1937 dated 23-6-1941; The U.P. Gazette, ~~Part~~ Part I-A, dated 28-6-1941, pages 198 to 202.)

Mysore State.-

Proposed amendment of the Mysore Factories Act.

There are at present in Mysore State a number of power factories, employing ten or more persons, which are working under unsatisfactory conditions. Child labour is being employed in most of these factories without restriction on working hours. Under the Factories Act now in force in Mysore no action has been possible in the case of such factories as they do not come within the definition of a 'factory'

laid down in Section 2 (j) of the Mysore Factories Act. (The existing Act is applicable to factories employing 20 or more workers.) According to the Correspondent of the Hindu, the Government proposed to introduce in the June 1941 session of the Representative Assembly, a bill designed to prevent the exposure of adolescent and adult workers and children to the risk of exploitation and employment in unhealthy and dangerous conditions, in power factories not subject at present to the Factories Act

(The Hindu, 4-6-1941.)

The Bill does not, however, seem to have been introduced, probably due to want of time. ✓

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work.

Maharatta Chamber, Poona, urges Amendment of Shops Act:

Demand for increasing Over-time. ✓

A representation suggesting amendment to the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act has been made to the Government of Bombay by the Maharatta Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Poona. The Chamber suggests that departmental heads should ~~also~~ be exempted from the provisions of the Act. It also suggests that it should be permissible for increased hours of work being put in on payment of extra salary to the employees.

(The Times of India, 12-6-1941.)

Working Hours in Bengal Jute Mills:

45-Hour Week for July 1941.

As "complete uncertainties" in the shipping position render it impossible for a definite statement of the mills' intention about working hours for any length of time ahead, the committee of the Indian Jute Mills' Association at its special meeting held on 8-6-1941 agreed that ~~working hours~~ for July 1941 there should be no "closed week" and that the hours of work should continue at 45 per week.

(The Hindu, 7-6-1941.)

Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of

Bombay Shops and Establishments Act: Millowners' Association's Plea for Continuance.

Reference was made at pages 9-10 of our March 1941 report to the exemption of certain classes of clerical staff working in cotton and woollen mills from the provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The exemptions which were originally granted by Government for a period of six months were due to expire at the end of June 1941, and at a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, held on 28-5-1941, it was decided that Government should be requested to sanction the exemption permanently. In the opinion of the Committee, the case for a continuance of the exemption rested mainly on the following grounds:-

- (a) that the existing arrangements whereby mills were required to comply with the provisions of the Factories Act as regards hours of work, holidays, maintenance of registers, etc., in respect of the exempted classes of employees had worked satisfactorily during the period;
- (b) that the conditions, hours of work and privileges enjoyed by departmental clerks in factories appeared favourably with those of shop assistants and workers whose conditions of work were regulated in accordance with the Factories Act; and
- (c) that a continuance of the exemption was also desirable in view of the fact that central legislation on the subject was imminent and the enactment contemplated by the Government of India would exclude clerks working in factories from its scope.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓ +

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Women's Work.

Appointment of Educated Women Supervisors in Mills:
Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

Early in May 1941, the attention of the Committee of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, was drawn by the Government of Bombay to a resolutions passed at the third conference of the Thana Jilla Mahila Parishad and the annual conference of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council respectively, suggesting the desirability of the appointment of educated women supervisors of departments in cotton mills which employed large numbers of women workers. The matter was considered by the Committee to whom it appeared from the resolutions that the two bodies were under a misapprehension as to the duties devolving on supervisors in cotton textile mills. The tendency in mills was to replace women by men as supervisors in the reeling and winding departments for a number of reasons. Mere academic educational qualifications were not the criteria most essential for this type of posts. Other qualities and experience were necessary, and these should, it was thought, continue to be the principal guide to mill managements when supervisors were appointed. In these circumstances, the Committee was unable to support the resolutions forwarded to the Association and to recommend member mills to give effect to them; the Committee informed Government accordingly.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓+

Wages

Working of Payment of Wages Act in the Indian Railways: Report of the Supervisor of Railway Labour. ✓

According to the first annual report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in Indian Railways issued by the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, the "Act has proved of benefit to railway labour proper and as regards contract labour it would be no exaggeration to say that the Act is the charter of their rights."

Number of Persons affected and Inspection.- (The total number of persons affected by the Payment of Wages Act in so far as railways are concerned is 809,888, including some 70,000 employed by contractors or sub-contractors fulfilling contracts with Railway Administrations.) In carrying out the task of inspection with a view to safeguarding the interests of the whole of this staff, the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour was assisted by 17 Inspectors of Railway Labour who spent on an average 15 days in a month away from their headquarters in inspecting stations and other railway establishments and in inquiring into workers' complaints, besides devoting a week each month to a scrutiny of the wage records maintained by Railway Administrations. In all, about 5,826 offices and establishments on railway were inspected during the year.

Delay in Payment of Wages.- The Act lays down that wages of persons drawing less than Rs.200/= per mensem on Railways employing 1,000 persons or over are to be disbursed within ten days after the last day of the wage-period in respect of which the wages are earned. The report points out that, on the whole, the Railway Administrations can be said to have acted up to the requirements of the law satisfactorily. About 2,000 cases of delayed payments were detected during the entire year and most of these cases related to the payment of overtime allowance, officiating allowance, leave salary, increments, etc. During the year under report about 500 cases were reported in which payments to employees whose services were terminated by Railway Administrations had not been made in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Deductions.- The deductions permitted by the Act, include deductions for fines, damage to or loss of goods or for breach of contract. The deductions made under these heads on all railways during the year amounted to approximately Rs.13,000, Rs. 209,000 and Rs. 10 respectively. The sum recovered as fines plus contributions from Railway revenues and from other sources, amounting in all to about Rs. 721,000, were expended on purposes beneficial to the workers.

General Effect on Railway Workers.- "As regards railway labour proper", ~~the~~ the report says, "there can be no doubt that the Act has proved of benefit to it. Not only have railway employees benefited from the accelerated payment of wages, including such miscellaneous emoluments as overtime, mileage allowances, etc., and of increments and leave salaries, but also in the accelerated payment of settlement dues to railway servants leaving service whether for good or only as a temporary measure. The restrictions on fining have also benefited the workers. It has, however, been contended that this restriction has resulted in the infliction of other punishments of greater severity, an accusation which is as difficult to prove as to disprove. Whatever

be the truth or otherwise of the complaint, steps have been taken to check any tendency in this direction. The worker has further benefited from what may be called the codification of permissible deductions from his wages, a process which is still in progress in so far as traffic debits are concerned. Though it has not been found possible to do away with them altogether, it has been found necessary to examine the nature of these debits as also the justification for their recovery from the staff.

Effect on Contract Labour.- In spite of the absence of any systematic check of the establishments of Railway labour contractors, the occasional visits of the inspectors to these contractors have, it is reported, resulted in real benefit to the workers. At their appearance, wages which had been denied, or had remained unpaid for long months, have been disbursed and assurances given for better conduct in the future. The report points out that as time goes on and inspections are systematised and the workers get accustomed to their rights, the Act will prove of even greater benefit.

(Unofficial Note issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India). ✓+

Wages of U.P. Government Press Employees:
Minimum Wage of Rs.11 per month granted.

The Government of the United Provinces has recently decided to revise the pay of the 1,500 employees of the Government Press, Allahabad; the increase will entail an additional annual recurring expenditure of from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. At present some of the employees receive a wage as low as seven rupees per month. The proposal for the increase in wages for low-paid employees is to ensure a minimum wage of Rs.11 per month. The Government is desirous of acting as a model employer, and thus strengthen its hand in pressing private employers to follow suit. Whether the increase in the wages of the Press employees should take place with retrospective effect from 1-4-1941 is still under consideration; a decision on this point is to be taken shortly.

(The Statesman, 21-6-1941.) ✓+

Mysore Government appoints Committee to report on
Trade Disputes Legislation. ✓

The Government of Mysore has decided to examine the question of legislation in the State for the settlement of industrial disputes through conciliation and arbitration. Increasing frequency in strikes by industrial employees during the past year has impressed on the Government the necessity for expediting action in the matter. The need for legislation for an effective organisation of the Labour Department and promotion of good relations between workmen and employees was stressed by Mr. A.V. Ramanathan in his report on the enquiry into the circumstances of the recent strike in the Bangalore Woollen and Cotton Silk Mills. Dewan Bahadur K. Nathan, in his report on the conditions of labour in the Kelar Gold Fields, has also expressed a similar view. The Government has now constituted a committee with Mr. A.V. Ramanathan, Minister for Law, as Chairman, to submit a report before the end of July 1941 on the subject. Besides four officials (including the Chairman), the Committee includes three members each representing employers' and workers' interests. The Assistant Secretary to the Development Department is Secretary to the Committee.

