

	<u>Pages</u>
(l) Definition of "workman": Bombay High Court Judgment in a Workmen's Compensation Case.	27-28
(m) Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 30-6-1937.	28-30
(n) Cawnpore Textile Strike Situation: Judge appointed to decide Interim Disputes.	30-32
5. <u>Enforcement of Conventions.</u>	
(a) Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar, 1936.	33-34
(b) Working of Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways, 1936-37.	34-38
6. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
(a) Annual Meeting of Central Labour Federation, Punjab.	39
(b) Nagpur Textile Workers' Demands: Prime Minister Advises Unity in Labour Ranks.	40
(c) Labour's Needs in Travancore: Demands formulated by All-Labourers' United Sangham.	41
7. <u>Intellectual Workers.</u>	
Demands of Clerks of Insurance Companies of Delhi: Memorial sent to Members of Central Legislature.	42
8. <u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
(a) Madras Budget Proposals for 1937-38.	43-44
(b) Assam Budget Proposals for 1937-38.	45-46
(c) Bengal Budget Proposals for 1937-38.	46-50
(d) The U.P. Budget Proposals for 1937-38 .	50-52
(e) The Sind Land Alienation Bill, 1937.	53
(f) The U.P. Agriculturists' Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1937.	54
(g) The Madras Agriculturists' Moratorium Bill, 1937.	54
(h) The Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937.	54-55
(i) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937.	55-56
(j) The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937.	56-59
(k) Debt Position of the Government of India: Statement by Government.	59-60
(l) Relief for U.P. Peasantry: Stay of Proceedings for Ejectment, etc: Circular Letter to District Officers.	60-62
9. <u>Employment and Unemployment.</u>	
(a) Reducing Unemployment among Technical Workers in Sugar Industry: Employment Bureau to be established at Cawnpore.	63
(b) Providing Work for Educated Unemployed: Annamalai University initiates Scheme of Land Colonisation.	64
(c) Colony for Educated Unemployed: Private Initiative in Madras Presidency.	65

- (d) Educated Unemployed in Madras: Government Orders fresh Enquiry. 66-67
- (e) Unemployment in India: Government of India's Examination of Sapru Report. 68-70
- (f) Small Scale Industries for Educated Unemployed: Government of India consults Provincial Governments. 71-72
- 10. Social Conditions.
 - (a) Working of The Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay Presidency: Government appoints an Enquiry Committee. 73
 - (b) Prohibition in the Madras Presidency: Provincial Legislature passes the Prohibition Bill, 1937. 73-74
- 11. Public Health.
 - Control of Smoke Nuisance in Calcutta: 31st Annual Report of Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission, 1936. 75-76
- 12. Nutrition.
 - "Nutrition Officers" for Provinces: First Batch Trained by Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor. 77
- 13. Co-operation.
 - Impetus to Cottage Industries in Madras by Grant of Subsidies: The Madras State-Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1937. 78
- 14. Education.
 - (a) Re-organisation of Education in Hyderabad State: Board of Secondary Education set up. 79
 - (b) Changing Hours of Instruction: Travancore State initiates Experiment. 80
- 15. Maritime Affairs.
 - (a) Demands of Indian Seamen: Increased Wages and Recruitment by Open Muster System: Seamen's Day Celebrations at Calcutta, 12-9-1937. 81-82
 - (b) Administration of Bombay Port Trust, 1936-37: Conditions of Work of Staff. 83-84
 - (c) Conditions of Dock Workers at Bombay: Enquiry Committee demanded. 84
 - (d) Government's Suggestion of Extension of the Basic Period of the Lascar Agreement: Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. 85
 - (e) Calcutta Shipping Lines and Seamen's Unions: Restriction on Recognition of Registered Unions. 86
- 16. Migration.
 - (a) Labour Shortage in Ceylon Estates: Importing of

	<u>Pages</u>
Indian Workers Opposed.	87-88
(b) Indian Migration to Malaya and Ceylon, 1936.	89-91
17. <u>General.</u>	
(a) Viceroy's Address to Central Legislature, Simla, 13-9-1937.	92-93
(b) Redistribution of Portfolios in Viceroy's Executive Council.	93
(c) Congress and Labour: Labour Committee of A.I.C.C. plans Conference with Labour Ministers.	94-96
(d) Organising Labour in the Punjab: Congress Plans for Provincial Labour Board.	96.

References to the I.L.O., r

A ^{photo} ~~picture~~ of Mr. B.M.Birla taken on his return to India after attending the Washington Textile Conference was published in the Hindu dated 4-9-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 5-9-1937 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 7-9-1937.

* * *
The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 29-8-1937 publishes a statement issued by Mr. R.R.Bakhale on his return from the Washington Textile Conference and the Tokyo Asiatic Labour Congress, on the work of the two Conferences.

* * *
The June and July 1937 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a note on the results of the Washington Textile Conference.

* * *
The June and July 1937 issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, ~~as above~~ publishes an account of the Tokyo session of the Asiatic Labour Congress. References are made in the course of the note to the various resolutions bearing on the work of the I.L.O. which were adopted by the Congress.

* * *
The Bombay Chronicle dated 22-9-1937 publishes a report of the proceedings of the 2nd session of the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Tokio, furnished by the International Federation of Trade Unions. In the course of the report, references are made to the resolutions bearing on the work of the I.L.O. adopted by the Congress.

* * *
The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 5-9-1937 publishes the speech of Mr. W.V.R.Naidu at the 23rd I.L.Conference on the proposal for a 40-hour week in the textile industry.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12-9-1937 reproduces extracts from the debate on the Minimum Age Convention at the 23rd I.L.Conference, containing the speeches on the subject of the Indian Delegates.

* * *
The Planters' Chronicle dated 4-9-1937 publishes a note setting forth the results of the 23rd session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *
A communique re. the results of the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 15-7-1937) is published by the June and July 1937 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay.

* * *
The Hindu dated 28-8-1937, the Hindustan Times, the Statesman, the National Call and the Bombay Chronicle dated 29-8-1937, the Times of India dated 30-8-1937, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 31-8-1937 and the Leader dated 1-9-1937 publish an interview given to the Associated Press of India by Sir H.P.Mody, the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference, on his return from Geneva, on the work of the Conference. He criticised the I.L.Conference for being too idealistic and expressed the view that some of the Conventions adopted paid scant regard to realities.

* * *
The National Call dated 30-8-1937 publishes an editorial note on the above, criticising the attitude of Sir Hormusji towards the I.L.O. and upholding the usefulness of the Conventions hitherto adopted.

* * *
The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 7-9-1937 publishes a report of the proceedings of the half-yearly meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association held at Calcutta on 29-8-1937. ~~Mr.xxxx.~~

Mr. S.C.Sen, the Indian workers' delegate to this year's I.L. Conference, attended the meeting and addressed it on the work of the I.L.O.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-8-1937 reproduces from the Irish Independent an interview given to the latter paper by Mr. G.L.Mehta, adviser to the Indian Employers' delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference. In the course of the interview, Mr. Mehta pays a tribute to the Irish delegates to the last I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 13-9-1937 publishes a message from the Dublin Correspondent of the paper regarding the activities of Mr. G.L.Mehta during his recent visit to Ireland. In the course of the message, it is pointed out that Mr. Mehta was the Adviser to the Employers' Delegate to the last session of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 19-9-1937 publishes the first instalment of a long statement issued by Mr. W.V.R. Naidu, adviser to the Workers' Delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference, on the work of the I.L.O. in general and the results achieved by the 23rd I.L.Conference in particular.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 14-9-1937 publishes a summary of a speech delivered recently by Mr. W.V.R.Naidu at the Rotary Club, Jamshedpur. In the course of the speech, Mr. Naidu made references to the 40-hour week Convention adopted at the 23rd I.L.Conference, and expressed the belief that the 40-hour week meant increased efficiency.

* * *

The Servant of India dated 26-8-1937 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 29-8-1937 publish an article under the

caption: "Holidays with Pay" by Mr. N.V. Phadke of the Servants of India Society. The article emphasises the necessity for paid holidays and urges the government to adopt the necessary legislation for the purpose.

* * *

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during August 1937 publish an item: "Holidays with Pay". In reply to a question by the Government of India whether, while not ratifying the Convention re. Holidays with Pay, India should adopt central legislation on the subject on certain qualified lines, the Association expressed the view that "legislation on the lines suggested by Government would be unwarranted under existing conditions; the principle of a paid holiday was receiving increased recognition, and it was felt that Government should not endeavour to force the pace by legislative action in view of the unremunerative character of the trade, but should endeavour to secure with the voluntary co-operation of employers a gradual extension of existing systems."

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-9-1937 publishes the report of a joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the Press Employees' Association, the Municipal Employees' Association and the Bidi Mazdoor Sangh at Nagpur on 1-9-1937. The meeting adopted a resolution strongly supporting the I.L. Convention re. holidays with pay and urging the government to ratify the Convention.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal dated 29-8-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "40-Hour Week for Textile Industry: Encouraging Results achieved in U.S.A. and France" contributed

by this Office on 11-6-1937.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 25-8-1937 and the Leader dated 28-8-1937 publish an article under the caption: "A 40-Hour Week for India: Encouraging Experience of New Zealand" contributed by this Office. Numerous references are made in the article to the efforts of the I.L.O. for bringing about a 40-hour week.

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, dated 26-8-1937 reproduces the item: "The Problem of Leisure" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.15 (July 1937).

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-9-1937 reproduces the item "The I.L.O. and Extra European Countries" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(a) (June 1937).

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 22-8-1937 publishes an appreciative review of the Book: "I.L.O.: The Unregarded Revolution" by Kathleen Gibberd. *(Review contributed by this Office)*

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 6-9-1937 publishes a review of the I.L.O. publication: "The Evaluation of Permanent Incapacity for Work in Social Insurance." *(Review contributed by this Office)*

* * *

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 7-9-1937 publishes an appreciative review of the above publication. *(Review contributed by this Office)*.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 12-9-1937 publishes a review of the I.L.O. publication: "The Evaluation of Permanent Incapacity for work in Social Insurance". The review was contributed by this Office. (A review copy of the publication was sent to the paper by this Office.)

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12-9-1937 also publishes a review of the above. The review was contributed by this Office. (A review copy of the publication was sent to the paper by this Office.)

* * *

The Hindu dated 19-9-1937 publishes a review of the above. (A review copy of the publication was sent to the paper by this Office).

* * *

A communique re. the work of the Permanent Agricultural Committee of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 7-8-1937) is published by the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 29-8-1937 and the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 18-9-1937.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 15-9-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 16-9-1937 publish a news item to the effect that Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., left Simla on 13-9-1937 for Bombay 'en route' to Europe to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at Prague.

* * *

The Hindu dated 18-9-1937 publishes a news item to the effect that Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., sailed for Europe by s.s. 'Ranpura', and that, after attending the meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at Prague, he will proceed to England to watch political developments there.

* * *

The Indian Journal of Economics for the first quarter of 1937-38 issued in July 1937 publishes an article under the caption "The I.L.O. and Agricultural Workers", contributed by the Director of this Office. The article was written to correct certain mis-statements which occurred in a review of the I.L.O. booklet on the work of the 19th session of the I.L. Conference published in the Journal for the third quarter of 1936-37 issued in January 1937.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 2-9-1937 publishes a report of the proceedings of the Central Assembly on 1-9-1937. At question

time, Mr. Satyamurthi asked a comprehensive question regarding India's contribution to the League, representation of Indians in the League Secretariats, etc. The Law Member replied to the interpellation. The report of the proceedings was published in all papers.

* * *

The Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for 1936 contains the following references to the I.L.O.: (1) at pages 198-206 are published the views of the Chamber on the items on the agenda of the 21st and 22nd maritime sessions of the I.L. Conference; (2) at pages 206-208 is published the representation submitted by the Chamber to the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India on the question of the eligibility of Chambers of Commerce to make recommendations relating to the nomination of employers' delegates and their advisers to the I.L. Conference. The point arose in connection with the decision of the Government of India that "an association will be regarded as representative of employers only if it includes among its functions that of dealing with the interests of employers as such (e.g. regulating conditions of employment)"; (3) at page 208 are published the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Statesman dated 29-8-1937 publishes a note on the official career of Mr. A. Latifi, I.C.S., who retired from Service recently. Mention is made in the note of his having represented India at the 1929 session of the I.L. Conference. Similar notes are published in several other papers also.

* * *

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them (The list is compiled only from

newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses:

1. The Guardian, Madras, dated 26-8-1937 reproduces the item: "The Problem of Leisure" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.15 (July 1937).
2. The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-9-1937 reproduces the item: "The I.L.O and Extra-European Countries" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(a) (June 1937).

* * *

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

1. A message from the Dublin Correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle re. the activities of Mr. G.L.Mehta during his recent visit to Ireland.

7

Patifications.

Recommendation re. Seamen's Welfare in Ports:

Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. +

In August 1937 the Government of India addressed a circular letter to Provincial Governments to elicit the views of industrial interests on the question of giving effect to the I. L. Conference Recommendation re. Seamen's Welfare in Ports, adopted in 1936. In that letter the Government of India stated (1) that they are having under consideration the question of the adoption, either fully or in part, of the Recommendation on behalf of India, (2) that their decision on this question would depend on whether the Government were in a position to give effect to the provisions of the Recommendation, and (3) that before coming to a decision in the matter they wished to know the extent to which the provisions of the Recommendation are already in force in India and also how far its other provisions are suited to conditions in India.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, while expressing sympathy with the provisions of the Recommendation, has expressed doubt as to whether the application of the Recommendation to Indian ports would prove practicable or justified from the financial point of view.

(Summarised from the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for August 1937.) +

Nagpur Workers Recommend Ratification of I.L.Convention.

A joint meeting of the representatives of the Executive Committees of the Press Employees' Association, the Municipal Employees' Association and the Bidi Mazdur Sangh, Nagpur, was held at Nagpur on 31-8-1937 to consider the question of holidays with pay, Rao Sahib R.W.Fuley presiding. The meeting, after fully considering the Draft Convention and Recommendation re. Holidays with Pay passed by the 20th Session of the I.L.Conference and the Government of India's circular letter dated 14-6-1937, on the subject, adopted the following resolution:

(a) That the Central and Provincial Legislatures and their respective Governments should at once ratify and give effect to this Recommendation by initiating legislation for holidays with pay for industrial workers and sweepers for at least 30 days for every 12 months' previous continuous service and that the cost thereof should be borne by employers.

(b) That the various Provincial Governments should without further delay initiate legislation applying the Convention in a form suited to the local conditions of each province so as to provide inter alia:

(i) Annual holidays with pay of at least 30 working days after twelve months' service.

(ii) Work people with less than twelve months' service at least two days' holiday with pay for each month's service.

(iii) Option to workers of breaking this period into two equal periods.

(iv) Against temporary break in service, which might be the result of trade dispute, sickness, accident and change in the management of the undertaking.

(v) Adequate penal measures to deal with acts violating the provisions of the Convention.

(c) That the meeting urges upon the workers of the Province to create public opinion and consciousness for strengthening the hands of the Congress Ministry in initiating such legislation in other Provinces or in forcing the hands of the Central Government in ratifying this Convention, and requiring to bring such a measure for the whole of India.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-9-1937).

National Labour Legislation.

Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill, 1937 : Bill

Introduced in Central Assembly.

(L.A. Bill No. 33 of 1937.)

Sir Thomas Stewart, Member in Charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India, introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly on 27-8-1937 a Bill to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill is reproduced below:

Section 2 of the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936, enlarged, temporarily for a period of two years, the powers vested in the Chief Inspector or an Inspector to issue orders applicable to individual mines where danger is apprehended. It was intended that permanent legislation should be undertaken after the whole question of safety in mines had been investigated by a Committee. The Coal Mining Committee has recommended that the temporary powers should be made permanent, and clause 2 of the Bill is designed for this purpose.