(The Hindu, 15-6-1941.) ✓

Nagpur Labour Dispute:

Strike called off on Government's Promise of Enquiry Committee. ✓

Reference was made at pages 10 to 11 of our May 1941 report to the Nagpur textile strike regarding the demand for higher wage rates, abolition of cut in salary, and war bonus. The C.P. and Berar Provincial Textile Representatives' Conference was held at Akola on 3 and 4-6-1941, Mr. K.M. Pandse presiding. The Conference decided to declare a provincial general ~~strike~~ textile strike from June 26, demanding abolition of wage-cut, stability of service, wage increase and other concessions. The Conference also decided to intensify the struggle by calling other wage-earners to strike in the Province. (The Bombay Chronicle, 7-6-1941.) On 10-6-1941 Mr. R.S. Raikar addressed a letter to the Commerce Secretary suggesting the appointment of a Conciliation Board for settling the dispute. He has urged that Government should invite the mill-owners and workmen to serve on the Board and, in case either party does not agree to give effect to the Board's recommendations, the Government should amend the Trade Disputes Act as has been done in Bombay. (The ~~Bombay Chronicle~~ Hindu dated 11-6-1941). On 16-6-1941, the workers decided to call off the strike on the decision of the Government of C.P. and Berar to appoint an Enquiry Committee with the following terms of reference: (1) Fresh survey to ascertain the condition of the textile industry in the past three years, (2) improvement in the wages of the labourers either by restoration of cuts or otherwise and (3) grant of dearness allowance to the cotton operatives outside Nagpur.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1941.) ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Development of Ceramic Industry of Bombay.

The possibilities of the manufacture of glazed and unglazed ware from clay available in the Bombay Province is the subject of an interesting report published by the Bombay Industries Department. The report discusses also the development of the pottery industry, both on a cottage basis and on a commercial scale. Pottery manufacture already forms one of the important rural industries of the Province and is said to occupy over 58,000 persons. The village potter, however, carries on his craft in a primitive manner and his manufacture is limited principally to unglazed utility articles, such as containers for food grains and liquids and kitchenware.

The Province annually imports clay articles to the value of Rs. 2.15 million while local production is not worth more than Rs. 60,000. The scope for development is thus obvious. Excepting fine quality china clay, white burning plastic clay, fire clay, quartz and felspar are found in abundance in the Province. From the investigations made by the Pottery Expert, it appears that small industrial units, on a cottage industry basis, can be established in several places.

(Press Note issued on 24-6-1941 by
the Director of Information, Bombay.)

India's Per Capita Income - Rs.45 per Year:

Statement by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla.

The following information about economic conditions in India, particularly in respect of the per capita income, is taken from a press statement issued in the second week of June 1941 by Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, prominent Bombay businessman and ex-President of the Central Legislative Assembly, refuting the assertion made by Mr. L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, that India is prosperous:

General Poverty.- It is axiomatic that the prosperity of a country depends upon its savings. It is therefore necessary to examine what the conditions are in this respect, whether India is able to save something worth while or whether there is going on a steady deterioration in the economic condition of this country. The all-India Income Tax report published by the Central Board of Revenue (Government of India) throws light on the economic condition of India. Income-tax is levied on all incomes of Rs.2,000 per annum and more. According to this official report there are in this country only 285,940 assesses with an income of Rs.2,000 or £.150 per annum and over. On the basis of a population of 300,000,000 in British India this figure works out at one-tenth of one per cent. of the population. It is true that agricultural incomes are not subject to this tax. So far as the actual cultivators are concerned no one will be presumptuous enough to claim that any one of them could possibly have an income of Rs.2,000 per annum and over. The only class that remains to be taken into consideration is the agricultural landlords. It is difficult to find any official data to show the

exact number under this category but it cannot be very numerous, thanks to the land revenue policy pursued by the Government.

Per Capita Income Rs.45/- per Annum- Sir James Grigg, the former Finance Member of the Government of India, in his budget speech in April 1938 on the eve of his retirement from India, is reported to have said that the national income of India is Rs.16,000 million per annum. If this official figure is divided by 300,000,000, the population in British India, it works out at Rs.53-5-4 per unit of population. If a rough figure of Rs.8-5-4 is deducted for Imperial, Provincial and local taxation, the balance works out at Rs. 45 per unit per annum, or less than Rs. 4 per month.

Super-Tax.- According to the latest report of the Central Board of Revenues, the total number of rich assesseees paying super-tax in the whole of British India is 4,210. When this figure is analysed, it shows that amongst these 4,210 assesseees there are 2,864 individual assesseees, the other being associations of individuals, companies, unregistered firms and undivided families. Amongst the 2,864 individual assesseees there must be a fair number of European and other foreign assesseees, which must reduce the number of Indian assesseees with an income of Rs.25,000 and over. The relative poverty of India is thrown into bold relief by a comparison with Great Britain in this respect. According to recent press reports, during the year 1938-39 there were in Britain, with a population of 45 millions, 539 individual assesseees with an income of £.40,000 and more per annum. In British India with a population of 300,000,000 the number of individual assesseees with an income of Rs.500,000 and more is just nine.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1941.)+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during March 1941. +

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during March 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in March 1941 remained unchanged at 119. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during March 1941 remained unchanged at 79. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during March 1941 rose by 2 points to 79. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in March 1941, fell by 1 point to 69. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in March 1941 rose by 2 points to 70. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1935 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during March 1941 remained unchanged at 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for March 1941.)

War Time Difficulties of Small Industries:
Questionnaire issued by the All-India Organisation
of Industrial Employers.

Reference was made at page 23 of the report of this Office for April 1941 to the effort made by the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers regarding the difficulties experienced by minor industries during the war period. The questionnaire issued by the Organisation in connection with this enquiry deals with the difficulties met with in marketing products and in securing raw materials prior to the war or during the war, to improvements in the demand for products due to the war, to the requirement of war supply products by Government and to the value of orders which factories have received from the Supply Department. The industries concerned have been further asked to state if they want Government to come to their help. The information thus gathered would be utilised for ascertaining the position of particular industries and in preparing a case for submission to Government.

(The Statesman, 1-6-1941.)

Administration of Workmen's Compensation Act in British India
in 1939.* ✓ +

Number of Cases and Amount of Compensation.- The total number of workmen's compensation cases in British India increased from 35,065 in 1938 to 38,681 in 1939 (Death - 832, Permanent Disablement - 1,929, and Temporary Disablement - 35,920), and the amount of compensation paid rose from Rs. 1,432,723 to Rs. 1,509,327. (Death - Rs. 581,080, Permanent Disablement - Rs. 516,444, and Temporary Disablement - Rs. 411,803).

Provincial Conditions.- Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid were registered in Bihar, Bombay, Madras, North-West Frontier Province, Orissa, and the United Provinces. There was a fall in the number of cases reported in the Andamans and the Punjab, but the amount of compensation paid increased. In the Central Provinces and Berar, more cases were reported but the amount of compensation paid was less. There was a fall both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid in Ajmer-Merwar, Assam, Baluchistan, Bengal and Delhi. The compensation paid for accidents on Railways fell from Rs. 390,013 in 1938 to Rs. 362,216 in 1939. The average sum paid during the year per case was Rs. 39 as against Rs. 40.9 during 1938.

Activities of Trade Unions.- As in previous years only a few trade unions were reported to have assisted their members to obtain compensation. In Bengal, the Press Employees' Association, a small but active union, continued to take interest in the working of the Act. In Bombay, no trade union except the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, did any appreciable work in the settlement of claims on behalf of the workers. The Association helped not only their members but also non-members who approach them for advice. The number of cases handled by the Association during the year was 149 of which 122 were disposed of. The total compensation secured during the year was Rs. 18,932. The Insurance Companies who handled more than 50 per cent. of the cases in Bombay, and the Calcutta Claims Bureau which represents most of the leading concerns in Bengal, particularly in jute and coal industries which were covered by insurance, rendered valuable co-operation in the settlement of claims on behalf of their insured.