Clause 3 is designed to remove certain defects in section 9 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, which prohibits the Mining Inspectorate from disclosing to any but specified officers information acquired by him in the course of an inspection except with the consent of the Central Government. As in the course of an inspection of a mine evidence of danger to adjacent mines may be secured, it is desirable to permit the disclosure of such information to persons likely to be affected, without special permission. It is proposed also to provide that prosecutions for unlawful disclosure of information should have the previous sanction of the Central Government.

Clause 4 seeks, in recasting section 30A of the Mines Act (introduced by the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936), to remove defects which came to notice in drafting regulations under the section and especially to provide for the imposition of a duty on coal and coke for defraying the cost of rescue stations. The section as it now stands provides for the allocation of the expense of such stations among mines served by such stations and for the recovery from owners or agents of mines of the sums payable. The realization of the cost direct from the mineowners would present considerable difficulties and it is administratively more convenient to meet the cost by a small levy on despatches.

(Pages 233-234 of Part V of Gazette of India, dated 4-9-1937.)

On 13-9-1937 Sir Thomas Stewart moved that the above Bill be referred to a Select Committee. In doing so Sir Thomas said that the provisions of the Bill were non-controversial and were intended to secure greater safety for workers under ground. One effect of the Bill would be to make permanent the power temporarily given to the inspectorate to issue orders applicable to individual mines where danger was apprehended. Another effect would be to give the inspectorate liberty to disclose knowledge of the conditions of one mine if these conditions threaten the safety of neighbouring mines. The Bill also sought to remove the defects noticed in the drafting of the regulations and especially to provide for the imposition of a duty on coal and coke to defray the cost of rescue stations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi, supported the motion, but considered that the Bill was inadequate and did not provide for full safety in the mines. He strongly advocated a further Bill embodying the recommendations of the Indian Coal-Mining Committee, particularly relating to miners' wages and the suggestion that mineowners should be required to have some knowledge of the industry. Referring to wages, Mr. Joshi drew attention to the fact that there was a 45 per cent decrease in their efficiency and an increase in dividends. Mr. Joshi supported the recommendation of the minority on the Coal-Mining Committee for the nationalization of the mines. He declared that the administration of rescue stations should be controlled by the Central Government and if the intention was to carry out the administration by means of a committee, miners should have representation there. Other members also supported the motion.

Sir Thomas in winding up the debate informed the House that the Bill did not represent the Government's final decision on the recommendations of the coal-mining report. Otherwise the Government might have introduced a more comprehensive measure should such one be necessary. He felt that the charge of inadequacy had been over-pressed. The Government was still examining the report when the draft regulations were finally determined to be published in the form of a notification in the Gazette of India.

The House adopted Sir Thomas Stewart's motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

The Central Assembly passed the Bill on 5-10-1937. (The Statesman, 14-9-1937.)

Amendment to Bombay Factories Rules, 1935.

Attention is directed to Notifications No. S. 129 dated 20-8-1937, No. 1494/34 dated 4-9-1937 and No. 377/34 dated 10-9-1937 published at pages, 1243, 1281 and 1295 of Part IV-A of the issues of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 26-8-1937, 9-9-1937 and 16-9-1937 respectively, regarding certain amendments to the Bombay Factories Rules, 1935. The first is a Draft Notification relating to Shift and rest periods of workers in certain classes of factories, the second is a final Notification on the same subject, and the third announces the rescinding by the Bombay Government of the Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1935, published with the Government of India Notification No. L.3050 dated 19-2-1935, (vide pages 39-41 of our February 1935 report).

The Cochin Trade Disputes Act, 1937:

(Act LXVI of 1112).

The Cochin State Legislature recently passed a Trade Disputes Act (The Cochin Trade Disputes Act, Act LXVI of 1112); which received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on 24-7-1937. The operative part of the Act is almost identical with the Indian Trade Disputes Act, 1929, (Act VII of 1929).

A Copy of the Cochin Trade Disputes Act, 1937, is sent to Geneva with our Minute D1/1070/37 dated 23-9-1937.

The Draft Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1937. +

Attention is directed to Notification No. L 3050 dated 22-9-1937 published by the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India, at pages 1606-1611 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 25-9-1937, of ~~the~~ draft of the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1937, which the Government proposes to make in supersession of the Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1937, in so far as they relate to Federal Railways, in exercise of powers conferred by the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 27-12-1937.

The rules provide for the maintenance of registers of fines, deduction for damage or loss, and wages, and their preservation for 12 months after the last date of entry in them. It enjoins upon the Supervisor of Railway Labour to put up notices of dates of payment and lists of acts and omissions of railway employees for which fines are imposed at conspicuous places. It also lays down the procedure for imposing fines and deductions. +

The Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929:

Government Extends Act to More Industrial Centres.

Attention is directed to page 1322 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 30-9-1937 where is published a Notification (No. 8178 dated 27-9-1937) extending the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act to the districts of Ahmedabad, Poona, Bijapur and Kolaba with effect from 1-11-1937. +

Conditions of Labour.Demand for Fixing Minimum Living Wages:Resolution re. Enquiry Committee Carried in Bihar
Assembly. +

On 5-9-1937, Mr. Khetra Nath Sen Gupta moved in the Bihar Legislative Assembly the following resolution urging the appointment of an enquiry committee to examine the fixation of a minimum living wage for workers in the Province.

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that with a view to fix a living minimum wage for all manual labourers in the province, whether working in industrial concerns, factories or engaged in agricultural pursuits, a committee be formed consisting of five members of the Assembly and two outside experts selected by the Premier, to investigate into the question and report thereon."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Sen Gupta said that it was incumbent on the Congress Government to take up the question. He pointed out that the Whitley Commission on Labour had made certain recommendations on the subject but that the Government has not taken so far any action on the recommendations. As regards the feasibility of the scheme, he said that when it was possible to fix minimum wages for Indian labourers employed in Ceylon, there was no reason why it could not be done in India. He also said that the ^lappalling poverty of labourers has attracted the attention of all patriots, and ~~rightly~~ the Congress, during its election campaign, promised to the electors to take up the question of the poverty of the masses. Indian labour being illiterate and unorganised, could not ^{effectively} fight for proper wages, and hence the necessity for statutory fixing of minimum wages.

Prof. Bari moved the following amendment to the resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that a committee of members of this House and outside experts be appointed to investigate into the conditions of industrial labour in Bihar and make recommendations on the subject within six months."

In moving his amendment, Prof. Bari said, that among the important problems of the Province, the problem of labourers was outstanding. He deplored the absence of literacy, organisation and proper guidance of labourers in order to ameliorate their condition and create self-consciousness in labourers which was much needed as the labourers were frequently betrayed by deceitful leaders. These matters, he said, required attention which could only be given by the Committee. He stressed the importance of the right of organisation to labour and of hartal (strike) so as to better the condition of labourers. He referred to the low wage rates of three annas and four annas per day paid in mining areas which brought about inefficiency, under nourishment and heavy mortality. He deplored the fact of wages remaining fixed for ~~1~~ 15 years without change and of bad housing and other grievances of the labourers.

Mr. Sen Gupta, the mover of the original resolution accepted Prof. Bari's amendment.

Government's Attitude.— After a few members had supported the amended ~~the~~ motion, Babu Jagatnarin Lall, Parliamentary Secretary, said that the Government was aware of workers' low wages and grievances. The problem of fixing minimum wages was before the Government of India for a long time and before the Bihar Government since 1924, after the International Labour

3. Organisation has made enquiries into wage-census, but the speaker regretted the fact that wages varied from area to area with particular professions and from year to year. The Government wanted to help labour, being aware of the inequity of the fight ~~of~~ between labour and capital. The Government accepted the amended resolution extending it to ~~the~~ agricultural labourers too.

The motion was adopted without a division.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-9-1937)

Plight of C. P. Textile Workers:

Government orders Inquiry into Grievances.

Reference was made at pages 39-40 of our June 1937 report and pages 40 of this report to the grievances and demands of the Nagpur textile workers. The Under-Secretary to the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar, Labour and Industries Department, has informed Mr. R. S. Ruiker, President of the Nagpur Textile Union, that the Government has ordered an inquiry into the grievances of Nagpur and Burhanpur textile workers.

(The Statesman, 19-9-1937.)+

15

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers
for Various Centres in India during June 1937. †

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India registered irregular changes during June 1937 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.— The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in June 1937 rose by 2 points to 106. The average in the year 1936 was 102.

Ahmedabad.— The index number (Base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in June 1937 remained unchanged at 76; in 1936 the average was 71.

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

Nagpur.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in June 1937 rose by 1 point to 63.

Jubbulpore.— The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in June 1937 remained stationary at 60.

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

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in

Burma, 1936. †

Statistics of Workers and Compensation Paid.— According to the annual report of the Labour Commissioner, Burma, on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1936, the number of returns received from the employers was 1,467, of which 69 were blank returns from establishments which did no work in 1936 and 28 were from establishments which are not required to submit

*Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in Burma for the year 1936. Rangoon, Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1937. Price, - Rs.1-8=2s.3d. pp. 22

returns; thus there were strictly 1,370 returns from establishments required to report. Of these 2 belonged to railways, 964 to factories, 270 to mines, 2 to tramways, 1 to Port Commission, 2 to fire brigades, 26 to oil-winning establishments, 15 to rubber estates, 64 to establishments (other than factories) for generation, etc., of electricity and 24 to establishments for production, etc., of cinematograph pictures. Only 134 of the 1,370 returns showed any payment of compensation.

Compensation paid in 1936 amounted to Rs. 99,164, the corresponding amount for 1935 being Rs. 91,122. The number of casualties was 2,257, made up of 37 deaths, 124 cases of permanent disablement and 2,096 cases of temporary disablement, the corresponding figures for 1935 being 2,153, 40, 95 and 2,018. The average cost of compensation per workman employed rose from Rs. 0.66 to Rs. 0.68 and the cost of compensation per person killed or injured rose from Rs. 42 to Rs. 44. Casualties were at the rate of one per 65 workmen instead of one per 64 in the previous year.

Cases filed under Section 10 (Award of Compensation).- 22 cases were pending at the commencement of the year; 128 cases were filed during the year; no case was received for disposal from other Commissioners, the total being 150. 2 cases were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal, 20 cases were disposed of without notice to the other party, 86 cases were disposed of after notice to the other party, and 42 cases were pending at the close of the year.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Burma during 1935 was reviewed at pages 20-21 of our July 1936 report).

Aftermath of Calcutta Jute Strike of February-May 1937:

Workers accuse Government of Non-fulfilment of Assurances.

A meeting of nearly 40,000 jute mill workers of Bengal, organised by the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, was held at Calcutta on 5-9-1937 under the presidentship of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, to protest against the non-fulfilment of the assurances given to labourers by the Chief Minister and Labour Minister during the last jute mill strike of February to May 1937.

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20

Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, in opening the proceedings of the meeting, said that the Ministers in their assurances said that they would get recognition for workers' unions and also would try their best to see that the demands of the workers were met (vide page 28 of our May 1937 report). But nothing had been done by the Ministers to implement these assurances. The object of the meeting, he said, was to protest against the present unsympathetic attitude of the Chief Minister and the Labour Minister.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose (President, Bengal Provincial Congress Committee) supported the demands of the workers. He assured the audience that the Indian National Congress would support their cause in every possible way.

Resolutions.— The meeting adopted a number of resolutions, the more important of which are reproduced below:

(1) Fulfilment of Assurances by Government: "This meeting of the jute workers of Calcutta and suburbs places on record its emphatic protest against the non-fulfilment of the assurances solemnly given by the Chief Minister and the Labour Minister to the Government of Bengal, which amounts to virtual betrayal of the cause of the jute workers, and demands the Government to appoint a court of enquiry immediately and to take necessary steps to fulfil the assurances in the proper spirit."

(2) Anti-Labour Policy of Labour Minister: "This meeting particularly condemns the propaganda carried on by the Labour Minister against the Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Union and its leaders and his attempts to create a rival union."

(3) Labour Legislation: "This meeting urges the Government to frame legislation at an early date regarding: (1) Minimum wages of Rs. 30 per month for all workers, (2) Unemployment insurance, fixing the allowance at Rs. 15 per month for all workers, (3) Sickness insurance, (4) Security of service, (5) Liquidation of debts, etc.

"This meeting urges upon the labour and peasant representatives in the Bengal Legislature to support these legislative measures."

(The Comrade, Calcutta, 11-9-1937.)

21

Bonus to Tata's Workers:

Company's Decision to pay in a Lump.

The Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur, had introduced some months' back a profit sharing scheme by which their employees were to be given bonuses in three instalments during the year on profits exceeding a certain minimum (for details vide pages 18-19 of our May 1937 report).

Sir Nowroji Saklatwala, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company, in the course of an interview granted to a representative of the Times of India on 13-9-1937 stated that the Directors, in response to the workers' representation that the instalment system of payment of bonus should be substituted by a system of lump payment, have reconsidered this question and authorised him to declare that on 14-9-1937, when the second instalment was due, the whole of the bonus outstanding would be paid to the employees.

(The Times of India)
15-9-1937

Exclusion of Women Workers from Underground Work
in Coal Mines: Government of India Communique.

A communique issued by the Government of India on 11-9-1937 states that regulations under the Indian Mines Act providing for the complete exclusion of women from employment underground were issued on 1-8-1937 and were intended to come into effect on 1-7-1937, but their enforcement was postponed for three months in

in respect of coal mines in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Orissa.

The Government has now decided to grant no further extension and the regulations will accordingly come into full operation on 1-10-1937.

(The Statesman, 12-9-1937). *

Revised Leave Rules for Permanent and
Temporary Salaried Press Employees in Sind.

Attention is directed to pages 1004-1004 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 23-9-1937 where are published the revised Rules framed by the Local Government to regulate the grant of leave to permanent and temporary salaried press employees working in the Government Press. Earned leave will be admissible to a permanent employee at the rate of 1/11th of the period spent on duty with permission to accumulate up to 90 days. Besides this, leave on production of medical certificate, is admissible to a permanent employee for twelve months during his service. The earned leave of a temporary employee is at the rate of 1/22nd of the period spent on duty with permission to accumulate up to 30 days. On confirmation, however, he earns with retrospective effect for the total period of continuous service leave admissible to permanent employees. Injury leave at half pay rates may be granted from the

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the commencement of disablement to government employees who are injured in circumstances which would give rise to claims for compensation in the case of a workman as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act. This leave shall be granted for so long as is necessary, subject to a limit of two years for any one disability and five years during an employee's total service. Leave salary payable under this rule will, in the case of an employee to whom the Workmen's Compensation Act applies, be reduced by the amount of compensation payable under section 4(1)-B of the said Act. 4.

Wages in the Bombay Textile Industry:

Government Orders Inquiry.

On 20-9-1937 the Government of Bombay announced its decision to appoint a Committee of inquiry to investigate the wages of mill workers and other kindred matters connected with the textile industry in the Presidency. For some time past labour has in the textile mills in Bombay has been complaining that wages are quite inadequate and the present unrest among the workers, unless promptly attended to, is likely to lead to an open dispute. The Government desires to forestall trouble and argues that if wages are inadequate the workers have a right to be discontented and to look for improvement. If, on the other hand, the industry is not in a position to pay higher wages, this fact has to be established. The Government, therefore, decided that a Committee of enquiry should be appointed to go into this question at an early date.

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It is understood that the terms of reference, which will be very comprehensive, are being drafted, and it is expected that within the next few days the Government will announce the personnel of the committee. Representatives of Government, employers, labour and the general community will be asked to serve on it. The Committee is expected to start work towards the end of October next. The magnitude of the task before it is such that it is anticipated that it will require six months fully to delve into the position and report to Government.