The Bengal report refers to the growing tendency on the part of the employers in some of the smaller concerns to contest every claim for compensation for accidental injuries or death and to prolong the proceedings as far as possible by impleading men of straw as contractors with the ostensible object of obtaining an indemnity from them under section 12 of the Act; the real object, however, being to complicate issues and prolong proceedings and thereby induce the applicants to compromise the claims for smaller amounts than the Act provided. The Commissioner had to accord sanction to such compromises in some cases mainly because it was considered better to do so in the interest of the claimants.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1939 together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 6 or 7d. pp.6.

Proceedings before Commissioner.- There was an increase in the number of proceedings before the Commissioner, the total number of cases (including those pending from the previous year) being 3,135 as against 2,730 in 1938. The number of fresh applications under section 10 of the Act was 1,060 as compared with 929 in 1938. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by the Commissioners was 57.7 as compared with 61 in the previous year. 2,049 agreements were presented during the year while 192 applications were pending from 1938. 1,874 agreements were registered without modification and 39 after modifications; 76 were not registered on account of inadequacy of or for other reasons and 252 were pending at the close of the year.

Accidents to Miners.- During the year under report, there was one case of death (compensation - Rs. 500), 2 of Permanent Disablement (Compensation - Rs. 95) and 23 of Temporary Disablement (Compensation - Rs. 81) involving miners.

Lead Poisoning.- There ~~was~~ were 5 cases of compensation for lead poisoning in Bihar. Compensation amounting to Rs. 17,794 was paid. In Bengal, besides two cases of alleged lead poisoning pending from 1938, 3 cases were instituted during the year. Of these 5 cases, 3 were disposed of (one was decreed and 2 were dismissed) and 2 remained pending.

Amendment to Act.- During the year two amendments were made in the Workmen's Compensation Act, one in section 5 and the other in section 15. The first amendment makes it clear that the expression "monthly wages" in section 5 means the amount of wages deemed to be payable for a month's service irrespective of whether the wages are payable by the month or by whatever other period or at piece rates. Section 15 has been amended taking away from seamen any right to claim compensation under the Act in cases where they are entitled to claim compensation under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provision) Act, 1939. Provision has also been made saving limitations under the 1923 Act in cases where a bona fide claim under the 1939 Act is made and rejected. ✓+

Indians in Burma in 1940:
Report of Agent of Government of India. ✓

Relations between Indians and Burmans, legislation affecting Indians and the trend of immigration in 1940 are dealt with by the Agent of the Government of India in Burma in his Annual Report, published by the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. The volume of sea passenger traffic from India to Burma exhibited no remarkable features. The seasonal trends were normal, but the maxima of incoming and outgoing flows were, on the whole, lower than the average of the past three years.

Immigration Problems.- The Baxter Commission on Immigration completed its work during the year, but its Report was not made public. It devoted considerable attention to a factual examination of the recruitment and conditions of industrial labour, especially in the city of Rangoon. In addition to this, two Committees appointed by Government have been exploring in greater detail the same field. Neither Committee had submitted its report by the close of the year. An interim report submitted by the Committee enquiring into conditions in Rangoon was, however, published, dealing with the limited field of dock labour in Rangoon only. The Report put forward proposals for a system of registration, designed to encourage decasualisation.

Legislative Measures affecting Indians: (1) Tenancy Act.- The most important legislative measures affecting Indians were the Tenancy Act, ~~the Land Purchase Bill, the Land Alienation Act, and the City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill.~~ The Land Alienation Act occasioned no complaints. The administration of the Tenancy Act, which aimed at giving improved security of tenure to tenants, while adjusting rents to an equitable figure, was a feature of the period. Though intended by the original framers to be applied experimentally to limited areas where there was reason to think that rack-renting existed, the Act was introduced in such large areas, and at such a time of year, that it was impossible for the officers of the Government to comply with the law in making the enquiries prescribed before fixing fair rents, and at the same time to pass the requisite number of orders before the harvest season. As a result, methods were adopted which had the effect of a wholesale reduction of rents, in some cases to the level of the land revenue demand, and the further effect of depressing the value of agricultural land. The landlords, both Burman and Indian, were greatly perturbed, and endeavoured to get the executive instructions, which had been issued to Rent Settlement Officers, reconsidered in the interests both of equity, as well as of compliance with the mandatory provisions of the Act. Failing in this, they applied to the Rangoon High Court for writs of certiorari. A full Bench decision of the Burma High Court severely criticised the Government measure. ~~Subsequently, as the result of a short notice resolution in the House of Representatives, a Committee was appointed consisting of members of both Houses of Legislature, and of experienced Settlement and Revenue Officers, to enquire into the working of the Act. This Committee recommended the setting aside of the orders of Rent Settlement Officers, and the passing of an Ordinance to achieve this purpose and to embody other provisions calculated to render possible the commencement~~
Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for the year ending 31st December 1940. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 7 or 8d. pp.11.

of the peaceful cultivation of the next rice crop. Their recommendations were accepted by the Government of Burma, and an Ordinance was promulgated on April 9, which set aside all the orders hitherto passed under the Act. The immediate difficulties of the situation having been resolved, the Special Committee proceeded to go into the whole matter and revise the legislation, and a Bill based on their report was before a Select Committee of the House of Representatives at the close of the year.

In order to deal with outstanding rent settlement cases, or fresh cases arising in the intervening period, the Governor promulgated a second Ordinance in terms of which fair rents were to be settled on the basis of arbitrarily fixed percentages of the normal gross outturn.

(2) Land Purchase Bill.- On the subject of the Land Purchase Bill, the Government of India took full advantage of the opportunity given them by the Government of Burma to comment on its provisions and the Government of India's views were considered by the Select Committee which had been appointed to deal with the Bill. The Select Committee incorporated amendments to the Bill in their Report, which went some way to meet the views expressed by the Government of India, and their Report came up for consideration during the Budget Session. In the autumn session, the Bill was passed by the Lower House. A great deal of what had been suggested by Indian critics had been incorporated. There were still points, however, on which Indian opinion remained unsatisfied.

In the first place, there was no provision for additional compensation in respect of the compulsory nature of the acquisition, and the Government of Burma had shown itself unwilling to provide any such compensation. Secondly, there was no guarantee that the tenants in occupation of the land at the time when the land was purchased would receive preferential consideration, or indeed, any consideration at all, when the time came to distribute the land to small cultivating owners. The Government of Burma, in their tenancy legislation, laid great stress on the necessity for enhancing the security of tenure of the tenant. The Land Purchase Bill, if passed, would render a tenant liable to have his land purchased over his head any moment.

Indians were apprehensive, because they felt that the tendency would be to purchase land owned and cultivated by Indians so as to redistribute it to Burmans, and because they felt that, in the co-operative societies proposed, Indians might not be welcome, and mixed societies of Indians and Burmans might not prove successful. This, among other matters in connection with the Bill, formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Burma. At the close of the year, the Bill was before a Select Committee of the Senate.

(3) City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill.- The City of Rangoon Municipal (Amendment) Bill, which is designed to secure that at least half the members of the Rangoon Corporation shall be elected Burmans, was passed by the Lower House in spite of Indian and European opposition, and was also under consideration by a Select Committee of the Senate at the close of the year. This Bill, too, was the subject of representations by the Government of India.

(4) Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1940.- In January, 1940, an Ordinance was made by the Governor of Burma called the Registration of Foreigners Ordinance, 1940. In this the definition of "foreigner" in the Foreigners Act was adopted, and the status of British Indian

subjects was satisfactorily secured. This Ordinance was in due course replaced by the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1940, which came into force at the end of March. No complaints have been received by the Agent regarding either the working of the Ordinance or of the Act.

Trade between Burma and India.- Except for difficulties owing to temporary curtailments in the volume of shipping available, trade was on the whole remarkably well-maintained. The price of rice remained at a high level. A feature of the rice market was the purchase of considerable quantities by Japan, which offset the loss of the normal Central European markets. The closing week of the year saw an announcement by the Government of Burma of their intention to impose a duty on rice exports to India with effect from the new year. On 1-4-1940, the Government of Burma gave notice to the Government of India under Clause VII of the India-Burma Trade Regulation Order, 1937, of their intention to terminate the operation of the Order. Proposals for a new agreement were under consideration at the end of the year. (A Trade Agreement has since been signed.)

Hindu-Moslem Affrays.- Two periods of ill-feeling between the Hindu and Moslem communities in Rangoon city, accompanied by sporadic affrays and a regrettable loss of life, occurred during the earlier part of the year, the first at the end of January, and the second at the end of April. The methods adopted by the rioters were such as to render peculiarly difficult the task of protecting life and property, and of bringing the real offenders to justice. The strain on the ~~Rangoon City Police~~ was severe and prolonged, but the Commissioner and all ranks stuck to their task with admirable patience. It is hoped that the strong measures which were adopted by the Government of Burma, and loyally accepted by Indians in Burma, will be found to have provided an opportunity for a genuine movement towards a permanent improvement in the relations between the two chief Indian communities.

Indo-Burmese Relations.- Attempts to embroil Burmans with Indians in connection with the communal riots proved uniformly unsuccessful. An improvement in the tone of the Press is recorded, and overt acts against Indians progressively decreased. Although there was at one time some apprehension of trouble arising between landlords, and tenants, in connection with the working of the Tenancy Act, nothing serious occurred. ✓+

Indians Abroad;

Resolution adopted by Council of National Liberal Federation of India.

The Council of the National Liberal Federation of India which met at Poona on 29-6-1941 under the presidentship of Sir V.N. Chandavarkar, adopted, inter alia, a number of resolutions on Indians abroad; a brief summary of the more important of them is given below:

Indians in South Africa.- The Council noted with appreciation the fact that the Feetham resolutions have been passed by the South African Parliament, thereby giving Indians in Transvaal the right, for the first time, of owning land in the gold areas; that an undertaking has been given that, whatever be the findings of the Broom Commission on Indian penetration into predominantly European areas in Natal, no legislation would be undertaken during the currency of the war to force segregation on Indians; and that the Smuts Government had displayed a more liberal attitude towards Indians passing through South Africa. At the same time, the Council considered that the areas thrown open to Indian ownership in the Transvaal under the Feetham resolution were very inadequate and spelt segregation and that the danger of segregation in general of Indians in South Africa has not been dissipated. It trusted that the participation of South African Indians and of India in the present war against racialism and in defence of democracy and human rights will persuade the Government of South Africa to rise above racialism and promote genuine democracy in that country. The Council was also of the opinion that, unless and until racial equality is secured in South Africa, it will be prejudicial to Indians to countenance the proposal of Field Marshal Smuts for a Pan-African Union and that therefore it must be strenuously opposed.

Indians in Ceylon.- The resolution on Ceylon deplored the anti-Indian attitude of the Ceylonese Ministry which compelled the Government of India to prohibit the emigration of Indian labour, much to the detriment of Ceylon and necessitated the intervention of the Governor to protect the legitimate rights of Indians settled in Ceylon, but still hoped that the Ceylon, ~~but still hoped that the Ceylon~~ Ministers would take a more helpful and equitable attitude towards the Indian problem in Ceylon.

(The Hindu, 30-6-1941.)+

Immigration of Indians into Ceylon:

Ceylon European Association condemns policy of Ceylon Government.

Strong opposition to the Immigration Control Bill is expressed by the European Association of Ceylon in a memorandum it has recently submitted on the subject to the Standing Committee of the Ceylon State Council. The Association is strongly opposed to the Bill in toto, but, as it has been intimated by the Standing Committee that no representations may be made against the principle, the Association has refrained from doing so. The memorandum stresses that British subjects domiciled in the United Kingdom are persons who have not created and do not create the problem which the Bill seeks to solve and ~~therefore~~ that they should therefore be placed among the excepted persons.

Rights of non-Ceylonese.- On this subject, the memorandum says: "Non-Ceylonese already admitted to Ceylon have the right to secure

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property, employment and a variety of other interests in Ceylon, and it is politically unjust to deny to such non-Ceylonese free entry into Ceylon ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ (or the possibility of being present at will). It is accordingly submitted that persons resident in Ceylon on an appointed date (chosen after due deliberation) or who have been resident in Ceylon for a specified period before that date should be excepted from the operation of the Bill.

Assisted Indian Immigrant Labour.- The assisted Indian immigrant labour at present in Ceylon, and those who are prevented from proceeding to Ceylon by reason of the Indian ban on emigration are essential to the agricultural industries of Ceylon, and should not be discouraged in any way from rendering service to such industries. Adequate provision to enable persons in control of private enterprise to exercise unrestricted freedom of choice in the selection of employees is urged in the memorandum on the ground that absence of such provision will jeopardise the welfare of many existing enterprises. The memorandum states in conclusion that the definition of "non-Ceylonese" should be based on residence, and not domicile.

(The Statesman, 7-6-1941.) ✓ +

Indian Immigration into Burma:
Indo-Burma Conference held at Rangoon: Bajpai
Delegation negotiates Draft Pact. +

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the growing opposition to unrestricted immigration of Indians into Burma and to the notice given by the Government of Burma of termination on 31-3-1942 of the Government of Burma Order, 1937, which permitted such unrestricted immigration. A communiqué was issued by the Government of India on 10-6-1941 in which it was pointed out that the two Governments were anxious to reach an agreed solution of the various problems relating to Indian immigration into Burma and that the Government of India had accepted the invitation of the Government of Burma to send an official delegation to Burma to discuss the problems. Accordingly, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member in Charge of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, with two advisers and a Secretary (officials) were deputed to negotiate with the Government of Burma. The Indo-Burma Conference opened in Rangoon on 18-6-1941. On 28-6-1941, the draft of an Indo-Burmese Pact was signed by Sir G.S. Bajpai, on behalf of the Government of India, and U Saw, Premier of Burma. (The Hindustan Times, 30-6-1941.) The terms of the pact have not been disclosed so far. ✓ +

Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen:

Mr. Ernest Bevin promises help for Improvement. ✓

In the course of his reply to a letter from Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., urging better treatment of Indian seamen, Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labour, expressed his anxiety to promote wholehearted co-operation between Indian workers and the workers in England. He said that he was doing all he can for the Indian seamen, and that he wanted to see their welfare arrangements put on a sound and proper footing. He would also like to see conditions so improved that Indian seamen's earnings were free from deduction, their standards raised, and the conviction fostered that there were absolutely equal terms for all. Referring to the grievances of seamen in Calcutta, Mr. Bevin said: "I know about the bribes in Calcutta; I discussed this at length at Geneva, and as soon as opportunity presents itself, I should like to study the matter closely with a view to developing an organised basis that would ensure this being wiped out entirely."

(The Hindustan Times, 24-6-1941.) ✓
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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS.

Conditions of Work of Bengal Ministerial Employees.
Government of Bengal orders Enquiry. ✓

The Government of Bengal is now holding an enquiry into the condition^s of employment of the Government ministerial servants as regards their pay and prospects. Mr. A.D. Khan, I.C.S., who is in charge of the enquiry, will make a detailed study of the question and submit a comprehensive report.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-6-1941.)
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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

23

Co-operation in Hyderabad, 1939-40. ✓

Number and Membership.- With the registration of 336 new societies in 1549 Fasli (1939-40) and the cancellation of 15 old ones, the number of co-operative societies in the Hyderabad State stood at 3,958 as against 3,638 in the previous year, while their membership rose correspondingly from 137,948 to 154,412. Similarly the working capital of the movement increased from 27,473,311 to Rs.27,756,935. The paid-up share capital and the various reserves were larger than those in the previous year and stood at Rs.6,345,273 and Rs.5,742,408 respectively, their proportion to working capital being 48 per cent. as compared with 46 per cent. of the previous year.

Village Thrift and Credit Societies.- The village thrift and credit societies increased in number from 2,909 to 3,188 and their membership rose from 63,359 to 70,514. Their working capital including that of rural banks stood at Rs.8,555,550, while their owned capital was Rs.4,163,651. The proportion of the owned to the working capital was 48.5 per cent. Loans advanced to members amounted to Rs.754,853, while recoveries made from them aggregated Rs.861,392 principal and Rs.499,694 interest. The number of grain banks increased from 75 to 90 which shows that they are becoming popular in villages.

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The non-agricultural societies ~~are increasing rapidly~~. Their number and membership rose from 650 and 52,629 to 701 and 64,285 respectively, while their working capital increased from Rs.5,393,594 to Rs.5,676,715. The proportion of the owned ~~and~~ the working capital improved from 67.5 to 68.9 per cent. The number of salary earners' societies increased from 280 to 293 and their membership rose from 19,054 to 20,013 while working capital increased from Rs.3,442,214 to Rs.3,539,012. The owned capital also increased from Rs.2,678,350 to Rs.2,793,363.

Sale Societies.- The number of sale societies increased from 8 to 9 and the membership rose from 1,256 to 1,627. The working capital rose from 46,618 to Rs.64,534 and the owned capital increased from Rs.30,193 to Rs.35,517. The number of cotton sale societies remained at 10. Their membership improved from 791 to 845. Their working capital was Rs.50,381 and the owned capital Rs.26,464.