Views of the Employers: The decision is generally welcomed in Bombay. It is felt that such an inquiry may perhaps serve a useful purpose, although there is a good deal known about the industry. Millowners as well as labour leaders are anxious to know the exact terms of reference of the proposed committee. Both parties seem to be in favour of an impartial and considered inquiry.

There has been a great change in the mentality of the millowners during the last five years, and it is presumed that they are prepared to give a square deal to labour and pay wages in accordance with the conditions which can be justified, bearing in mind the competitive position of the industry; in other words, their contention is that it is not possible to fix a level for wages in Bombay without considering what is being paid in other parts of the country, taking also into consideration, at the same time, the capacity of the industry to pay.

While it is admitted that the industry has been of late making profit, the first charge on any profit, it is claimed, will be to bring machinery up to date. "Unless you have two or three years of profit," it is argued, "no substantial general revision

of wages can readily be contemplated." Moreover, the average level of earning now is higher than it was in 1934, in spite of the reduction in hours. At present 160,000 workers are employed in Bombay City's textile mills, as against 100,000 employed two or three years ago.

(The Times of India, 25-9-37) +

Low Wages of Mine Workers: Indian

Miners' Association urges Substantial Increase. +

At a meeting of the Indian Miners' Association, Jharia, held in the middle of September 1937, a resolution was adopted urging mine owners to declare a general cent per cent increase in the wages of mine workers from 1-10-1937, in view of the facts that their present scales of wages are very low, and that the exclusion of women workers from underground work from 1-10-1937 will reduce the total earnings of mine workers' families.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-9-37). +

Threatened Strike in Calcutta Electric Supply

Corporation: Workers' Demands. +

The workers of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, it is understood, have communicated to the management of the Corporation a list of grievances which they want to be redressed at an early date, failing which they have threatened to go on strike. The chief demands of the workers are:

- (1) Recognition of the Calcutta Electric Supply Workers' Union which is registered under the Trade Unions Act;
- (2) Security of Service;
- (3) Raising of initial pay of the inside coolies from Rs.18/-

to Rs. 25/- per month, that of outside coolies to Rs. 20/- per month and that of coolies with a minimum of ten years' service to Rs. 30/- per month;

- (4) Annual increment of 5 per cent of the monthly pay;
- (5) Introduction of bonus system in all departments;
- (6) Admission of all workers to provident fund, irrespective of pay grades, at one anna per rupee per month;
- (7) Grant of retiring gratuity to every worker on completion of fifteen years' service;
- (8) Grant to all workers of one month's leave with pay with permission to accumulate leave up to three months;
- (9) Free quarters or house allowance and free kits;
- (10) Grant of a monthly allowance of Rs. 2/- to those receiving less than Rs. 50/- monthly pay;
- (11) Grant of sick leave on the following basis: (a) 15 days' leave with full pay, (b) One month's leave with half pay, (c) Two months' leave with quarter pay;
- (12) Permission to every employee to join the "Electric Urban Co-operative Society.";
- (13) Provision for regular promotion of workers from lower grades to higher grades;
- (14) In case of appointments, preference to be given to retrenched hands ; and
- (15) Provision of tiffin rooms for labourers inside the workshop.

On 18-9-1937, Mr. Devendra Nath Sen, President of the Calcutta Electric Supply Workers' Union, communicated to the Minister for Labour, Bengal, the various grievances and demands of the workers in a memorandum, in which the men's demands were justified thus:

"As the Electric Supply Corporation is a public utility concern and as it enjoys some special rights and a specially favoured position denied to other companies and industries, its employees have a right to demand better amenities and better service conditions—particularly so when the Corporation makes fabulous profits enabling it to offer each of its directors an annual fee of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000."

On 21-9-1937 a public meeting of Calcutta citizens was held to review the situation, and a Committee was appointed to

negotiate a settlement of the dispute. Speeches were made at the meeting appealing to the workers to suspend direct action and to utilise the Trade Disputes Act to settle their differences with the management. At a meeting of the workers held on 23-9-1937 it was decided to suspend the resolve to strike to facilitate the task of the Negotiations Committee. The Committee began its negotiations for settlement before the end of September.

(The Statesman, 19-9-1937 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, 20, 22 & 24-9-37).+

Definition of "Workman": Bombay High Court

Judgment in a Workmen's Compensation Case. +

A Full Bench of the Bombay High Court heard recently an appeal from the Bombay Municipality in which the definition of the word "Workman" in the Workmen's Compensation Act came in for interpretation.

Facts of the Case.- In order to test the efficiency of its water-system, the Bombay Municipality had to fix to the stand-pipe of one of the mains a recording instrument and to keep it working continuously for 24 hours. Two coolies were employed to guard the apparatus; and one of them was killed by an accident while he was at his post. His widow's claim for compensation depended upon the question whether the deceased was a "workman" within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The expression included among others "any person employed in the construction, working, repairs or demolition of any pipe-line."

Appeal by Widow.- The Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation having decided against the widow she brought this appeal. In giving judgment, the Chief Justice said that the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation thought that the coolies might have been asleep and have been run over by some passing motor car. That was only a guess. Their Lordships did not know what

actually happened. It was possible that the coolies met with the accident in an endeavour to prevent some careless motorist from running into the apparatus, which was their duty to protect.

It was not disputed that the accident arose out of, and in the course of, the employment of the deceased man. And the only question was whether he was at the time a "workman" within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Coolie held to be "Workman".- Here, the dead man was alleged to come under the head which specified "workman" as any person employed in the construction, working, repair or demolition of any aerial ropeway, canal, pipeline or sewer. The question was whether the deceased was employed in working a pipe-line. On the findings, the employer, namely, the Bombay Municipality, was responsible for the working of this pipe-line. In order to carry out the test they thought it necessary to place these two coolies on guard. That being so, His Lordship saw no reason why these coolies were not employed in the working of the "pipe-line", which expression covered all work necessary in the view of the employer for the efficient working of the pipe-line. His Lordship therefore held that the coolie who was killed was a "workman" within the meaning of the Act and that his widow was entitled to compensation. The case was accordingly referred back to the Commissioner to fix the amount of compensation.

Mr. Justice Sen, in a separate judgment, agreed.

Dissenting Judgment.- Mr. Justice Norman delivered a dissenting judgment. In His Lordship's view the question was whether a person could be said to be "employed in ~~the~~ the working of a pipe-line" when his sole duty was to prevent some external interference with the working and when he had no knowledge whatever of how a pipe-line should be worked. All that the coolies had to do was to see that nobody deliberately removed the recorder. This task could not be considered to be included in the expression "working of the pipe-line", and in His Lordship's opinion the coolie who was killed was not a "workman" within the meaning of the Act.

(The Times of India, 23 & 25-9-1937) +

Quarterly Strike Statistics

for Quarter ending 30-6-1937. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 2nd quarter of 1937 ending 30-6-1937, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the

Government of India, there were 138 disputes during the period. The 138 disputes involved 290,174 workers and entailed a loss of 3,519,695 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 85 disputes involving 244,788 workers entailed a loss of 3,251,020 working days. Next come Madras and Bombay with 18 disputes each, involving 11,410 and 10,333 workers and entailing a loss of 108,665 and 71,381 working days^{respectively}, Punjab with 5 disputes involving 6,212 workers and entailing a loss of 7,939 working days, Bihar with 4 disputes involving 3,476 workers and entailing a loss of 4,756 working days, Assam with 3 disputes involving ~~1,1~~ 699 workers and entailing a loss of 28,249 working days, the Central Provinces with 2 disputes involving 2,447 workers and entailing a loss of 23,967 working days, Baluchistan, Sind and the United Provinces with one dispute each involving 7,000, 9, and 3,800 workers and entailing a loss of 38,500, 18, and 15,200 working days respectively.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 38 disputes which involved 35,066 workers and entailed a loss of 317,542 working days; jute mills were responsible for 59 disputes involving 217,850 workers and entailing a loss of 2,961,900 working days; engineering workshops were responsible for 1 dispute involving 480 workers and entailing a loss of 5,760 working days; railway and railway workshops were responsible for 1 dispute involving 6,000 workers and entailing a loss of 6,000 working days; mines were responsible for 2 disputes involving 2,288 workers and entailing a loss of 2,288 working days; other industries were responsible for 37 disputes

involving 28,490 workers and entailing a loss of 256,205 working days.

Of the 138 disputes during the quarter under review, 100 were due to wage questions, 17 to personnel, 3 to leave and hours, 1 to bonus and 17 to other causes. In 13 disputes the workers were successful, in 40 partially successful and in 73 unsuccessful. 12 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike Statistics for the quarter ending ~~30~~ 31-3-1937 were given at pages 32-33 of our June 1937 report). +

Cawnpore Textile Strike Situation: Judge

Appointed to decide "Interim" Disputes. +

Reference was made at pages 22-26 of our August 1937 report to the settlement of the Cawnpore textile strike which started in July 1937 and to the appointment by the U.P. Government of an Enquiry Committee to go into the grievances of the strikers.

Friction between employers and workers, however, developed since the settlement and on 31-8-1937, the workers of the Swadeshi Cotton Mills went on a stay-in strike as a protest against the dismissal of a few employees of the mill which the management maintained was necessitated by their flagrant disobedience. Workers in other mills also began to complain of victimisation and trouble soon spread with the result that

by the end of the first week of September three mills employing nearly 10,000 workers had to close down.

Mr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of the Enquiry Committee appointed by the U.P. Government, tried during the second week of September to bring about a settlement, but the Employers' Association of Northern India, representing the Cawnpore mills managements, informed the President and the labour representatives that they were not prepared to abide by the compromise arrived at through the Premier's intervention on August 9 which ended the general strike in the Cawnpore mills, in view of the repeated breaches of the terms of the compromise by the Mazdoor Sabha (workers' union). The workers alleged that the series of dismissals in several of the mills amounted to victimisation. Mr. Rajendra Prasad suggested the appointment of a Judge to enquire into and decide the question of these dismissals. While both parties agreed to the proposal, the employers have stated that they are only prepared to let the Judge decide the issue of victimisation and assess the compensation to be paid by employers in case victimisation is proved, but are not prepared to reinstate the dismissed men. The workers, however, insist that in cases of proved victimisation, the workers concerned should be reinstated. (The Leader 20-9-1937).

On 20-9-1937 the workers of two of the three mills on strike presented themselves for work unconditionally. On the same day, the U.P. Government announced that in pursuance of the recommendation of Mr. Rajendra Prasad, the Government has decided to set up a court of inquiry under Section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act,

consisting of a single judge, to whom the following issues will be referred for determination: whether the five workers dismissed by the Swadeshi Mills and the Textile Mills, Cawnpore, have been victimized, and if so, what compensation should be given to them. (The Statesman, 21-9-1937).

On 25-9-1937 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the workers and exhorted them to organise and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. He also met the employers and discussed the situation with them. (The Leader and the Statesman, 27-9-1937) +

Enforcement of Conventions.

Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar, 1936.*

Number of Operatives and Inspection.- According to the annual report on the administration of the Indian Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1936, there were 1,033 factories (167 perennial and 866 seasonal) on the Factories Register of C.P. and Berar, as against 1,017 in 1935. 28 new-factories were registered and 12 factories removed from the Register in the course of the year. Of the 1,033 factories, 718 (156 perennial and 562 seasonal) were actually working during the year. The increase in the number of perennial factories is due to the registration of electric power stations and oil mills. The increase in the seasonal factories was mainly in rice and dal mills. All the 718 factories were inspected during the year; 999 factories were inspected once, 251 twice, 106 thrice and 62 more than three times. The total number of inspections was 1,893 during the year as against 1,558 in 1935. The average daily number of workers employed by the factories increased from 59,896 (40,501 men, 19,799 women and 596 adolescents and children) in 1935 to 63,186 (42,492 men, 20,294 women and 400 children) in 1936. Decrease in number of workers is reported in distilleries, cotton spinning and weaving mills and dal mills.

Health and Safety.- The report states that special attention is paid to the protection of workers from the dangers of moving machinery. Suitable clothing has been provided to certain classes of workers as required by rules. In the case of seasonal factories numerous requisitions were made for the provision of proper guards and safety devices and in eight cases action for breach of section 24 was taken resulting in conviction and adequate fines. In non-seasonal factories ventilation and artificial air-cooling arrangements in cotton mills were satisfactory. The general health of operatives was reported to be good. No reports of outbreak of epidemics among the industrial workers were received. The operatives took full advantage of the dispensaries maintained by the large perennial establishments.

Housing of Operatives and Welfare Work.- It is admitted that the unsatisfactory housing conditions continued during the year, although the quarters provided by the larger concerns are, however, maintained in good sanitary condition. Owing to continued trade depression no further progress was observed in the provision of creches. 237 babies were housed in creches provided in some of the large cotton mills and pottery works.

* Report on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1936.- Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar 1937. Price Re.1-8-0.- pp.36.

Accidents. - Altogether 534 accidents were reported during the year under review, of which 4 were fatal, 23 serious and 507 minor. There is a perceptible decrease in the number of fatal and serious accidents, but the number of minor accidents is still large.

Hours of Work and Holidays.- It is pointed out that the large perennial factories conformed strictly to the rules regarding the hours of employment and weekly holidays. Breaches of section 37 (intervals for rest) were noticed in 3 cases and the managers were prosecuted and fined. 5 cases of breach of sections 34, 35, 36 and 38 resulted in conviction and adequate fines. As a result of surprise visits, 15 cases of employment beyond specified hours in contravention to section 42 were brought to light and the accused persons were adequately fined.

Wages.- During the year under report, wage rates went down slightly owing to wage-cuts and reductions in cotton mills and widespread unemployment.

Maternity Benefit. - The number of women who claimed benefit under the Maternity Benefit Act during 1936 was 572 as against 552 in 1935. Of these, 513, as against 506 in 1935, were found to be entitled to ^{benefit} and the employers paid Rs. 8,815 as against Rs. 9,206 in 1935 as benefit.

(Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar during 1935 was reviewed at pages 27-29 of our September 1936 report). +

Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways, 1936-37.* +

Extent of Application of Regulations.— The annual report for 1936-37 on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India and Madras and Southern Mahratta railways by the Supervisor of Railway Labour states that the Hours of Employment Regulations were applied to the North Western and East Indian Railways from 1-4-1931 and to the Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways one year later from 1-4-1932. In the autumn of 1935, the Regulations were extended to two company-managed lines from 1-11-1935, that is the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. The position now is that all State-managed Railways

*Government of India - Railway Department. Annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay Baroda and Central India, and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, during the year 1936-37 by Lt-Col. H.W. Wagstaff, M.C., R.E., Supervisor of Railway Labour. Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi.
pp.15

(the Burma Railways having passed from the control of the Government of India) are now complying with the provisions of the Regulations, together with two of the largest company-managed systems, so that the majority of Railway servants in India are now protected by the Regulations. The Report points out that even on those Railways, which have not yet been brought formally within the scope of the Regulations, there is reason to believe that the hours of work of the majority of employees fulfil the provisions of the law.

Inspection.— Regarding inspection, it is reported that inspectors of the four State-managed railways work to a programme of inspection drawn up in the Supervisor's Office every six months. In view of the fact that the Regulations have only lately been applied to the two company-managed systems, no regular programme of inspection has as yet been laid down so that the Inspectors can devote their attention to such stations and categories of staff as appear to need special scrutiny.

The policy adopted by Labour Inspectors since the introduction of the Regulations of rectifying minor irregularities in consultation with, and through the agency of, local supervisory officials, it is stated, will continue to be followed. This ensures rectification of many infringements the moment they are detected and reduces correspondence which would otherwise be necessary. Supervising subordinates, moreover, are now beginning to understand and appreciate more fully the underlying intentions and the legal provisions of the Regulations, with the result that in collaboration with Labour Inspectors they are in a better position to solve the minor difficulties which often arise due to fluctuations in the volume of traffic or alterations in Time Tables. Registers for recording the results of inspections or making suggestions for the better application of the Regulations are now being maintained at most stations, sheds, etc., and the Inspectors have been instructed to make full use of them. Administrations are advised of the infringements reported by the Labour Inspectors, or detected by the Supervisor himself during his tours, in periodic summaries, any points in dispute being settled by subsequent correspondence.

Hours of Employment.— The report observes that apart from a few employees in certain categories of staff there are not at present many instances of men habitually working beyond their rostered hours. It is pointed out that with the gradual increase of traffic which is now apparent, more instances will occur when men occasionally have to work longer hours. There will naturally be a tendency at first to regard such occasion as being due to exceptional pressure of work when the position is legally admissible, but there comes a time when increased traffic ceases to be "exceptional" and some other means, if not additional staff, will have to be found of preventing extra-roster hours.

It is reported that goods clerks are gradually being induced to adhere more rigidly to their rosters, although here again increased traffic tends to perpetuate a long standing custom whereby men are often found working at the purely clerical

part of their duties a long time after the goods office has been closed to the public.

It is pointed out that the staff in inferior service, in addition to their normal duties, do loading and unloading of van-goods. In some cases the men gain financially by this work and there is no objection from the point of view of the Regulations to their doing this work during their rostered hours so long as they are correctly classified. Cases do occur, however, where a continuous or an intermittent worker is brought on duty once, twice or more often, during his normal 16 or 12 hours daily rest. The work he does on these occasions may not take a long time, but there is no doubt that in one way or another the law is being broken.

Periods of Rest.— Cases are reported to be more infrequent in which staff infringe the Regulations by coming on duty for short or long periods during the weekly 24 consecutive hours when they should be enjoying their periodic rest. Attendance registers and muster sheets still continue in some instances to give an erroneous idea of the situation by indicating that the men are present during their weekly rest when such happens to coincide with a calendar day. In fact, there are still some cases where the attendance register is apparently signed by the individual in question, although he does no other work on that day.

Goods clerks are still sometimes found in goods sheds during the time that they should be enjoying their weekly rest. Where public business is definitely suspended on Sundays in practice as well as in theory, such cases are inconsiderable, but where perishables are dealt with in a goods shed on Sundays or where the suspension of public business is not strictly carried out, clerks often come for various periods when they should be off duty. There are undoubtedly some stations where traffic in perishables is considerable during certain seasons of the year and where special provision is necessary to deal with it. Under normal conditions, however, there should be no difficulty in arranging for other members of the staff to attend to these duties when the goods clerks are rostered to enjoy their periodic rest.

Overtime Work and Payment of Wages Act.— In reply to criticisms levelled at the absence of records of extra-roster hours worked by the staff, the report points out that records are indeed kept at some stations and in a few cases one can see at a glance what extra work has been done for the last two years. Admittedly, during periods of low traffic, such as that through which the railways have lately passed, there will be comparatively few cases where the exigencies of the work necessitate men remaining on duty when they ought to be off. At the same time, it is impossible to check the overtime worked if no records are maintained. One would have thought that Administrations in their own interest would have insisted on this being done. It is easy for a supervising subordinate to assure an Inspector that "no overtime has been worked during the last three months" but it is obviously more difficult to check such a statement. Extra-roster hours are often inevitable due to sickness, for a ^{subordinate} ~~roller~~ cannot always be provided on the spur of the moment and categorical

denials such as the above are not always convincing when unsupported by some documents, which although it may be blank for the last three months will give some indication as to when extra-roster hours were last worked. The report observes that the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, will lead to a more expeditious payment of overtime earned under the Hours of Employment Regulations.

Continual Night Work.— Some progress is reported in eliminating continual night duty for transportation staff where this problem is ~~of~~ naturally most in evidence. The assistant station master remains the outstanding individual — apart, from chowkidars, etc, — who has generally in the past had a larger share of continual night duty than other staff.

Classification of Staff.— The report points out that during the last few years, a considerable number of employees who were formerly classified as essentially intermittent have been reclassified as continuous, a process which has only been possible by co-operation on the part of the Administrations concerned, and their readiness to follow out the recommendations made by the inspecting staff under the Supervisor of Railway Labour. On the other hand, slack traffic has resulted in the work of a certain number changing from a continuous to an essentially intermittent nature.

Running Staff.— The duties of the running staff present peculiar difficulties and therefore for the time being this class of staff have been excluded from the protection afforded by the Act. In most cases, however, it has been found that the rosters on which these employees generally work conform to the principle of the Hours of Employment Regulations. In only a few instances are the links of duties for the running staff made in a manner which involve unduly long periods of duty. In ^{the} majority of these cases, the running staff whenever put on duty "under rest" get an allowance — in some cases actually double the amount of the ordinary mileage allowance. Care is generally exercised by the Administrations to avoid these "under rest" conditions, because not only does it involve added payments in the shape of allowances but ^{it} is also detrimental to the safe running of trains. It is hoped in due course to bring the Running Staff under the statutory provisions of the Regulations and in this connection it is recommended that Railway Administrations should continue to keep records of the duties of Running Staff in order to provide themselves with precise data regarding the extent of duty hours worked by such staff.

General Remarks.— This is the sixth annual report issued by the Supervisor of Railway Labour, and by this time the railways on which the Regulations have been in force for 5 or 6 years should have overcome all the initial difficulties in the application of the Regulations. This they have done in most cases. It is pointed out that at present the law is carried out with greatest precision on the Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways. The question of classification still presents problems which are difficult of solution and although the position on the Eastern Bengal Railway has improved very considerably

during the last two years, some work in this direction still remains to be done. The general standard of application of the Regulations on the East Indian Railway is also still susceptible of improvement. Some stations are particularly bad, rosters being dilapidated, illegible or non-existent, while those rosters which are in order are not always being worked to.

Assessing the initial standard of application obtained on the two company-managed railways, the B. B. & C. I. and the M. & S. M. Railways, to which the Regulations were applied in the autumn of 1935, the report observes: the former Railway has taken immense pains in preparing suitable rosters and it seems clear that it has been able to achieve formal compliance with the law with a minimum number of additional hands. With the close supervision obtaining on this line, resulting in part from treating job-analysis and the application of the Regulations as closely related subjects, the letter of the law is being, in general, strictly observed. At the same time, classification leaves something to be desired. It must always be remembered that fluctuations in traffic and changes in time-tables are continually altering the conditions of work and where compliance with the letter of the law is regarded as the primary consideration, there is a greater likelihood of infringements temporary or otherwise, if not in the letter, at least in the spirit of the Regulations. Conversely where the spirit of the Regulations is given due ~~weight~~ weight there is less likelihood that fluctuating conditions of work will lead to infringements. The M. & S. M. Railway has also gone into most matters connected with the Regulations in great detail, and here again the question of classification is the most important direction in which criticisms may be offered.

(The report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways during 1935-36 was reviewed at pages 36-39 of our July 1936 report.) +

Workers' Organisations.Annual Meeting of Central LabourFederation, Punjab.

The annual meeting of the Central Labour Federation, Punjab, was held at Lahore in the last week of August 1937. The Federation resolved that a Labour Parliamentary Committee be formed to expedite labour legislation in the various provincial legislatures. It was further resolved that Dewan Chaman Lal, M.L.A., should issue invitations to all labour members of the provincial legislatures to meet at Delhi in November 1937 for considering labour problems and chalking out a planned scheme of labour legislation, covering also the subjects of public health, unemployment insurance and minimum wages. It was also resolved that an Economic Council should be formed with a view to solving the economic and industrial problems of the Punjab. In this connection, it was decided to call a conference of labour leaders of the Punjab in October 1937 at Amritsar.

The following were elected office-bearers for 1937-38: Dewan Chaman Lal, Advocate, M.L.A., President; Mr. M.A. Khan, General Secretary; Dr. Sultan Muhammad, Senior Vice-President; Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, M.L.A., Vice-President; Mr. M.A. Majid, Vice-President; Fazal Ellahi Qurban, Joint Secretary.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-8-1937) *

Nagpur Textile Workers' Demands Before Congress Cabinet:

Prime Minister advises Unity in Labour Ranks.

The Nagpur textile workers gave a reception to the Prime Minister and other members of Cabinet, C.P. and Berar, at Nagpur on 31-8-1937. Mr. R. S. Ruikar presented the demands of the workers to the Ministry, the most important of which related to legislation for recognition of trade unions by employers and fixing of a living wage for workers; 40-hour week; sickness and old-age pensions; unemployment benefit; security of service; and one month's leave in the year with pay.

The Prime Minister, in his reply, assured the workers that the present Ministry, being a Congress Ministry, would always espouse the cause of workers. Although the demands placed by the workers were complicated, he assured that, the Ministry will consider them sympathetically. Concluding, the Prime Minister advised the workers to maintain unity in labour ranks.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-9-37)

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Labourers' Needs in Travancore: Demands
Formulated by All Labourers' United Sangham. +

The inaugural meeting of the All Labourers' United Sangham (Association), Travancore, was held at Shertallay on 22-8-1937, Dr. Kamal Pasha Thayil presiding. In his presidential speech, Dr. Thayil endorsed the view that organisation of labour is the only remedy for the present deplorable condition of the labourers. He also made a plea for the adoption of a socialistic programme by the State. He deplored the enforcement of unduly long hours of work in Travancore factories; indiscriminate resort to over-time, he asserted, was even more indefensible. He then formulated the immediate needs of the labourers of Travancore: a minimum wage of thirty rupees per month per labourer; shortening of working hours of ~~work~~ factory workers; adoption of social insurance schemes for workers; according of sufficient representation to labour in public bodies; free medical aid; free compulsory education; freedom of speech and adult franchise.

(The Hindu, 26-8-1937) +

Intellectual Workers.

Demands of Clerks of Insurance Companies of Delhi:

Memorial Sent to Members of Central Legislature. +

Clerical employees of insurance companies working in Delhi Province have submitted a memorial to the members of the Central Legislative Assembly requesting them to incorporate definite provisions in the Insurance Bill, at present under discussion in the Assembly, to ensure and safeguard the legitimate interests of the clerical staff of Insurance Companies.

The memorialists demand relief on the following lines:

1. Minimum starting salary in an insurance company should be at least Rs. 40 per mensem.
2. Where a company declares bonus to policy-holders or dividend to share-holders, the sharing of profits should be extended to the office-staff as well.
3. Where any clerk, who has served for a number of years, is removed as a measure of retrenchment or closing up of any business or any section thereof, or otherwise, he should be given one month's salary in respect of each year of service rendered by him.
4. Each insurance company should be compelled to maintain a provident fund for the benefit of its staff, and it should be made compulsory both for the staff and the employers to contribute to the same.
5. Leave rules should be framed on the model of leave rules for Government servants, and the same should be made compulsorily applicable.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-9-1937.) +

43

Economic Conditions.

Madras Budget Proposals for 1937-38.

The Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Prime Minister, who is in Charge of the Finance portfolio of the Madras Government, introduced on 1-9-1937 in the Madras Assembly the first budget of the Province (for 1937-38) under the new constitution. Below are given its salient points:

A. Revenue Income.	...	Rs. 159,373,000.
" Expenditure.	...	<u>Rs. 159,367,000.</u>
Surplus.	...	<u>Rs. 6,000.</u>
B. Other Transactions: Income (new loan)		Rs. 15,000,000.
" Expenditure.		<u>Rs. 21,500,000</u>
Excess of Disbursement over Receipts.		<u>Rs. 6,500,000</u>
C. Balances: Opening		Rs. 12,956,000
Balance: Closing		<u>Rs. 6,462,000</u>
D. Famine Relief Fund: Opening Balance		Rs. 5,996,000
-do- Closing Balance		<u>Rs. 6,025,000.</u>
E. Capital Assets		Rs. 304,331,000
Capital Liabilities		<u>Rs. 173,687,000.</u>
Excess of Assets over liabilities.		<u>Rs. 130,644,000</u>

The Budget makes a beginning towards implementing the Congress programme by making provision for the following:

(1) The ryots are to get relief in taxation by remissions involving Rs. 7.5 millions; (2) Prohibition will be introduced in Salem as a first instalment; this will mean a loss of Rs. 2.6 millions; Rs. 1.375 millions are to be spent on new schemes including: (a) Assistance to hand-spinning movement, Rs. 200,000; (b) Installation of broadcasting sets in villages; (c) Subsidies for opening new rural dispensaries and employment of midwives; (d) Water-supply and drainage schemes.

Agricultural Indebtedness. - The Premier pointed out at the outset that, although the Ministry has been able to give the budget some Congress orientation, the present budget can hardly be regarded as incorporating all the features the Ministry desired to incorporate in a Congress budget. After granting financial relief to ryots to the extent of Rs. 7.5 millions, the Premier stated that agricultural indebtedness is an urgent problem awaiting solution and announced that immediate steps will be taken to tackle the problem. The present budget provides for the grant of Government loans for the relief of the indebtedness of ryots to the extent of Rs. 3.0 millions. The amount is to be increased if necessary, but the Ministry hopes to evolve a way of tackling the problem on more wholesale lines and provide for more effective relief.

Aid to Hand-spinning Industry.- Announcing ^{a subsidy} ~~an assistance~~ to the hand-spinning industry of Rs. 200,000, the Premier said:

"It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the hand-spinning industry for the well-being of rural families in the dry areas of this Province. It is essential that this industry should be given some measure of assistance to enable it to be revived and grow and become again a source of supplementary income to peasant families which according to the evidence of everyone who has investigated rural problems, including the Royal Agricultural Commission, is a matter of vital and urgent necessity for the well-being of the agricultural workers of the country. Such assistance for the effective revival of a lost industry is a reasonable charge on the revenues of the Province. We have under consideration details as to the form in which this assistance shall be given, but we have no doubt that the entire amount provided will be disbursed within the year. We propose to introduce a small licence fee on all cloth dealers in the province exempting those exclusively dealing in hand-loom products. This will bring in some revenue which it is expected will cover at least a part of the grant intended for the subsidy of hand-spinning."

(The Hindu, 1-9-1937). +

47

Assam Budget Proposals, 1937-38. †

The Assam Premier, Maulvi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla, introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 5-8-1937 the budget proposals of the present Assam Ministry for 1937-38. After reviewing the financial position of the province, he dealt with the new schemes which his Ministry was sponsoring, and for which provision has been made in the budget estimates.

Education.- Sir Muhammad announced that his Government proposes utilising a sum of Rs. 142,000 for non-recurring and Rs. 136,000 for recurring expenditure during the current year on the new schemes and that a major portion of the total amount would be devoted to the spread of education. It was the Government's intention to help ~~the~~ private colleges and to increase the grants-in-aid for improving private secondary schools. The ultimate object is to expand primary education and, to this end, increase the number of primary schools receiving Government aid. The Government also desires to help the special schools that have been in a bad way, and, in this connection, Sir Muhammad announced that the Government would pay adequate attention to the schools that cater to the education of the children of the labour force in the Assam tea gardens.

Unemployment Relief.- Regarding the Government's schemes for tackling the unemployment problem, Sir Muhammad declared: "We want to tackle the unemployment problem, both by means of a village reconstruction or rural uplift scheme and also otherwise. To tackle the question of unemployment, we propose to start

as an experimental measure an agricultural colony for educated youths. We also want to give training to our educated young men in small cottage industries which we hope will be of benefit to the province. Similarly, for expanding the activities of the Agricultural Department, we are providing a sum of Rs. 20,000 to be equally divided for village reconstruction and agricultural demonstration. I am hopeful that the rural uplift scheme will provide for employment of some of our educated youths."

(Pages 110 to 140 of Part VI of the Assam Gazette dated 8-9-1937).