Co-operative Insurance.- The Co-operative Insurance Society made ~~encouraging progress~~. Its membership increased from 1,000 to 2,488 and the sum assured was Rs.1,577,983. The total income of the society was Rs.147,535 as against Rs.78,856 in the previous year. The society earned a net profit of Rs.10,395 as against Rs.2,838 in the previous year.

Central Co-operative Union.- The Central Co-operative Union carried on, as usual, its educative and propaganda work through an Education officer and ten propagandists.

(Communique issued by the Information Bureau, Hyderabad State, Deccan.)

24

Encouragement of Cottage Industries in Bombay:

Appointment of District Industrial Officers. ✓

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the creation of three posts of District Industrial Officers - one each at Surat, Ahmednagar and Belgaum. The main function of these officers will be supervision of new and existing cottage industries and the District Sales Depots and to provide the cottage workers with small working capital and implements on suitable terms. They will also help the organisation of small industrial establishments for the ~~purchase~~ purchase of raw materials and sale of finished products and inspect establishments in receipt of loans from the Government to ensure that the money is spent on the objects for which the loans has been granted.

(Press Note dated 24-6-1941 issued
by the Director of Information,
Government of Bombay.) ✓ +

LIVING CONDITIONS

Nutrition

Milk Production and Consumption in India and Burma; Report of Agricultural Marketing Adviser. ✓

Average Daily Consumption.- The average daily consumption of milk in India, per head of population, is 6.6 ounces per day, including milk products, according to a Report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma recently issued by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser. In other countries, the average daily consumption is more than five times the average figure for India, where the poorer people do not get even six ounces a day; in fact, many of them have to go completely without milk or its products. The average daily consumption in India varies from tract to tract, according to the production of milk and the density of population. Sind comes first with 22 ounces per head per day, followed by the Punjab with 19.7 ounces. Assam shows the lowest average with 1.2 ounces a day.

Consumption in Urban Areas.- Due to the better earning power and purchasing capacity of the city-dwellers, the daily per capita consumption in cities and towns is 12.6 ounces, which is almost double the average for the whole of India. At present the consumption of milk in urban areas is almost double that of the villages. If prices were reduced, urban consumption could improve further. To achieve this, cheaper milk from the interior should be brought to the cities. Transport agencies can do a lot in this connection by providing special facilities and lowering freight charges.

Low Consumption of Workers.- In general, the labouring classes consume very little milk or milk products, and in this respect there is a marked contrast with workers abroad.

Quality of Indian Milk.- The milk produced by Indian cows and buffaloes is richer in fat content than the milk from cows in other countries. Adjusted to the fat contents of milk produced in Western countries, the figure for the consumption of milk in India increases to 10.4 ounces per head per day. But even this is only about a quarter of the average consumption in 16 other countries from which figures are available.

Milk Products.- On an average, over 27 per cent. of the milk produced in India is consumed in fluid form, generally after boiling; 58 per cent. is made into ghee (clarified butter); and 5 per cent. each into khoa (desiccated milk) and curd. Butter and cream account for only 1.9 per cent. and other ~~products~~ products such as rabri and malai for 2.8 per cent. At present only one-half per cent. is used in the making of ice-cream, but the consumption of this is rapidly increasing. Cow milk is preferred for drinking and buffalo milk for the manufacture of products.

Decreasing Consumption.- There are no data to show the trend of Indian consumption. In other countries consumption has considerably improved through State aid and better planning of the dairy industry during the last 25 years. In India, the rate of increase in the number of cattle has not kept pace with that of human population and consequently consumption may be said to be on the decrease.

Methods of Increasing Production.- Matters could be improved without much difficulty, says the Agricultural Marketing Adviser. Production could be increased by about 50 per cent. by proper feeding

and management of existing cattle. The problem should be tackled from both ends, production as well as consumption, and in order to stimulate consumption, "Drink More Milk" campaigns should be organised on a national basis. For a vegetarian nation, whose diet is admittedly deficient in first-class proteins, the value of a sufficient quantity of milk can hardly be over-emphasised. Consumers should be assured of a regular and reasonably priced supply of wholesome and genuine milk.

Unprofitable production in India.- The average consumer in India, with an income much lower than, for instance, that of the consumer in England, pays practically the same price as the latter for his milk. The share of the Indian producer in the price paid by the consumer, on the other hand, is greater than that of the English farmer. Yet milk production is not a profitable business and, in some cases, Indian producers may be selling milk even below cost price. The question of milk prices, therefore, needs closer examination. At present 58 per cent. of the milk produced in India is marketed in the form of ghee. The demand for, and the price of ghee, therefore, have an important bearing on the gross returns of milk producers. The adulteration of ghee and the sale of substitutes such as vanaspathi (vegetable oil) should be adequately controlled and checked.

Marketing of Milk.- Re-organisation of milk marketing and the creation of a "monopoly" marketing organisation, to be responsible for the purchase of milk from rural areas, its transport, processing and distribution, and the control of quality from the stage of production to that of actual sales, is the most important recommendation of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. "The deplorable state of affairs existing in the milk trade of the country", he says, "has been realised by many in the past, and comparison has often been rightly made with the progress achieved elsewhere in the world. Due to various circumstances peculiar to India - economic, social and religious - it may not be possible to achieve here all that has been achieved in other countries within the same space of time, but matters could certainly be considerably improved if the problem were tackled on the right lines."

Urging the need for complete control over the distribution of milk in an urban area, and thereby on the production of milk in the rural area concerned, the Report says, "special legislation, of a provincial nature, will be necessary as, although there is an element of compulsion in the suggested monopolising of the milk business, this appears to be the only way in which both producers and consumers can be protected."

Control over Quality.- The Report also urges the necessity for the revision of standards of purity and for more vigilant control of the quality of milk. "Most milk", it states, "is distributed under filthy conditions - enough to create a dislike for milk in the minds of many consumers." The abolition of "mixed" milk standards, which allow scope for adulteration; the raising of the standards for "cow" and "buffalo" milk to correspond with the natural composition of Indian milk; the recognition of toned "Standard" milk and the re-drafting of bye-laws relating to the production and sale of milk and dairy products, so that they can be properly enforced, are recommended.

Organisation of Collectors.- The Report recommends that efforts should be made to organise the collectors of village milk who handle large quantities. "To improve the fluid-milk trade," it is urged, "the small and inefficient processor and distributor must be gradually

eliminated. Processing and distribution in cities and towns must be entrusted to large, well-managed organisations, which can make use of every aid that science can offer and can improve the technical efficiency of their business and put on the market a high quality product." The cost of handling 1,000 maunds of milk a day under the proposed scheme of reorganisation would necessitate the investment of approximately Rs. 450,000. As the scheme is a self-supporting one, the sum can be recovered in less than ten years.

(Indian Information, July 1941 issue) ✓

Nutritive Value of "Nira":

Research by All-India Village Industries Association. ✓

Experiments carried out on the nutritive value of "nira" (toddy) by the All-India Village Industries Association have yielded satisfactory results, according to a note issued by the Research Centre of the Association at Bordi. The note says that 19 persons, of whom 13 were adults, were given "nira" from 10 to 99 days, and they put up weight ranging from half to ten pounds. A rickety cow that was given "nira" showed marked improvement in the quality and quantity of milk yield.

The note adds that "nira" contains many valuable food properties such as glucose, fat, protein, nitrogen, calcium oxide, magnesia, soda, phosphoric acid, choline, etc., in varying percentage. It was found to be a non-habit-forming beverage. Exclusive of Governmental tax and license fees, the cost of "nira" worked out at Re.1 per 103 lbs. Under a well organised scheme of "nira" sales, the note says, it is just possible to absorb almost all the erstwhile toddy-tappers who will be deprived of their occupation under prohibition, and they can easily be made to earn a standard wage of Rs.15 per month.

(The Hindu, 5-6-1941.) ✓

Assam Shop Employees' Meeting:
support for Assam Shops Bill. ✓

A meeting of shop employees in Shillong, Assam, was held on 6-6-1941 under the presidentship of Maulvi Mohammed Maqbul Hossain Choudhury, M.L.A., to discuss the Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1941, introduced by Maulvi Badaruddin Ahmed B.L., M.L.A., which has been circulated for eliciting public opinion by 30th June, 1941. The President, Mr. Maqbul Hossain Choudhury, discussed the Bill and, in supporting the same, he emphasised the fact that protection by law does not give all facilities against all probable subterfuges unless relations between employers and employees were good. Resolutions were passed supporting the Bill.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12-6-1941) ✓

Arrest of Labour Leaders in Bombay. ✓

Fifteen men and women labour leaders, including Mr. R.S. Nimbkar (Indian Workers' Delegate to the 25th I.L. Conference) and Miss Godavari Gokhale (a former member of the Women's Section, Servants of India Society) suspected to be associated with extremist labour activities in Bombay and to have communistic leanings were arrested by the Special Branch of the Bombay C.I.D. on 13-6-1941. The arrests were made under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, which empowers Government to detain persons with a view to "preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to public order".

^{N.M.} Mr. Joshi, in a statement issued on these arrests made the following comments: "Among these arrested there are some communists, some ordinary trade unionists, some having great leftish tendencies, one Royist (M.N.Roy's party) and one Congressman. These people are not in my judgment arrested for their anti-war speeches or activities, as they have not recently engaged themselves in them. I think these arrests are due firstly to Government ignorance of recent tendencies or dependence on wrong information regarding them. Secondly, it may be due to unjustifiable panic created by the employers for their selfish interest. Thirdly, there have been lately some strikes in Bombay, but these strikes are purely economic pretexts. They have no political bearing at all. In these times when the cost of living is growing steadily and sometimes by sudden leaps in prices of certain essential articles, unrest among workers is natural. The arrest of these leaders is not a remedy for this unrest. If these strikes are to be prevented, Government must take the responsibility upon themselves and take the initiative in securing rise in wages

commensurate with the rise in the cost of living as well as with the prosperity of the industry. Government have failed in discharging their responsibility in this matter. If in the name of war, strikes have to be put down by methods of repression without taking the responsibility of protecting the interests of workers, Government is not only not impartial, but is taking sides with the employers against the workers."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 16-6-1941.) ✓

Bombay Domestic Servants' Meeting:

Demand for better Wages. ✓

A meeting of the Bombay Samaj Santa Sangh (Domestic Servants' Association), composed mainly of domestic servants in European households, was held on 1-6-1941 under the presidency of Mr. Chiranji Pagare to consider the disabilities and grievances of domestic servants in European households. The Sangh has undertaken an enquiry into the grievances with a view to devising ways of ameliorating them. The Sangh also felt the necessity of starting a Union of such domestic servants so that they may put forth united and organised effort to ameliorate their conditions. An increase in the pay to compensate the rising cost of living was put forward by Sabha as an urgent demand.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-6-41.) ✓

Census of Burma, 1941:

Provisional Figures of Population reveal 14.7 per cent Increase

The ~~1941~~ Census of Burma was taken on the night of the 5th March 1941. The total population of Burma as thus ascertained is 16,823,798 which is an increase of 2,156,652 or an increase of 14.70% over the last Census. These figures are provisional, but are sufficiently accurate for practical purposes and may be adopted for administrative purposes and for calculation of proportions and percentage based on population. One of the reasons for a higher proportionate increase at this Census is the extension of the operation to areas omitted in the previous Censuses. The provisional number of houses in 1941 was 3,543,610 as against 3,140,423 in 1931 or an increase of 12.83 per cent. in 1941 over the 1931 figures.

(Resolution of the Judicial Department,
Government of Burma dated 17-6-1941:
Supplement to the Burma Gazetteer
21-6-1941, pages 667 to 669.) ✓

Uplift of Aboriginal Tribes in C.P.:

Preliminary Report of Mr. Grigson. ✓

The various aspects of the aboriginal problem in C.P. and Berar have been under investigation in the C.E Government, and Mr. W.V. Grigson, the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Officer, has recently submitted his preliminary report on the local aspects of the problem in the district of Balaghat. The report, though based on conditions in one district, contains much of general application throughout the province. The following are the more important recommendations made by Mr. Grigson: (1) More forest schools should be opened; (2) ~~havar~~ cultivation should continue in the areas where it is now permitted; (3) the appointment of aboriginal patels (village headmen) is commended; (4) public health should be regarded as the chief part of the Civil Surgeon's duties in the district; (5) temperance propaganda should be actively encouraged and tribal social reform movements should be encouraged; (6) cottage industries should be fostered and greater co-operation between the various nation-building departments is essential; (7) dancing, folk-songs and local games should be included in the curriculum; and (8) District Development Committees for backward areas should be set up.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-6-1941.) ✓

Adult Education in Bombay:

Millowners' Association's Encouragement of Mill Schools. ✓

Reference was made at pages 48 to 49 of our September 1940 report to the Bombay Government's scheme for the promotion of adult education and to the views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the furtherance of the scheme in the mills and factories in Bombay. It was indicated that the Committee of the Association had agreed to assist the Government in its literacy campaign as far as mill workers were concerned and to give facilities to the Adult Education Committee to enable representatives of that Committee to establish contacts with mill managements. During the last twelve or fifteen months, the Special Literacy Officer appointed by the Government of Bombay under the scheme approached a number of member mills with a ~~xxxxxxx~~ view to find out whether the managements would be prepared to start literacy classes in their mills. The results of the classes conducted in a member mill were reviewed in May 1941, and it would appear that at a small cost of about Rs.50, 53 workers had achieved literacy within a period of four months. In view of the success achieved by the scheme, it was recommended that individual mills should give every facility to the Special Literacy Officer.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for May 1941.) ✓ +

Compulsory Primary Education:

Indore Scheme. ✓

Measures have been taken under the command of the Maharaja of Indore to raise the condition of the people in the Nemawar district, which is one of the most backward in the State. A compulsory education scheme involving a recurring expenditure of about Rs.50,000 will be enforced in the district on 1-7-1941, when 55 new schools for boys will be opened in different centres. The centres have been selected in such a manner that every village will have a school within a radius of two miles. Eight schools will be in forest villages. To obviate the usual experience of stagnation in primary schools, accompanied in many cases by a lapse of illiteracy, it is proposed to have all the new and existing schools up to the upper primary standard and to have trained teachers, as largely as possible, recruited from the district itself. A scheme for the introduction of compulsory primary education among girls in the district will be introduced in the near future.

(The Times of India, 30-6-1941.) ✓ +

Reorganisation of Education in Mysore: Government to appoint Committee. ✓

In his concluding remarks at the end of the last session of the Mysore Representative Assembly, the Dewan announced the decision of the Government to appoint a committee to examine the curricula of studies in primary and middle schools and the various schemes of education in operation in India and elsewhere with the object of introducing such improvements in the scheme of studies as may be beneficial and feasible in Mysore.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-6-1941.) +

WagesPayment of Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-paid Central GovernmentEmployees in centrally administered areas. +

The Government of India has had under consideration ~~on~~ the question of affording relief to low paid Government servants in the event of a substantial rise in the cost of living in the circumstances created by the war, and has decided, in supersession of all previous orders on the subject, to grant to Central Government servants employed in the Provinces of Delhi, Baluchistan and Ajmer-Merwara, and Andamans and Nicobar Islands (except Railway employees, whose case will be governed by separate orders) a grain compensation allowance on the scale indicated below when the average price of food grain of the Provinces over one month becomes dearer than a specified rate for each ~~of the provinces~~.

To take Delhi Province as an illustrative case, for persons getting below Rs.16 per month, the compensation admissible, if the average price of the principal food grain, in the province, is 9 seers (18 lbs.) per rupee or dearer, but not dearer than 7 seers, is Re.1 per month; if it becomes dearer than 7 seers, the compensation to be paid is Rs.2 per month. For those getting between Rs.16 and Rs.30 per month, the amounts are Rs.2 and Rs.3 respectively. The rate of compensation in the other provinces is the same, though the price level of food grain which regulates the compensation allowance varies in each case. A Government servant on emoluments exceeding Rs.30 ~~per mensem will be eligible under this scheme for such allowance as is sufficient to ensure that the total of his emoluments and allowance shall equal but not exceed the total of these amounts admissible to a Government servant drawing Rs.30 per mensem.~~ The term "emoluments" used in ~~the preceding paragraphs~~ includes the amount drawn monthly by a Government servant as pay, special pay, personal pay, overtime allowances, fees and pension. House rent or other compensatory allowance shall not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating emoluments.

In the case of a Government servant whose remuneration is calculated at daily rates but is disbursed at the end of the month or at definite periodical intervals (e.g., work-charged establishments) the allowance will bear the same proportion to that given for Government servants on monthly rates of pay as the number of days for which the Government servant was employed during the month bears to the number of working days in the month, the allowance being rounded to the next high anna. Piece-workers will, however, be eligible for the full allowance for the month.