Bengal Budget Proposals for 1937-38. +

The Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Finance Minister of the present Bengal Ministry, introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 29-7-1937 the budget proposals of the Government for 1937-38. After reviewing the financial position of the province, Mr. Sarkar outlined the schemes of social and economic amelioration which his Government was sponsoring. At the outset, he pointed out that it was not possible to take up any elaborate schemes in respect of economic problems for want of adequate time for that careful and minute investigation which the Government considered essential for the execution of such schemes. A brief summary of the schemes outlined by the Finance Minister for which budget provision has been made is given below:

108

67

Rural Indebtedness.— With a view to extend the operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act throughout the Province an additional sum of Rs. 1.45 millions has been provided for the establishment of debt conciliation boards in all the districts. These boards, according to the provisions of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, are intended to scale down the amount of the debts to comparatively manageable proportions and the debtors are given the facility to pay such composed debts by easy instalments. The relief proposed to be given will not, however, yield any permanent results if steps are not taken at the same time to prevent the raiyats from relapsing into the same hapless state through incurring further unproductive debts. And they will also have to be provided with proper credit facilities for their long-term and short-term requirements. How best such facilities can be given—whether through co-operative credit societies or land mortgage banks—is receiving the careful consideration of the Government. The Government are also considering if it would be possible to include the village money-lender in the scheme of supplying rural credit which may eventually be adopted. His methods hitherto have not been always above-board, but it cannot be denied that he has played an important role in supplying credit to the rural population. He belongs to a class which is of considerable importance, and if after proper reform of his methods and outlook, he can be induced to form part of a scientific machinery for the supply of rural credit, this would greatly facilitate the solution of the problem. This aspect of the question is also receiving the attention of the Government.

Agricultural Conditions.— Dealing with the agricultural conditions of the Province, Mr. Sankar said: "As we all know, Indian agriculture, never very prosperous, fell on evil days during the depression; and even today when the revival is believed to be three or four years old, the life of the agriculturist in India continues to be one of great hardship. What is true of India as a whole is even more true of Bengal. And her disproportionate dependence on one agricultural product, namely, jute, has made her more susceptible to the fluctuations of world trade. Though agriculture is the mainstay of our people, the ~~xx~~ cultivator too often finds his occupation unremunerative under present conditions. Such sporadic economic enquiries as ~~x~~ have been conducted suggest that the price of the product often fails to cover the bare costs of production and does not yield sufficient return even for the low standards of living of the ~~xx~~ masses of this country. The cultivator is in fact the weakest link in the economic chain. And due to this penurious state of the workers in the biggest industry of the land, the co-operative movement, which depends primarily on the credit-worthiness and solvency of the cultivator, has made conspicuously little headway."

Industrial Conditions.— "Nor have industrial and commercial activities provided the much-needed relief against the uneconomic pressure on land. This has been due to a large extent to a traditional preference for investment in land on the part of those who by virtue of their resources should have taken the initiative

in industrial and commercial enterprise. The opportunities of industrial development have therefore been more readily seized by more enterprising immigrants from other provinces. Even so, there is still a conspicuous lack of balance between agriculture and other aspects of our economic life".

"This lack of industrial enterprise has necessarily narrowed the scope for employment, particularly for the educated middle class. The existing factories have not been able to absorb any substantial proportion of the surplus agricultural population of this province, not to speak of the middle-class unemployed. This is due not only to the inadequate number of factories but also to an aversion to vocations other than the traditional ones. Our factories are therefore in many cases manned by imported labour. The condition of industrial labour also is very depressing. They suffer in most cases from the same economic ills to which the agriculturists are exposed and are by no means the healthiest factors of production in our economic life.

It is against this background of our economic life that our policy has to be formulated. The primary condition of our economic progress is the restoration of the cultivator to the position of an efficient and solvent factor of production. The efficiency depends on the extent to which we are able to release him from his present handicaps and to better equip him for the improvement of his condition. And his solvency can only follow the provision of adequate relief from the various burdens weighing on him. And for positive progress, it is largely a question of enabling him, by providing the necessary instruction and material equipment, to increase the productivity of his labour."

Land Tenure Reforms. - "The incidence of land tenure constitutes a hardship for the agriculturist. The land system is so complicated and unsuited to the changing conditions that there is a country-wide demand for its revision. The Government is fully aware of the urgency of the problem and the Minister for Revenue intends introducing a Bill for removing the most pressing disabilities of the tenants. But a comprehensive and scientific revision of the land system will naturally require very careful investigation and it is proposed to set up a Commission to go carefully into various aspects of the question such as the effect of the system of sub-infeudation on economic holdings, the incidence of rent payable by the agriculturist, the narrowing down of intermediary interests, the possibility and methods of State acquisition of proprietary interests through the grant of compensation and various other allied questions."

Labour Conditions. - Referring to Labour Conditions Mr. Sarkar made the following remarks: " We have set up a separate portfolio for labour and the Hon'ble Minister in charge is impressed with the necessity of creating some machinery for safeguarding the interests of the workers. The Government have accordingly decided to appoint a Labour Officer and other officers to look after the welfare of the labourers. A careful investigation

will also be made into the mode of life and standard of living of the labourers and efforts will be made to raise it. The Government will also encourage the growth of trade unions along healthy lines, for through such associations and co-operative efforts are the interests of the labourers best secured.

But may I sound a note of warning here against the evil of creating disaffection amongst the labourers and making them resort to strikes on slender grounds. Strikes are no doubt useful weapons in the hands of labour for ensuring the right of collective bargaining. But if abused, strikes cease to become a privilege. Besides, frequent labour trouble acts as a drag on industrial expansion. In Bengal where industrial capital is already very shy, it has a tendency to further frighten capital away from avenues of industrial investment. And if industry does not expand, how are the labourers going to benefit?

I may also take this opportunity of impressing on employers the need of recognising the legitimate rights of labour. They can no longer remain indifferent to the demands of the labourers — when such demands are neither exorbitant nor unreasonable. The conditions of labour have to be improved, and it is useless for employers to remain wedded to the attitude of mind of two decades ago."

A sum of Rs. 98,000 has been provided for the constitution of a Labour Department.

Unemployment.—"It is often said that unemployment is due to the academic nature of the present-day education and that vocational instruction and the provision of technical training will reduce the evil. The presence of a large number of young men with a high technical training among the unemployed is a standing refutation of that view. It is necessary to clearly understand the position of Government in this respect. The Government by the expansion of their beneficent activities according to their resources can no doubt give employment to some of the unemployed but not to an extent likely to absorb even a fraction of the vast number of unemployed educated youth. The expansion of Governmental activity in any direction must necessarily mean more employment. Apart from such direct help, however, the Government can also help to enlarge the avenues of employment by undertaking public works on a larger scale. As a matter of fact the Government are considering many such schemes. But while this would undoubtedly lead to better opportunities for employment, there should be in the Province an adequate machinery through which the expansion of State activity would be reflected in benefits accruing to our unemployed young men."

"But there is too often an unreasonable prejudice in the minds of the people of Bengal against certain classes of work. One has only to think of the many avenues of employment even in the existing conditions which Bengal has virtually thrown away to

the people of other provinces to realise how the attitude of Bengalees to work needs a speedy and a radical revision. The Government are considering the appointment of an officer to investigate thoroughly into the question of the opportunities offered by the various channels of employment which are now occupied by men from other provinces and to see what help the Government can render to gradually fit young men of the Province for such occupations. The Government can also help to widen the scope of employment by stimulating industrial and trade activity. Ultimately the solution for unemployment must lie in an expansion of the economic activities of the country."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
30-7-1937) +

The U.P. Budget Proposals for 1937-38. +

The Hon. Mr. Govind Ballab Pant, Premier of the United Provinces, who is also in charge of the Finance Portfolio, introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 6-9-1937 the first budget proposals of the present Ministry for the year 1937-38. In the course of his speech he outlined numerous schemes of social and economic reform, the salient features of which are summarised below:

Increased Provision for Beneficent Departments.- Compared with the figures for 1935-36 the total increase in the provision for the beneficent departments of Education, Medicine, Public Health, Agriculture, and Industries is Rs. 2.65 millions which is more than twice the anticipated revenue deficit. Below ~~is~~ are enumerated the variations under certain departments between the budget estimates for 1937-38 and the actual expenditure in 1936-37:

General Administration	..	..	-4,29,
Administration of Justice	..	..	-4,43,
Police	..	..	-3,30,
Industries	..	..	+3,06,
Civil Works	..	..	+4,69,
Education	..	..	+2,15,
Medical	..	..	+ 71,
Public Health	..	..	+1,67
Agriculture) } }		
Veterinary			
Co-operative Credit			+11,79,

Land Revenue Policy and Rural Indebtedness.— The Government, the Premier said, intended to appoint two committees to consider changes in the rent and revenue laws of the province and to suggest measures for dealing with the acute problem of rural indebtedness.

Education.— Mr. Pant declared that the present system of education required a great deal of remodelling on new lines. The Government, he announced, proposed to examine the whole system of education with a view to reorganising it and bringing it more into line with the real requirements of the country as well as to securing universal primary education.

Help to Agriculture.— Agriculture, the Premier said, is by far the main source of livelihood of the people of the Province, and if the outturn of the soil could be increased even by a fraction it is possible to increase the national wealth by millions. For the present it is proposed to concentrate on the extension of demonstration plots and the supply of good seed. Along with this the Government wish to promote the breed of cattle. The provision for the purchase of stud bulls has been increased by Rs. 25,000 and an allotment of Rs. 12,500 have been made for the development of animal husbandry. A permanent advance of Rs. 200,000 has been provided for the supply of fertilisers in the tube-well areas and the existing permanent advance of Rs. 300,000 for seed operations has been almost doubled. The Government has also provided Rs. 31,000 for intensive agricultural development in the Mat Branch of the Upper Ganges Canal, Rs. 2,010 for a grant to the United Provinces Fruit Development Board for a fruit marketing scheme and a grant of Rs. 5,000 for the establishment of a potato research farm in the hills and for the opening of a storage godown for potatoes at a high altitude.

Industrial Development .— Mr. Pant referred to his Government's proposals for the industrial development of the Province and said: "The development of Industries— major, minor and cottage— is very necessary. It is the duty of the State to help in building up industries all over the province, to co-ordinate agriculture and industry and specially to render assistance in every possible way to the establishment of cottage industries. One of the greatest obstacles in the way of young men who start new enterprises is the lack of capital and credit facilities. It is difficult for any Government to act as a banker in a satisfactory manner and the measures taken by this Government in former times to assist industries were not very fruitful; large sums of money had to be written off. Real progress in this direction cannot be made unless adequate arrangements for financing new enterprise are made. For this purpose a scheme for an Industrial Credit Company, to which the Government will render assistance in the form of an annual subsidy, was evolved some time back. To begin with it is proposed to make a start with a subscribed capital of 15 lakhs (1 lakh=~~100~~ Rs. 100,000) which can be progressively raised according to the actual needs and demands. For this, a

sum of ^{Rs 125,000} ~~1 1/4 lakhs~~ had been provided in the last revised budget and is maintained. Along with this, arrangements will be made for a new industrial survey and for devising new schemes and also for the examination of proposals for the starting of new industries. For this a provision of about ~~Rs 10,000~~ ^{Rs 1,00,000} has been made. It is hoped that in this manner the required machinery for the establishment and expansion of industries will be set up. In addition provision of ~~one lakh~~ ^{Rs 1,00,000} has been made for grants to young men to enable them to start new industrial undertakings."

Labour Welfare.- "Under the head Industries we have also made a provision of Rs. 10,000 for labour welfare work, Rs. 3,000 for the office staff of the Labour Officer just appointed at Cawnpore and Rs. 3,000 for the Committee which has been appointed for deciding industrial disputes at Cawnpore."

Rural Development.- The Budget provides Rs. 1 million for rural development. This is, in addition to the annual grant of Rs. 100,000 and the expenditure from the Government of India's grants. The Congress Party attaches great importance to ameliorating the lot of the rural population. It is proposed to have a new scheme of rural development and to employ in every district about five or six persons imbued with a real spirit of missionary service and endowed with zeal and passion for the cause and with sufficient energy and common sense. The salary will be very modest and in fact it will be no more than a maintenance wage. These members of the rural development service may be trained in cottage industries, which may be suitable for their respective local areas, in elementary methods of agricultural improvement and farming, public health and hygiene and so on. Above all it will be their duty to infuse a spirit of self-help in the villagers, to broaden their outlook and to introduce improved methods of agriculture and to help in the development of cottage industries in their respective areas. They will also promote the formation of joint stock and cooperative societies.

(The Leader, 8-9-1937). +

Sind Land Alienation Bill, 1937.

A non-official Bill under the name "The Sind Land Alienation Bill, 1937" was introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly on 23-8-1937 with a view to check the transfer of land by agriculturists to non-agricultural money-lenders. According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, ~~the~~ agriculturists in Sind have been gradually losing their lands to capitalists and non-agricultural classes with appreciable rapidity. The net loss to ~~the~~ agriculturists in the period from 1905 to 1935 has been nearly 500,000 acres. In the recent past, such Alienations have been more extensive and rapid and there is a real danger that ~~the~~ agriculturists may lose their lands nearly completely, at an early date to Thakdars (money-lenders) and speculators. It is, therefore, highly desirable that early steps be taken to check any considerable encroachments of the agriculturists by imposing restrictions and disabilities with regard to alienation of land to non-agriculturists. This bill imposes such restrictions and disabilities as are desirable only on alienations in order to preserve land in ^{the} hands of agriculturists.

(Pages 313 to 324 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 23-8-1937). *

The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief
(Amendment) Bill, 1937. +

Attention is directed to Notification No. 3193/1-333 dated 27-8-1937 published by the Revenue Department, U.P., at pages 487-488 of Part VIII of the United Provinces Gazette dated 28-8-1937, embodying the U.P. Agriculturists' Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1937, which sets forth certain amendments to the U.P. Agriculturists' Relief Act, XXVII of 1931. The Bill provides certain reliefs to agriculturists in the matter of court fees payable by them in suits relating to money due by them to their creditors. +

The Madras Agriculturists Moratorium Bill, 1937. +

The Fort St. George Gazette (Extraordinary) dated 1-9-1937 published at pages 1-3 the Madras Agriculturists Moratorium Bill, 1937, which provides for certain temporary reliefs to indebted agriculturists in the Province.

The Bill, was, according to the Order Paper, to be introduced in the Local Legislative Assembly on 27-9-1937. The Prime Minister, however, in deference to the wishes of the Opposition, announced on 30-9-1937 in the Assembly Government's decision to postpone its introduction in order to give adequate time to the public to study the measure. +

The Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill, 1937.
(L. L. Bill No. 3 of 1937.) +

Attention is directed to pages 29-33 of Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 14-9-1937, where is published the text of the Madras Regulation of the Sale of Cloth Bill to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth within the Province of Madras.

The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill is reproduced below:

The object of this Bill is to regulate the trade of dealers in cloth within the Province. It is proposed to make a licence necessary for the carrying on of such trade. Dealers exclusively selling hand-loom products will have licences without any fee, but all others are to pay a fee. The fee is fixed at the very low sum of Rs. 2 per annum in the case of shops the monthly turnover of which does not exceed Rs. 3,000, and ~~at~~ Rs. 5 per annum in the case of other shops. If the licence is not obtained within the time provided in the Bill, double fees will be levied. Power has been taken to make rules for prescribing the authority which should grant and renew licences, the manner in which the monthly turnover shall be determined, and the recovery of amounts due in respect of licences.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee on 27-8-1937. +

The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937. +

The Bengal Government introduced in the local Legislative Assembly in August 1937 a Bill, designated the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937, to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, so as to afford some measures of relief to tenants in the province. The text of the amending Bill is published at pages 224 to 234 of the Calcutta Gazette ~~K~~ Extraordinary dated 27-8-1937. The salient features of the Bill are:

1. Abolition of landlord's transfer fees and the right to pre-emption.
2. Repeal of Chapter XIII A which allows landlords the use on certain conditions of the certificate procedure for realising their rents.
3. Giving under-raiyats the right to surrender their holdings.
4. Imposing summary penalty for the exaction of abwabs (a kind of illegal imposition).
5. Empowering Government to suspend any or all of the provisions of the Act relating to the enhancement of rent.
6. Giving powers of surrender to tenure-holders.
7. Allowing landlords to sue for a portion of their arrears of rent instead of for the whole amount.