In the case of Coorg, the allowance is Re.1 per month for those getting Rs.30 or less per month as salary as long as the average price of rice stands at 7 seers or dearer.

(Notifications Nos. F.44(4)-R.II-W/40 dated 26-6-1941: The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 28-6-1941: pages 908 to 911.) +

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Dearness Allowance for Jute Mill Workers. ✓

A flat-rate allowance of one-rupee per month to all workers in their employ irrespective of wages earned has been recommended by the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association to all the member mills. The recommendation will take effect from the month of June 1941 and will be in force until further notice. The allowance is not to be linked to the normal wages, but is to be regarded as a distinct and separate payment. It will be recalled that in November 1939, jute mill labour received a ten per cent. increase in wages.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 23-6-1941.) ✓+

Employment.

Expansion of Technical Training Scheme. ✓+

Expansion of Scheme.- The Technical Training Scheme owes its origin to the Technical Training Enquiry Committee which submitted its report to the Department of Labour at the end of July, 1940 (vide page 47 of our July 1940 report). The report recommended the utilisation of 16 technical institutions and the intensive training of some 3,000 semi-skilled tradesmen and was accepted by the Government of India early in August, 1940. Owing to the increasing needs of the technical branches of the Defence Services and Ordnance and Munitions factories, the scheme has since been expanded to provide for the training of 15,000 men by the end of March 1942. Of the 15,000 men required, 7,000 are general engineering fitters, 2,500 turners (metal), 1,500 machinists (metal), 1,250 electricians, 550 blacksmiths, 450 tin and ~~knapp~~ copper smiths, 500 welders (electric and oxy-acetylene), 300 draughtsmen, 200 moulders and 200 carpenters. Nearly 6,000 men are already under training at 87 centres, and 104 more centres are ready to receive over 6,000 trainees. Thirty-two trainees have already passed out from the classes.

Appointment of Instructors.- The Government of India has arranged with the British Government for the services of 100 technical training instructors from the United Kingdom to be placed at the disposal of the Department of Labour for work in connection with the Technical Training Scheme. The object is to introduce a leaven of experienced instructors from English training centres among instructors in India and so bring training here more closely into line with up-to-date practice in the United Kingdom. The instructors will come in batches, the first of which is due to arrive shortly.

Selection of Candidates and Conditions of Apprenticeship.- Candidates for training are ordinarily selected by the National Service Labour Tribunals if constituted for each Province. If, however, the supply from this source is inadequate, local arrangements may be made for the selection of candidates. No guarantee is given or implied that the trainee will be provided with employment on the

completion of their training. But trainees should give an undertaking to accept such employment as may be offered them, or to refund the stipends drawn by them. Travelling expense of the trainee to join the Centre is paid by the Government. Trainees are medically examined under arrangements made by the National Service Labour Tribunals. They are allowed free medical treatment at the cost of the Central Government up to a maximum of Rs.10 at any one time. Expenditure in excess of this amount may be incurred when necessary. Trainees receive stipends from the Central Government at the rate of Rs.25 per month if they are matriculates, or Rs.20 per month if they are not, and are expected to pay for their board and lodging out of these amounts. In the matter of fines and deductions, they are treated as employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and, thus, both their interests and those of the training authorities are, therefore, fully protected in the event of accidents arising out of training.

The maximum duration of the courses is one year but a large number of semi-skilled men will, it is expected, be turned out in a considerably shorter period. Owing to the urgent need for trained men, it may be necessary to reduce the maximum duration of the courses to nine months. Trainees are passed out as soon as they have passed the standard trade tests.

Cost of Training.- As a general rule, the Central Government pays Rs.7 per head per month for training, in those cases in which the Government provides or pays the cost of any additional equipment or instructors required. Where additional instructors or equipment are ~~not provided or paid for by the Central Government~~, a higher rate is paid. Syllabuses of training, intended for use only as a guide, and standard trade tests have been prepared in pamphlet form by the Department of Labour.

Appointment of Regional Inspectors.- There are nine Regional Inspectors of Technical Training at present and two more are to be appointed shortly. It is the duty of these inspectors to visit all training centres periodically and to ensure that the training given is efficient and intensive. The inspectors may be freely consulted on all matters affecting training and are giving heads of training centres every assistance in working the scheme. In addition to the Regional Inspectors, Technical Recruiting Officers and representatives of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Factories have been appointed to visit training centres. An important function of the Regional Inspectors is to test the skill of the trainees periodically and supervise the trade tests to which they are submitted before being passed as fit for employment. All trainees who pass the standard trade tests are supplied with a certificate to that effect.

Training of Instructors.- Owing to the growing need for instructors in the engineering trades, arrangements have been made by the Labour Department for the opening of classes for the training of 450 fitter, turner and machinist instructors (who have workshop experience) at selected training centres. They will be paid stipends of Rs.50 per month in the case of supervisors and Rs.35 per month in the case of mistries. Classes have already been arranged at three centres and the first batch of 64 instructors will be placed under training early in July 1941.

(Press Note issued by the Labour Department,
Government of India, on 25-6-1941.) ✓

Government of India sets up Reconstruction Committee:
Proceedings of 1st Meeting, Simla, 23-6-1941.

The Government of India appointed in the first week of June, 1941, a Reconstruction Committee to be presided over by the Hon. the Commerce Member, the other members of which will be the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and representatives of the Finance Department, the Commerce Department, the Defence Department, the Department of Education, Health and Lands, the Labour Department, the Department of Supply and the Railway Board.

A Press Note issued by the Government on 6-6-1941, explaining the objects and scope of work of the Committee, says: "Following upon the great and steadily increasing dislocation of economic and particularly industrial conditions caused by the war, an equally great, but more abrupt, dislocation of those conditions is to be expected on the return of a state of peace. Industries that are now being developed as rapidly and extensively as possible will no longer be actively engaged upon urgent war contracts; labour that has been employed in these industries will become redundant; and stocks of materials and ~~finished articles prepared for war use~~ will become surplus and their disposal will have to be arranged. It is therefore not too soon to begin to survey them while there is yet time to do this, without incurring the perils which attend hasty improvisation, so that they may be ~~par~~ prepared with their plans when the anticipated emergency comes." The main purpose and necessity of such a committee was fully explained by the Commerce Member in the Legislative Assembly in March 1941 in Delhi. (vide pages 21-23 of the report of this Office for April 1941.)

The Committee, the Communiqué points out, will arrange for the bulk of its detailed work to be done by Sub-Committees appointed to deal with various problems, and its main functions will therefore be to direct and co-ordinate the work of the Sub-Committees. It is further intended that persons with special knowledge, whether official or non-official, shall be added to the various Sub-Committees. In due course, arrangements will be made to bring the main Committee and the Sub-Committees into touch with Provincial and State Governments and to enable them to obtain the advice of industrialists and other businessmen, who will be in a position to give valuable assistance on the diverse problems which will arise from time to time. The Government considers that the most effective way of bringing expert opinion to bear is, by way of inviting its collaboration with reference to specific problems and not by enlarging the main Committee, especially as experience shows that an unduly large committee cannot function efficiently.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-6-1941, and
Public Information, 1-7-1941.)

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First Meeting of Reconstruction Committee,
Simla, 23-6-1941.

The first meeting of the Reconstruction Committee was held on 23-6-1941 at Simla, with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, in the chair. Four Sub-Committees were set up at the meeting. They are: the first on labour and demobilisation with the Defence Secretary as chairman, the second on disposals and contracts with the Secretary, Supply Department, as chairman, the third on public works and Government purchases with the Labour Secretary as chairman, and the fourth on trade, international trade policy and agricultural developments with the Commerce Secretary as chairman.