8. Allowing structures solely for religious purposes to be erected on holdings on certain conditions.

9. Giving increased facilities for the subdivision of tenures and holdings.

10. Providing for the suspension ~~of~~ or abatement of rent when a tenure or holding is lost by diluvion.

11. Reducing the rate of interest on arrears of rent from 12 per cent. to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

12. Giving occupancy under-raiyats the same rights of transfer as occupancy-raiyats.

13. Giving facilities to occupancy-raiyats to regain possession, under certain conditions, of mortgage holdings.

The Bill was passed by the local Assembly on 30-9-1937. †

The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937: Referred to
Select Committee on 27-9-1937. †

Attention is directed to pages 2-15 of the ~~Bihar~~ Gazette Extraordinary to Part V of the ^{Bihar} Gazette dated 20-9-1937 where is published the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1937, which was introduced in the local Assembly on 25-9-1937; the Bill was referred to a Select Committee on 27-9-1937. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill is reproduced below:

To mitigate the hardship of the tenantry of the province on account of the operations of some of the present provisions of the Bihar Tenancy Act, it is proposed to amend it on the lines indicated below:

Abolition of Rents in Kind: The system of payment of rent in kind, and particularly on the estimated value of the crop of a holding, commonly known as danabandi, has been found to operate most harshly against the raiyat. It is, therefore, proposed in clause 6 of the Bill to abolish payment of rent in kind, including the batai system, altogether. But until a fair money rent is settled for such a holding, for which provision has been made in clause 17 of the Bill, the rent of the holding will be paid by division of the produce in the proportion of 18 to the landlord and 22 to the raiyat in every maund of the produce.

Commutation of Rents: Clause 4 of the Bill makes commutation of the rent of a holding compulsory on the application of

either the landlord or the tenant until a fair rent is settled for such holding under section 112A.

Interest rates of Arrears Reduced: Considering the considerable diminution in the price of agricultural produce, the rate of 12½ per cent per annum interest on arrears of rent is very high, and it is proposed by clause 8 of the Bill to reduce it to 6 per cent per annum.

Illegal Exactions penalised: Notwithstanding the provisions of section 75 of the Bihar Tenancy Act, illegal exactions by landlords or their agents have continued more or less all over the province, and it has been considered desirable to make the law against illegal exaction more stringent. Therefore, by clause 13 of the Bill an illegal exaction has been made a penal offence punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or with fine to Rs. 500, or with both, and the offence has been made cognizable and bailable.

Position between co-sharers: By clause 14 of the Bill the partition of a holding between co-sharers has been made binding on the landlord, subject to the landlord's consent regarding the distribution of the rent. In case of difference, the landlord can apply to the Collector praying for a fair and equitable distribution of the rent.

"High Rents" to be substituted by "Fair Rents": On account of the world-wide economic depression, which commenced in 1929, the prices of agricultural produce have gone down by more than fifty per cent and it has become difficult for the raiyats to bear the burden of the existing rents, particularly rents enhanced either by the Court or through private contract or commuted under section 40 of the Bihar Tenancy Act, or settled for new holdings, taking into consideration the high prices of staple food crops prevailing since 1911. There are also instances in which high cash rents were fixed in consideration of the landlord's maintenance of the sources of irrigation, but the same rents are being realised although the arrangements for irrigation have been neglected by the landlords. By clause 17 of the Bill provision has been made that in all such cases and in other similar cases in which the existing rents have been unfair or inequitable, the rai-yat may get a fair rent settled for his holding.

Restriction on Execution of Rent Decrees: The sale of entire rai-yati holdings in execution of rent decrees sometimes for small arrears and at inadequate prices has been a constant source of friction between landlord and tenant and has, on occasions, led to breach of the peace. It has also led to the tenant being rendered landless and consequently without any source of livelihood. It is, therefore, proposed that in suits for arrears of rent only such portion of holding may be sold the sale price of which is likely to satisfy the decree or in the alternative the entire holding may be made over to the landlord for a period not exceeding 7 years in lieu of the decretal amount, and at the end of the period the holding shall revert to the rai-yat.

No imprisonment for Rent arrears: By clause 19 of the Bill, it is proposed that a rai-yat's movable property should be attached and sold only if it is impossible to realise the full dues by

attachment and sale of his immovable property and that a raiyat should be protected from imprisonment in execution of a decree for arrears of rent.

Collective Rent Suits authorised: The necessity of filing separate rent suits against each raiyat has been a cause of much harassment and cost both to the landlord and the raiyat. By clause 20 of the Bill it is proposed to authorise the landlord to file collective rent suits ~~ag~~ against all his tenants in one village. In this respect the amendment follows the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

No Ejection for Rent Arrears: Clause 26 is intended to protect the homestead of a raiyat from ejection in execution of a decree for arrears of rent.

Bill to amend Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.

A Bill modelled on the same lines to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 was introduced in the Bihar Assembly on 27-9-1937 and was referred to a Select Committee on the same date.

Employment and Unemployment.

Reducing Unemployment among Technical Workers in
Sugar Industry: Employment Bureau to be established at Cawnpore

A press communiqué issued by the Government of India on 16-9-1937 states that, in order to reduce unemployment amongst educated technical workers in the sugar industry and at the same time to afford adequate facilities to sugar factories in selecting a properly qualified staff, the Government has sanctioned the establishment of an employment bureau under the auspices of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore.

The Bureau will collect authentic information about the qualifications and experience of those seeking employment ~~by~~ in ~~the~~ sugar industry, and will make it available, free of charge, to sugar factories on receipt of inquiries. The bureau will thus ensure the selection of really qualified persons for employment by factories, and, on the other hand, will serve as an employment agency for giving employment to educated technical workers in the industry.

(The Statesman, 17-9-1937.) +

Providing Work for Educated Unemployed:

Annamalai University Initiates Scheme of Land Colonisation. +

The Syndicate of the Annamalai University has at present under consideration a scheme for the colonisation of a part of the agricultural lands of the University by such of its past students as are prepared to work as practical farmers.

Details of the Scheme.- The University will assign ten acres of land to each unemployed ex-student, a portion of which will be cultivated with paddy and a portion with different garden money-crops, so that each colonist may get a net income of ^{at least} Rs. 20 per month; the University will provide cottages for the colonists and sheds for their cattle, stores and tools. The colonists will organise themselves in a co-operative society, each colonist paying a share capital of Rs. 100/- in instalments during the first year. The Co-operative Bank will finance the scheme for recurring and non-recurring expenditure, seeds, plant, manure, cattle, etc. with convenient special loans. The colonists are to do ~~all~~ manual work themselves, but each will be aided by two coolies and will be guided by an experienced officer of the Agricultural Department. The colonists will run their own mess for the first year and will have the usual social amenities provided in the Staff Club at the University.

The Object of the Scheme.- The Scheme aims not only at giving immediate relief to some of the educated unemployed, but also to remove the stigma that an educated young man often fights shy of doing manual work. Rao Bahadur M.R. Ramaswami Sivar, a member of the Syndicate, and the originator of the colonisation scheme, claims that if the Jewish University student expelled from Germany can turn out an excellent farmer in Palestine, the Annamalai University student can attain similar success.

(The Hindu, 11-9-1937) +

Colony for Educated Unemployed:

Private Initiative in Madras Presidency. +

On 16-9-1937 the Hon'ble Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madras Presidency, opened a model colony for unemployed educated youngmen. The colony, called Congress Nagar, is situated near Avadi; *it* has been started under private initiative. The scheme according to Dr. A. Lakshmi pathi, Managing Director of the Arogya Ashramam and founder of the colony, is for the establishment of a model colony where 100 young men with their families could settle in life cultivating lands as ideal farmers. The plan is to allot to each colonist 5 to 10 acres of land to cultivate intensively; this, it is expected, will enable each colonist to make a decent living.

The Hon'ble Mr. V.V.Giri, Minister for Labour, who was also present, stressed that the most feasible way of combating unemployment was for the Government and the people to unite and devise plans for utilising the 155 million acres of land available now as cultivable waste.

The Hon'ble Mr. V.I.Muniswami Pillai, on behalf of the Government, promised to extend financial help to the colony.

(The Hindu, 17-9-1937.) +

Educated Unemployment in Madras:

Government Orders Fresh Enquiry. +

References were made at page 55 of our June 1936 report and pages 56-57 of our April 1937 report to two attempts made by the Madras Government, the first in June 1936 and the second in April 1937, for the collection of statistics of the educated unemployed in the Madras Presidency. The first was confined to graduates and diploma-holders, but the result even in this restricted sphere was disappointing. In the second attempt, the Government widened the scope of the census so as to embrace all educated unemployed and adopted the Sapra Committee's definition of the expressions 'educated' and 'unemployed'. According to a press communique issued by the Government of Madras on 14-3-1937, the two attempts did not yield satisfactory results, mainly as a result of the complicated definitions of the two expressions referred to above. The Government, however, feels that another earnest attempt should be made and that the census this time should embrace all people who remain unemployed at the time it is taken and who have (1) obtained at least a completed Secondary School-leaving Certificate issued under the authority of the Government of Madras; or (2) passed the European High School Examination under the authority of the Government of Madras; or (3) been declared eligible for the College course by any University; or (4) completed the third form or any corresponding class in any general educational institution and have received technical education in a recognised industrial or technical school and hold a certificate in token of having completed a course of instruction in such a school; or

(5) obtained an oriental title.

Method of Collecting Statistics.- The Government is of opinion that it would be altogether wrong to assume that the unemployed people would report their plight to the authorities especially when there is no promise from the latter of employment or some unemployment benefit of any kind and that the proper course is for a suitable Government agency to go to the unemployed and obtain the required particulars from them. The task is, however, vast and the Government considers that it should not be undertaken all over the Presidency at once unless and until it is satisfied that there is a reasonable chance of success.

The Government accordingly proposes to make an intensive effort in a few selected districts in the first instance through Collectors of districts who have a district-wide organisation. The Collectors will be requested to have the census taken in every village and town in their respective districts by the village headman with the help of the firka revenue inspector. The Government have chosen Yalabar, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Anantapur, Chittoor and Vizagapatam Districts for the experiment.

The census will be taken in the first week of October 1937. The Collectors of these districts will see that the forms so filled in are sent to the Director of Industries, Madras, so as to reach him by the 15-10-1937 and the Director will have the figures tabulated by his Statistical Officer and submit them to Government by the 25th Oct. 1937 with the Statistical Officer's review on the figures.

(The Hindu, 15 -9-1937)

Unemployment in India:
Government of India's Examination of Sapru Report.

The Government of India presented a statement to the current autumn session of the Central Legislatures regarding the results of the Government's examination of the U.P. Unemployment (Sapru) Committee's recommendations (for details of the Sapru Report, vide pages 43-47 of our January 1936 report). A summary of the Government's statement is given below:

Collection of Statistics: The question of the compilation of statistics of the educated unemployed by universities and other educational institutions has been exhaustively considered and the Central Advisory Board of Education has also been consulted on the subject. It has been suggested that Provincial Governments should request Universities and Colleges to maintain records of past students, which would be co-ordinated by the revived Bureau of Education.

Statistics of Middle Class Unemployed: The Government has considered the collection of statistics of middle class unemployment and, after consulting the various departments concerned, the Government came to the conclusion that in the absence of a scheme of unemployment insurance, or some other substantial inducement to the unemployed to register their names, reliable statistics of unemployment could not be collected, except by Universities and Colleges maintaining personal contact with their alumni. The collection of statistics of middle-class employment, besides being a practical proposition, would be of value to reveal misdirection of educational activities and the potentialities for absorption offered by industry and commerce, and to meet the demand for statistical material to guide policy. The Government, therefore, invited provinces to advise whether: (1) the collection of such statistics was desirable; (2) central legislation should be introduced for the purpose; (3) provinces would be prepared to co-operate in collecting and tabulating statistics; and (4) if the proposal received general support, provinces would be prepared to place a resolution before their legislature.

Unemployment among Engineers, Medical and Legal Practitioners: Though the Government is not concerned with unemployment among engineers, yet it is considering the question of giving more practical training for mechanical and electrical engineers.

On the question of unemployment among medical practitioners, the Government has put forward many suggestions before the local Governments, within whose competence all legislative and executive action on the question lies. It has been pointed out that there is adequate employment for all medical practitioners, but it is insufficiently remunerative or attractive in the rural areas. The system of subsidizing practitioners in rural areas, which was successful in Madras, together with the rules framed to ..(Continued on next page)

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regulate the employment of honorary medical officers in public hospitals, were brought to the notice of the local Governments.

The Government feels that the adoption of the Sapru Committee's recommendation regarding the legal profession would have the effect of improving the quality of legal practitioners rather than of reducing the volume of unemployment in the profession. The Government feels that it is doubtful, however, whether the profession of drafting and conveyancing would ever be sufficiently remunerative, and the saving in litigation due to the efficiency of the latter class, would do nothing to reduce unemployment among advocates. The Government, therefore, does not propose to take any action on the subject.

Training of Secretaries: The Government brought the subject of secretarial training to the notice of all the provinces and asked for their views as to whether facilities for secretarial training could appropriately be provided at the university stage. It was also suggested that, so far as the recommendation related to secondary education, it should be taken up in connection with the proposals for the reconstruction of secondary education initiated by the Central Advisory Board of Education. The replies of local Governments and administrations have not yet been received.

Competition in Journalism: The conclusion reached with regard to the profession of journalism was that the proposal would do nothing to relieve unemployment. The Central Government has, however, taken action under the Government Servants' Conduct Rules to regulate within proper limits, contributions to journalism, made by the Government servants under their administrative control, which compete with the contributions of professional journalists.

Employment in Government Service: The Committee's recommendations with regard to Government service have been considered by two inter-departmental conferences. Active steps are being taken to lower the maximum age of recruitment to all subordinate posts and to classify them in two categories, according as a university education is or is not required. The question of modifying the practice of demanding educational qualification is under separate examination in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission and the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.

Industrial Research: It is pointed out that the Government has undertaken the work of co-ordination and advice relating to industrial research by the establishment of the Industrial Research Council. It is also actively contributing to such research by maintaining the Industrial Research Bureau. As regards researches carried out in provincial institutions, the view of the Government is that such researches should ordinarily be financed by the provincial governments concerned.

Training in Small-Scale Industries: The Government of Bengal and the U.P. are tackling the subject of initiating youngmen~~xxx~~ in small industries. The Industrial Conference to be held at Lahore on 14 and 15-12-1937 will, discuss the subject further.

The Cottage Industries: The Government is financially assisting the provincial Governments in connection with the marketing

of the products of cottage industrialists, by giving them expert advice and is carrying on experimental research work. Special attention is paid to such schemes in connection with the handloom and the small scale and cottage woollen industries.

Employment Agency: The Sapru report had suggested the creation of an agency for bringing qualified educated men into touch with commercial houses for employment. The Central Advisory Board for Education has addressed provincial governments on the desirability of constituting employment boards and on the need for colleges to keep in touch with their students. Action has been taken by several provinces and universities, namely, the Punjab, Bengal and the United Provinces.

Starting of Co-operative Stores: The question of fostering and encouraging the organization of co-operative stores, wherever possible, employing educated men who have received proper training in salesmanship, etc., the Government of India feels concerns provincial governments. The question of including this item in the agenda of the next conference of registrars of co-operative societies is being considered.

Primary, Secondary and University Education: With regard to primary education, the Government obtained the views of the local governments and placed them before the Central Advisory Board of Education at its last annual meeting. It was agreed that the problem of primary education was mainly one of finance and that unless more money was available little could be done. The Board recommended that the matter should be referred to the Vernacular Education Committee of the Board with certain definite suggestions. This will be done shortly.

Apprenticeship in Industries: The question of the development of schemes of apprenticeship in industries and crafts will be discussed at the ninth Industries Conference to be held at Lahore on 15-and 16-12-1937.

The recommendations regarding secondary education are fully covered in the resolutions of the Central Advisory Board of Education passed at its first annual meeting held in December 1935 (vide pages 56-58 of our December 1935 report). These have been brought to the notice of all local governments and administrations, as also the report on vocational education in India by Messrs. A. Abbot and S.H.Wood.

The views of the local Governments on the subject of university education were placed before the Central Advisory Board of Education and the Board has resolved to obtain the opinion of the Inter-^uiversity Board before discussing the matter.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-9-1937.) +

Small Scale Industries for Educated Unemployed:
Government of India Consults Provincial Governments. +

At the 9th session of the Industries Conference which is to be held at Lahore in December 1937 several questions relating to unemployment are coming up prominently for discussion. In particular, schemes for helping educated youngmen to start small industries, such as the one now in force in Bengal, will be discussed by the Conference.

Subsidised Industrial Schemes: This subject was dealt with in the Sapru Report which suggested that, subject to adaptations to local needs and conditions, similar schemes should be prepared and introduced in other provinces, and that young men adopting such careers should be subsidized by the Government and helped by expert advice. The Government of India have now addressed the Governments of the Punjab, Bengal and the United Provinces asking them to submit memoranda on the subject.

Industrial Apprenticeship Scheme: Another matter to be considered by the Conference is the question of development of schemes of apprenticeship in industries.

Lowering Age of Recruitment to Government Services: Two inter-departmental conferences of the Central Government have recently considered the recommendation of the Sapru Committee relating to Government service, particularly with regard to the suggestion that the Government must prescribe their own standards for subordinate services, and further that the age-limit for entrance to subordinate services should be reduced. As a result of these two conferences, the Government of India are taking active steps to lower the maximum age of recruitment to all subordinate posts and to classify

them in two categories according as university education is or is not required. Further the question of modifying the practice of demanding an educational qualification is under separate examination in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission and the Educational Commissioner.

(The Statesman, 18-9-1937.) +

Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay Presidency

Government appoints an Enquiry Committee. *

The Government of Bombay has appointed a Committee to investigate and report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Province. The terms of reference of the Committee include investigation of the changes needed in the policy and law relating to Criminal Tribes, the grievances of members of the Criminal Tribes Settlement, and consideration of such other matters as may be germane to the above. The Hon'ble Mr. K. M. Munshi, Home Minister, Government of Bombay, is the president of the Committee, which consists of seven members of the local Legislative Assembly. Mr. D. Symington, Backward Classes Officer, will act as Secretary.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 24-9-1937.) *

Prohibition in Madras Presidency:

Provincial Legislature passes the Prohibition Bill, 1937. *

The Madras Prohibition Bill, 1937, was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly, on 23-9-1937 and was passed by it on 27-9-1937; the local Legislative Council passed it on 29-9-1937. The Bill has for its object the ensurance of prohibition in the Province of Madras, and, as an experimental measure, the district of Salem has been selected for enforcement of prohibition from 1-10-1937. The text of the Bill is published at pages 3-25 of Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette (Extraordinary) dated 17-9-1937.

Objects of the Bill: The Bill penalizes all traffic and consumption of liquor and intoxicating drugs, but provides (1) for the exemption of certain articles which may contain alcohol but which the medical profession need for their work, such as certain forms of cod-liver oil and the like or which may be needed for any industrial, or scientific purpose or any purpose other than use as

a beverage, (2) for permission being granted under licences to medical men and others to deal in prohibited articles where it is necessary for medicinal, scientific or industrial purposes, etc., (3) for the issue of personal permits to those who in the opinion of the Government may be specially exempted and permitted to keep and consume liquor and (4) for the issue of licences to existing institutions and clubs to possess liquor and issue it to such of its members as are permitted to consume liquor. It is the intention of the Government of Madras to use the last two provisions only in favour of bottled foreign liquor and of persons and institutions consisting of persons who by long habit cannot dispense with the use of the same and who are not likely in the opinion of the licensing authority to abuse the concession. The Bill provides for honorary officers being appointed when and where necessary to help in carrying out the objects of the measure.

The following

Press Comments: The following comments are taken from an editorial on the subject published in the Indian Social Reformer dated 2-10-1937.

"Although the debate on the Bill lasted only two days, the subject itself had been ventilated thoroughly in the Legislature and outside for nearly a month, not only in Madras but all over the country. The policy of prohibition has been accepted with singular unanimity in all provinces, even in those where it is not found possible to enact it immediately into law. In all provinces with a Congress majority in the Legislature, steps have been taken to make a beginning with administrative measures within the present law. Probably this would have been the case in Madras also but for the fervour and strength of conviction with which the Prime Minister, a past Secretary of the Prohibition League of India, visualised the disasters which the liquor habit, fostered by the Abkari policy of the Government, brought upon thousands and tens of thousands of humble homes.

"There was really no serious opposition to the Prohibition Bill in the Assembly or outside. Those which were put forward more or less as a formality, were hackneyed ones. There was the repeal of the Volstead Act in the United States. It has been pointed out times without number, and must be plain to everyone who knows anything about the country, that conditions in India are totally different from those in the States. The use of liquor is not only not regarded as disreputable, as it is in India, in the United States; it is considered quite respectable and, indeed, a necessary element in dispensing hospitality and, among some Christian setts, even in religious ceremonies. In India on the other hand drinking intoxicating liquor is regarded as excusable only among the outcaste tribes and even there as they rise in the educational and social scale look upon the habit as a noxious one.

"We earnestly trust that the Indian States will not be slow to follow the example set by Madras."

Control of Smoke Nuisance in Calcutta in 1936:

31st Annual Report of Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.* +

The Commission, which represents all the interests concerned in the abatement of smoke nuisances held 10 meetings in 1936. It maintained contact with the various Smoke Departments^{and} fuel, engineering and research institutions in Europe and America, and kept abreast of the latest progress in the scientific use of fuel towards the abatement of industrial smoke.

Progressive Abatement of Smoke Nuisance.— The density of smoke emitted from a furnace is determined by a reference to Ringelmann's Smoke Gauge, according to the table described below:-
Scale No. 1 — No smoke; Scale No. 2 — Light Grey smoke; Scale No. 3 — Grey smoke; Scale No. 4 — Very dark grey smoke; Scale No. 5 — Black smoke; Scale No. 6 — Dense black smoke. For the purpose~~s~~ of smoke nuisance inspection, only scales Nos. 4, 5 and 6 are important. The emission of dense black smoke (scale No. 6) is prohibited. Scales Nos. 5 and 4 are related to scale No. 6 as follows:- One minute of scale No. 5 (black smoke) is taken as equal to .55 minutes of scale No. 6 (dense black smoke) and one minute of scale No. 4 (very dark grey) is taken as equal to .37 minutes of scale No. 6. On this basis, the average emission of smoke from each factory chimney in 1936 was the equivalent of .08 minutes of dense black smoke per hour. In 1906, when the Commission assumed control, the daily emission of black smoke per chimney was 13.1 minutes per hour.

Preventive Action in 1936.— During the year 1,471 offences were reported for departmental action, 775 offences were

*Government of Bengal - Thirty-First Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission for the year 1936. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. pp

reported by telephone for departmental action, 3,855 inspections and tests of installations were made, 9 statutory warnings were given and 16 prosecutions were conducted. In addition to the above preventive action, 204 steamships and launches and 169 locomotives were reported to the local marine and railway authorities for ~~their~~ usual departmental action, which in all cases was readily undertaken.

The maximum fine imposed for offences under the Act was Rs. 150 and the minimum Rs. 10. Of the 16 prosecutions which were launched (Appendix II), resort to the penal law was found necessary in 9 cases because furnaces, flues and chimneys were wrongfully constructed without first submitting plans for the approval of the Commission.

Complaints from Public.— The Commission controls approximately an area of 80 square miles, and the report points out that it cannot, with its small staff, keep in touch with every case of smoke nuisance. It has again been indebted to the public for bringing cases to notice by means of complaints. During the year 78 complaints were received against 86 in the preceding year. †

"Nutrition Officers" for Provinces:

First Batch trained by Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor. *

The Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor, has in recent months been taking steps to meet the want in India ~~for~~^{of} health officers trained in nutrition work by opening a training course in nutrition for selected health officers nominated by the Provincial Governments. According to a Press Note issued by the Government of India on 4-9-1937, during the preceding three months the Laboratory trained its first batch of Nutrition Officers, consisting of officers sent by six provinces.

The batch was given a series of lectures covering scientific and practical aspects of nutrition, with particular emphasis on the latter. Attention was given to relations between nutrition, public health and agriculture. The batch also carried out a survey of the diet of families of plantation workers in a tea estate near Coonoor.

Some of the trained Health Officers have already been appointed "Nutrition Officers" in their respective provinces. The Nutrition Officer, it may be pointed out, is a new addition to the public health personnel of India. The new Officers, will carry out in their respective Provinces: diet surveys; study the incidence of malnutrition in school children; organize school feeding schemes, advise about diet in institutions; lecture to medical students, health visitors and sanitary inspectors; help in maternity and infant welfare schemes; and devise suitable propaganda for educating the people in nutrition.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-9-1937.) *

Impetus to Cottage Industries in Madras by Grant
of Subsidies: The Madras State Aid to Indus-
tries (Amendment) Bill, 1937.

The Government of Madras intends introducing at an early date in the local Legislative Assembly a Bill to amend the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, so as to permit of the grant of subsidies for the development of cottage industries in the province. According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922, prohibits Government from giving aid to industrial enterprises except in one or more of the modes specified therein. The Act as it stands does not permit of the giving of a subsidy to cottage industries except for research work or the purchase of machinery. The development of cottage and village industries, it is observed, is a matter of vital necessity. The object of this Bill is to enlarge the scope of the Act so as to permit of the giving (a) of subsidies for any purpose in the case of cottage industries, and (b) of such assistance to village industries as may from time to time be found necessary. The expressions "cottage industry" and "village industry" have ~~also~~ been defined as follows:

- (i) 'cottage industry' means any industry carried on by a worker in his own home; and
- (ii) 'village industry' means any industry which forms the normal occupation, whether whole time or part time, of any class of the rural population of the Province.

51

Maritime Affairs.

Demands of Indian Seamen:

Increased Wages and Recruitment by "Open Muster" System:

Seamen's Day Celebration at Calcutta, 12-9-1937. +

A "Seamen's Day" attended by about 5,000 seamen was held on 12-9-1937 at Calcutta under the auspices of the Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta, Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., presiding. The ^{celebrations were} ~~meeting~~ was attended by several members of the Local Assembly interested in labour matters. At a meeting of seamen held in connection with the "Seamen's Day" celebrations, several resolutions on conditions of work of seamen in Indian ports were adopted. A summary of the more important of the resolutions is given below:

(a) Demand for Increased Wages: The meeting resolved that a general increase in the present scale of pay of the seamen signing on from Indian ports has become long overdue and urged the National Executive of the All-India Seamen's Federation (for details regarding the Federation, vide pages 75-78 of our June 1937 report) to take steps to secure the 50% increase in the existing scale of wages recommended by the All-India Seamen's Conference held at Calcutta on 5 and 6-6-1937. In the event of ship-owners refusing to meet the demand, the meeting urged the National Executive of the Federation to organise a general strike of Indian seamen.

(b) Recruitment: The meeting condemned the present system of selection of crews by Serangs and butlers, and demanded that recruitment in future be conducted by the "open muster" system,

with a view to ending abuses like bribery. The meeting further urged the setting up of the Seamen's Recruitment Bureau contemplated by the Clow Committee. The undesirability of the present system of recruitment, based on such factors as "relationship", "belonging to the same village", etc., was stressed; it was also pointed out that at present keepers of lodging houses, from whom Serangs freely borrow money, exercise an unhealthy influence on selection of crews by Serangs, and that lodging house keepers often extorted bribes from applicants for selection.

(c) Starting of Rival Unions: The meeting deprecated the efforts of the Hon. Mr. H.S.Suhrawardy, Minister for Labour, Bengal Government, to start unions in rivalry to the existing workers' unions which refuse to support his policy unquestioningly, and expressed the opinion that the starting of such rival unions will result in the weakening of the labour movement of the Province.

(d) Anti-union activities of D.S.M.: The meeting denounced the anti-union activities of the Deputy Shipping Master of Calcutta and urged the Government of India to set up a Commission of enquiry to investigate the various charges preferred against the Deputy Shipping Master by the seamen's unions.

(Summarised ^{from} ~~for~~ a communication to this Office ^{by} ~~by~~ the Secretary, Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta.) +

22

Administration of Bombay Port Trust, 1936-37:

Conditions of Work of Staff.* †

Strength of Staff and Salary Grades: The approximate total number of staff employed by the Bombay Port Trust during the year under review was 9,120 as compared with 9,281 during 1935-36. Of these 169 were permanent staff receiving salaries over Rs. 300 per mensem; 653 clerical staff and 1,075 outdoor staff receiving salaries from Rs. 50 to Rs. 300 per mensem; 419 permanent inferior staff receiving salaries below Rs. 50/- per mensem; 536 temporary staff getting above Rs. 50 per mensem (1 getting above Rs. 300); 3,077 getting under Rs. 50 per mensem, while 3,192 were daily paid.

Housing of Staff: 326 of the 1,896 permanent superior staff, 98 of the 419 permanent inferior staff and 3,435 of the 6,805 temporary staff were housed by the Port Trust during the year under review. This represents a total housing of 42.3 per cent of the total staff by the Port Trust as against 40.1 per cent during the previous year.

Restoration of Salary Cuts: In view of the improved financial position, the Trustees restored the emergency cut of 5 per cent. on the pay of the permanent and temporary staff drawing over Rs. 84 per mensem with effect from the salaries of March 1936.

Revised Leave Rules: Revised leave rules were introduced in May 1936 for new entrants with retrospective effect from 1st August 1931 on the lines of the revised leave rules of the Government of India. The general effect of these rules is to reduce considerably the leave benefits enjoyed hitherto. Simi-

*Bombay Port Trust - Administration Report, 1936-37. pp.xxviii+5
G. Claridge & Co, Ltd, Bombay.

larly revised leave rules were introduced for Railway line staff based on the State Railway Leave Rules applicable to similar class of staff.

Maternity Home and Welfare Centre: The Maternity Home attached to the Wadi Bunder labourers' chawls (dwelling houses) was well patronised. There are in all 16 beds. The total number of admissions was 723, of whom 94 were occupants of the chawls, 64 were wives of Port Trust employees living outside the chawls and 565 outsiders, some living as far away at Kurla, Dadar, Parel and Girgaum. The births registered were 623. The Infant Welfare Centre catered for the needs of 1,087 children, of whom 288 were from the chawls and 799 from outside.

Conditions of Dock Workers at Bombay:

An Inquiry Committee Demanded.