Composition and Work of Sub-Committees and Steering Committee.-
These committees will consist of representatives of departments of the Central Government, representatives of provincial and State Governments, non-official commercial and industrial representatives and representatives of labour according to the nature of the work involved in each committee. The Reconstruction Committee (co-ordination) which is the steering committee, will receive the reports of the other committees and will be responsible for giving guidance, where necessary, to the work of the other committees. The recommendations of the committees will be considered by the Governor-General-in-Council and such action as may be considered necessary taken thereon. The essential features of the reconstruction programme will be the re-distribution of labour now engaged on war production, the employment in other occupations of men now with the fighting forces, the tapering off of war ~~production as commercial~~ war acceleration of public works and labour creating schemes by public and private enterprise, and the formulation of long-term trade and industrial policies. The special aspects of the work of the four sub-committees are briefly noticed below:-

Labour and Demobilisation Sub-Committee.- The main work of this Committee will be:-

(a) to inaugurate at once a proper statistical service relating to the increasing volume of employment in the industries primarily affected by war demands, e.g., ordnance and clothing factories, engineering, textiles, etc.,

(b) to consider how far labour at present employed in a given direction can be re-employed in other directions without retraining; what, if any, arrangements for retraining can be instituted and what the direction of retraining should be; finally, whether any arrangements for relief work, etc., will be necessary and, if so, where and under what conditions of pay, terms of employment, etc.,

(c) to keep in close touch with the Army authorities, so that their plans of demobilisation should not accentuate the problem of employment on the cessation of hostilities. It would appear desirable, therefore, that the Army should keep a record of the former occupations of recruits.

(d) to consider carefully how far existing facilities by means of which those in search of employment are put in touch with available jobs are adequate in the light of an employment crisis such as may confront the country at the end of the war or thereafter.

Committee on War Contracts.- It will be the duty of this Committee to ~~make~~ arrangements so as to prevent the whole economic

structure from being demoralised by a sudden cessation of war production. The aim should be to taper off war production as commercial demand expands. Arrangements will also have to be made for the orderly disposal of stocks already on hand or accruing under war contracts, so as not to break prices and check demand for new production manifesting itself.

Committee on Public Works and Government Purchases.- It is pointed out that it is not necessary to labour the point that acceleration, or, contrariwise, the decline of public works expenditure, and/or expenditure by Government departments generally, can powerfully influence the labour market and the economic situation generally. It is therefore a matter of great importance to arrive at an agreed public works policy, the object of which would be to accelerate public works as the various demands for war purposes taper off. Different types of public works will give very different degrees of employment, direct and indirect, according to the types of labour, materials, etc., involved, and investigations of these aspects of the matter will be required before an adequate policy can be evolved. It will also be necessary to take into account the possible acceleration, for example, of housing projects and of considering ways and means of stimulating private capital construction as fully as possible.

Committee on Trade and Agricultural Problems.- The Government recognises that the formulation of long-term trade and industrial policies is properly a matter for the Government as a whole. But it is clear that practically every country in the world will be faced with an identical problem at the end of the war and the practicability of the emergency measures adopted by each of them will in part depend upon the general attitude assumed towards international trade. The importance of watching the development of thought and action in this field is particularly great for countries such as India, whose national income is liable to sharp fluctuations through changes in the level of international prices.

One special problem arising immediately out of the war situation is also to be considered. It has been pointed out that the gradual improvement in the shipping situation which is to be expected at the end of the war will tend to increase the volume of imports. This will affect the position of industries which have expanded as a consequence of the present quasi-monopoly held by them and will raise the question of redundant plant, or, alternatively, the question of what tariff measures will be necessary or desirable, to safeguard the position of such industries consistently with due appreciation of the position of the consumer under the then existing circumstances.

It is explained that changes in international trade policies and in the tariff policies of different countries will greatly affect the position of the growers of particular crops, e.g., cotton, wheat, oilseeds. It will, therefore, be necessary to consider not only the direct impact effects, but also the possibilities of diverting agricultural production along new lines, if international developments should appear to be, on the whole, unfavourable to the maintenance of the present scale of production of agricultural products.

(The Statesman, 25-6-1941.) +

Compensation for War Injuries.

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The Burma War Injuries Rules, 1941. ✓

The Government of Burma has promulgated the Burma War Injuries Rules, 1941, which came into force on 1-4-1941, according to which during the period of voyage from the United Kingdom to Burma on first appointment, the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme made by His Majesty's Minister of Pensions under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, shall apply to all persons recruited in the United Kingdom for appointment to the Civil Services and posts under the rule-making control of the Governor.

(Notification No. 68 dated 5-6-1941;
The Burma Gazette, Part I, dated
14-6-1941, pages 769 to 770.) ✓

Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council:Five new Indian Members appointed:Sir Firoz Khan Noon becomes Labour Member:Setting up of Indian Defence Council.

The last few weeks have witnessed a number of changes in the Viceroy's Executive Council. Apart from the appointment of two Indian members in place of two retiring Indian Members, the Council itself has been expanded to include five additional Indian members. Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Member in Charge of Law and Supply Departments, has been appointed a Judge of the Federal Court, and he is to vacate his membership of the Viceroy's Council shortly; Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, has been appointed Agent-General for India in the United States, and he is also expected to vacate membership shortly.

On 21-7-1941, the Government of India issued a communiqué to the effect that as a result of the increased pressure of work, in connexion with the war, it has been decided to enlarge the Executive Council of the Governor General of India in order to permit the separation of the portfolios of Law and Supply and Commerce and Labour; ~~the division of the present portfolio of Education, Health and Lands~~ into separate portfolios of Education, Health and Lands and Indians Overseas; and the creation of portfolios of Information and of Civil Defence. Accordingly, the following have been appointed to the Executive Council: Member for Supply - Sir Hormusji P. Mody, K.B.E., M.L.A. (Central); Member for Information - The Rt. Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, P.C.; Member for Civil Defence - Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao; Member for Labour - Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, K.C.I.E.; Member for Indians Overseas - Mr. M.S. Aney, M.L.A. (Central); Member for Law - Sir Sultan Ahmed, (to take office when Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan vacates the post); and Member for Education, Health and Lands - Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar (to take office when Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai vacates the post).

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.)

Establishment of Indian Defence Council.

The constitution of a National Defence Council for India ~~has~~ is also announced on 21-7-1941. The Council, which has been set up with a view to associate Indian non-official opinion as fully as possible with the prosecution of the war, is to consist of 30 members, including representatives of Indian States as well as of provinces and of other elements in the national life of British India in its relation to the war effort. The names of 24 ^{members} ~~persons~~ from British India have been announced.

The personnel of the Defence Council is selected in such a way as to give representation not only to territorial areas but to different interests, functions and communities. Moslem representation, for instance, is secured by no fewer than four Prime Ministers, in addition to the only woman representative, Begum Shah Nawaz. From the point of view of representation of functions, commerce is

represented by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava, Sir Muthia Chettiar, Mr. Morton and Mr. Mukerjee; while labour is represented by Mr. Jammadas Mehta and Dr. Ambedkar; military interests by Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan; minority interests other than Moslem by Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Parsis), Mr. Rajah (scheduled castes), Sir Henry Gidney (Anglo-Indians) and Prof. Ahmad Shah (Indian Christian).

It is proposed that the Council should meet about once every two months under the chairmanship of the Viceroy himself. The proceedings will be in camera and special arrangements will be made to ensure secrecy. Only members of the Council will ordinarily be present, but the Governor-General will have discretion to invite members of the Executive Council or any other officer to be present when necessary. At each meeting, apart from other business, the Council will receive a full and confidential statement of the war position and of the position in regard to supply. The Council is intended to act as a liaison between provincial war effort and war effort of the centre.

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.) +

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List of more important publications received in this Office
during June 1941. ✓

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report of the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee, Vol. II - Final Report. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Re.1-5-0 or 2s.3d. 1940.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1939. Volume II. Abstract and detailed tables of the trade and shipping with each country and at each port, and table relating to the trade of the French Possessions in India. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.18-10 or 29s.
- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the year ending 31st August 1940. Price Rs.2/-.
- (3) Summary Proceedings of the Forty-third meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee held on the 17th and 18th January, 1941.

Migration.-

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1940. Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 8d.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Annual Report on the Department of Agriculture of the North-West Frontier Province for the year ending 30th June, 1940. Part I; Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P., Peshawar. 1941. Price Rs.0-7-0 or £.0-0-9.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the United Provinces for the year 1939-40. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, United Provinces. 1941. Price 6 annas.
- (2) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June, 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Re.1-8 or 2s.3d.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

- (1) Government of Bengal, Department of Commerce and Labour. Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1926, in Bengal, for the year ending the 31st March, 1940. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1941. Price Annas 14 or 1s.6d.
- (2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting held at Delhi on 22nd and 23rd March, 1941. Vol.III. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.

Public Health.-

Annual returns of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Orissa for the year 1939. By Lt.-Col. G. Verghese, I.M.S., Director of Health and Inspector-General of Prisons, Orissa. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Rs.3-1-0.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) Report on the Administration of Municipalities in the Province of Bombay for the year 1939-40. (including Statistical Statement for the City of Bombay). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 12. or 1s.3d. 1941.
- (2) Catalogue of publications, Part I. June 1941. Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. †