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Bombay Dock Workers' Union was held at Bombay on 19-9-1937, Mr. Din Mohamed, the Vice-President of the Union, presiding. The meeting directed attention to the growing income made by stevedores on the conditions of work of dockers and resolved to draw up a comprehensive list of their immediate demands. It was also ^{resolved} to request the Government of Bombay to appoint a Committee to enquire into the conditions of life and work of the Bombay dock workers in order that suitable steps may be taken to secure for them a living wage, security of service, adequate compensation against accidents, etc.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23-9-1937.) -

Government's Suggestion of Extension of the Basic Period of
the Lascar Agreement: views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. +

Recently the Commerce Department of the Government of India addressed a circular letter to the Provincial Governments to elicit the views of shipping interests regarding the question of extending the basic period of the Lascar agreement. In that letter, the Government of India, while adhering to the view that any extension of the basic period of the Agreement would aggravate, rather than relieve, the position in regard to unemployment, nevertheless recognised the real difficulty experienced by the Lines in this matter, and were provisionally inclined to the view that a satisfactory solution of the matter would be an extension of the optional period from six to twelve months with the 50% increase in wages applicable throughout the twelve months.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has expressed the view that the Chamber agreed to the extension of the optional period from six to twelve months with 25% increase in wages applicable throughout the extension. As regards the Government of India's remarks that any extension of the basic period would aggravate rather than relieve the position in regard to unemployment, the Chamber Committee added that, while this might be true up to a point, it had to be borne in mind that, if too many difficulties are placed in the way of owners employing lascar crews, owners may find it more profitable to make other arrangements, in which even the position regarding unemployment would be worse.

(Summarised from the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce during August 1937.) +

Calcutta Shipping Lines and Seamen's Unions:
Restriction on Recognition of Registered Unions. +

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce during August 1937 states that the Committee of the Chamber recently had under consideration, in consultation with its Shipping Sub-Committee, references received from certain Steamship Lines in the membership of the Chamber, regarding correspondence which is nowadays being addressed to Steamship Lines operating in the port of Calcutta by a number of Seamen's Unions, putting forward various claims for consideration in regard to the workers they purport to represent. In addressing shipping interests on this subject, the Chamber Committee expressed the view that it would be well if all steamship Lines were to act in unison and adopt, as far as possible, the same line of policy. The mere fact that a Union is registered in Bengal under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Chamber points out, does not necessarily imply that it is either representative of workers or worthy of recognition by employers; and it is, therefore, essential, in the Chamber's opinion, that dealings should be restricted to those Unions whose bona fides are beyond reproach. Particulars were furnished by the Chamber to the shipping interests of Unions which have either been registered under the Act or granted a certificate by the Trade Unions Constitutions Tribunal under para 18(a) of Part IV of the Government of India Provincial Assemblies Order, 1936. As two of such Unions are represented on the Committee of the Vocational Clinic which is being conducted under the auspices of the Seamen's Welfare Society and have Government recognition, the Chamber Committee has recommended that, for the present, shipping interests in Calcutta should only recognise these two Unions, if it is decided to recognise any such Unions. +

17

Migration.

Labour Shortage in Ceylon Estates:

Importing Indian Workers Opposed. +

According to a recent report by the Labour Controller of Ceylon to the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon, ^{the Islands} rubber and tea estates are faced with an acute shortage of labour. The estates require, at least, 25,000 labourers to overcome the shortage. Planters have been in a quandary as the Executive Committee had decided not to permit recruitment from India, the normal source of labour. They protested against this decision, stating that, if recruitment was not allowed, they would be unable to produce the increased quotas of tea and rubber. As a result, strictly regulated recruitment is to be allowed.

Efforts are being made, meanwhile to employ Sinhalese labour on the estates. For this purpose an amendment of the Indian Immigrant Labour Ordinance to regularise the expenditure on local recruitment of a portion of the cess levied to meet the expenses of recruiting Indian labour is under consideration. It is proposed to start recruiting agencies throughout the island and an organised effort will be made to induce Sinhalese labour to seek employment on the estates. The Ministry of Labour will fix minimum wages for Sinhalese labour as wage rates are not regulated for them at present.

The subject of recruiting Indian workers, according to the Colombo Correspondent of the Statesman, was discussed in the Ceylon State Council early in September 1936. Mr. N. M. Perera

moved ~~xx~~ a resolution recommending the refusal of licences to recruit Indian labour for estates. The mover said that there was a demand for 34,000 labourers and declared that the Labour Minister had sanctioned the issue of Indian recruiting licences which was unfair as local labour was available.

Mr. E. C. Villiers (European, nominated), said that local labour was not suited to work on the estates as they were unaccustomed to that kind of work. He sympathized with local unemployment and assured ^{the Council} ~~them~~ that they were absorbing local labour gradually. At present the tea and rubber industries were threatened owing to labour shortage. The country's prosperity would be jeopardized if the motion was passed.

The Minister for Communication and Works, opposing the motion, said that the mover tried to enslave the Sinhalese by forcing them to work on the estates while their desire was to become independent farmers. Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Labour Minister, said that recruitment from India was imperative to meet the present shortage. He sympathized with local unemployment and informed the members that arrangements were being made to establish centres all over Ceylon to recruit local labour for employment on the estates in future. He said it was impossible to meet the present demand as regular machinery for local recruitment was absent. The country's prosperity, which was based on the planting industries, would be ruined if the motion was passed.

The motion was defeated by the House.

(The Times of India and "Statesman",
dated 6-19-1937.) +

Indian Migration to Malaya and Ceylon, 1936.* +

According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1936, emigration for unskilled work was permitted only to Malaya and Ceylon during the year. Madras and Negapatam continued to be the ports of embarkation for Malaya and Dhanushkodi for Ceylon.

General Conditions affecting Migration -- (a) Malaya:

Statistics of Emigrants: Assisted emigration to Malaya was almost entirely restricted to labourers formerly employed in Malaya and to relatives of labourers in Malaya. As in the previous years, very few Kangani licences were issued during the year. The non-recruited system begun in 1934 was followed, but the rush was not heavy as in 1934 and 1935. Owing to the continuance of the restriction on the production and export of rubber, the flow of unskilled labourers assisted to emigrate to Malaya was very limited during the year, the numbers being 1,586 emigrants and 2,297 non-emigrants. Many labourers, however, including persons who were refused assisted passages by the Malayan Emigration authorities went to Malaya as ordinary deck passengers paying their own passages. The number of such unassisted labourers is estimated ~~is~~ at 25,200. It is pointed out that a strict control of emigration in the depots has not checked the flow of unskilled labourers proceeding to Malaya as ordinary deck passengers. The emigration to Malaya of unskilled labourers was seven times greater than that of those who are assisted to emigrate through the emigration depots and the number of unskilled labourers who returned at their own cost was more than twice the number of those repatriated at the Government cost. It is observed that the flow of unskilled labour to Malaya as deck passengers cannot be prohibited under the Indian Emigration Act and the rules framed thereunder, and it^{is} bound to have repercussions on the conditions of labour prevailing in Malaya.

Wage Conditions: Wages in the estates in Malaya vary according to locality. It is reported that there was no change in the general conditions of labour on estates in Malaya. The wages of male labourers above the age of 16 were from 40 cents upwards and of female labourers above the age of 15 from 32 cents upwards. In rubber estates, for a morning's work of about 6 hours the minimum rates offered were 30 and 25 cents (about Rs. 0-7-6 and 0-6-3) for males and females respectively.

*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1936. Bangalore.- Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price, 9 annas or 1s. pp.28

Longer periods were paid for proportionately. Children above 10 years of age get from 10 cents to 20 cents (about Rs. 0-2-6 to 0-5-0) per day. The majority of the Indian labourers in Malaya work on rubber estates, and begin work at about 6 A.M. No labourer can be compelled to work for more than nine hours a day; and no one is bound to work for more than six days in a week. A labourer is paid according to the number of days on which he works. If he does only half a day's work he will get only half a day's wages. If a labourer is employed on a monthly agreement the employer must provide him with suitable work for 24 days in the month, excluding holidays, and if he fails to do so, must pay him for each day on which he is not provided with work but offers himself for it and is fit to work, so as to make up the 24 days. Any dispute about the labourer's fitness to work has to be referred to the Controller. No fine can be imposed for absence from work. From 1-1-1937 a slight increase in the rates of wages, viz., 45 cents a day for men and 36 cents a day for women has been offered.

(b) Ceylon — Statistics of Emigrants: The general conditions affecting emigration were almost the same as in the previous year. The flow of labour during the year was, however, slightly less than in 1935. 7,356 emigrants and 33,447 non-emigrants proceeded to Ceylon. Labourers who had been in Ceylon before and who returned to Ceylon after a short visit to India were given assisted passages. In addition, close relatives accompanying labourers who had been to Ceylon before and persons intending to join relatives already on the estates were also given assisted passages.

Wage Conditions: The minimum cash wages in force in Ceylon during the year are shown below:

	Men		Women		Children
	A.	P.	A.P.	(Cents)	A.P. (Cents)
Low-country estates	6	7 (41)	5	3 (33)	3 10 (24)
Mid-country estates	6	11 (43)	5	7 (35)	4 0 (25)
Up-country estates	7	10 (49)	6	3 (39)	4 8 (29)

The price of rice which the estates have to issue to the labourers remained at Rs. 4-12-0 per bushel.

Recruitment.— (a) Malaya: Malaya gets its labour from two sources from the Madras Presidency: (1) labourers who are assisted to emigrate and (2) labourers who proceed as deck passengers at their own cost. Persons of the first category are assisted by the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya. Persons of the second category do not come under the scope of the Indian Emigration Act. Recruitment is generally made through Kanganis. The number of Kangani licences registered during the year was 8 at the Avadi Emigration depot and 10 at Negapatam.

(b) Ceylon: Owing to the lack of demand for labour in the colony, recruitment was practically at a stand-still during the year. Licences for recruiting were rarely granted. Only 6 licences were issued during the year. 94 emigrants including dependants were recruited and sent to Ceylon on 5 of these licences and the remaining 7,262 were non-recruited emigrants who were assisted to emigrate under rule 30 which provides for

11

the voluntary emigration of labourers without the intervention of Kanganies. These voluntary emigrants were mostly labourers who had been to Ceylon before, but had stayed less than five years before returning to visit their native places in India and who were now re-emigrating to Ceylon. Also some of the new emigrants were close relatives of such persons.

(Annual report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, ^{for 1935} was reviewed at pages 71-73 of our August 1936 report).+

12

General.

Viceroy's Address to Central Legislature,

Simla — 13-9-1937.

On 13-9-1937 His Excellency the Viceroy ^{delivered an} address ~~at~~ ^{to} a combined Session of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State in the course of which he, inter alia, made references to the problem of unemployment and industrial development, ~~of India~~. Below is given a summary of the points made out by His Excellency on these subjects in the course of his speech:

Unemployment: Referring to the prevalence of unemployment in the country, the Viceroy said: "The problem of middle-class unemployment is in present constitutional conditions one primarily for Provincial Governments. My Government has, however, been in close contact with the various Provincial Governments with a view to following up the suggestions made by the Sapru Committee, including the obtaining of statistics of unemployment, the maintenance of unemployment records, the subsidizing of medical practitioners in rural areas, the provision of facilities for secretarial training at the University stage and the arrangements for recruitment to certain Governmental services and posts. Any assistance which my Government can properly lend to the solution of this most important problem will most readily be given in the field of rural development."

Industrial Development: Dealing with the subject of industrial development of India, the Viceroy remarked that matters concerned with industrial development are in a considerable degree matters for Provincial Governments, but he assured "that all such actions shall be taken as can approximately be taken by the Central Government for the encouragement and the development of industries. In particular I would refer to the work of the industrial research organization. That organization is now in its third year. It has, I am satisfied, proved its utility beyond any question and my Government will in due course recommend to you that it should be placed on a permanent footing from the beginning of the next financial year."

"Another aspect of this matter, which is of substantial importance but which equally must depend to a very large extent if not entirely on provincial co-operation, is the question of industrial surveys. That question was considered both by the last Industries Conference and by the Industrial Research Council at their meeting in July, and it is being actively pursued. I need not stress the direct relation of investigations such as these and of the development of industry as a whole to the problem of middle-class unemployment. The next Industries Conference,

93
which will be held at Lahore in December, will be asked to consider the question of training and assisting young men to start and conduct small industrial enterprises."

(The Statesman, 14-9-1937.)

Redistribution of Portfolios in
Viceroy's Executive Council. +

Reference was made at pages 83-84 of our June 1937 report to the scheme for redistribution of the subjects dealt with by the existing Department of Commerce and the Department of Industries and Labour, for the creation of a new portfolio for Communications, and for the setting up of two new Departments to deal with these subjects. According to an official statement issued by the Government of India, the two new Departments will be: (1) Department of Commerce and of Labour, and (2) Department of Railways and Communications. These departments will be constituted by November 1937. Sir Muhamed Zafrullah Khan, will be in charge of the Department of Commerce and Labour, while Sir Thomas Stewart will assume charge of the Department of Railways and Communications.

The new Department~~x~~ of Commerce and Labour will have two Secretaries: Mr. A. G. Clow, at present Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour, will be Secretary, Department of Labour, and Mr. H. Dow, the present Secretary, Commerce Department will continue as Commerce Secretary. Mr. S. N. Roy, at present Joint Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour, will be appointed Secretary, Department of Railways and Communications.

(The Statesman, 2-10-1937.) +

117

Congress and Labour:

Labour Committee of A.I.C.C. plans Conference with Labour
Ministers. +

Reference was made at page 27 of our May 1936 report to the appointment of a Labour Committee by the All India Congress Working Committee "to keep in touch with the labour movement and endeavour to develop co-operation with it and advise the Working Committee thereon". This Committee, it will be remembered, made a number of recommendations in August 1936 on the subject of closer contacts between the Congress and Labour (vide pages 45-47 of our August 1936 report). At a meeting of the Labour Committee held at Wardha on 18 and 19-9-1937, it adopted four resolutions one of which urges the necessity for concerted action by the various provinces in the matter of labour legislation and policy and suggests a joint meeting of Labour Ministers of Congress Provinces and the Labour Committee. The other resolutions stress the necessity for: (a) the compilation of better statistical data regarding labour matters; (b) labour in protected industries being accorded improved conditions of work, and (c) Congress taking an active interest in the organisation of workers. The text of the resolutions is reproduced below:

(1) Joint Meeting of Labour Committee and Labour Ministers:
The Labour Committee, while noting with satisfaction the preliminary steps taken by the Congress Cabinets in the various provinces towards implementing the policy and programme of the Congress in respect of industrial workers, stresses the urgent necessity of devising measures to give effect to the programme envisaged in the Congress election manifesto and in the Working Committee's resolution of March 1, 1937 (vide pages 94-95 of our March 1937 report), and to foster the growth and development of a healthy and strong trade union movement. The Committee is of opinion that the working out, as far as local conditions permit, of a
~~uniform~~

uniform labour policy to be followed by the Congress Cabinets in the seven provinces will help the Cabinets in those provinces to quicken the pace of progress, and will also facilitate the adoption of a similar policy in other provinces. The Committee, therefore, resolves that a joint meeting of this Committee and Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for Labour in Congress Cabinets should be held to exchange views, discuss common problems and difficulties, and evolve, as far as conditions permit, a uniform labour policy for Congress Cabinets. The Secretary of this Committee is requested to convene such a meeting at Calcutta on or about 26-10-1937.

The Committee requests the secretary to communicate with the Ministers for Labour in Congress Cabinets, and to obtain from them all available information for the purpose of the above meeting on the following points: (1) Measures, administrative and legislative, already taken in respect of industrial workers, in accordance with the terms of the Congress election manifesto, and particularly the Working Committee's resolution of March 1, 1937, for a living wage, eight-hour day without reduction in wages, and unemployment relief, and also the programme for the future; (2) Their views and comments on the communiqué of the Bombay Cabinet dated 17-8-1937 (vide pages 84-86 of our August 1937 report); (3) The difficulties encountered by them in their work; (4) The attitude of trade union organisations towards their Cabinet and its policy; (5) Matters requiring co-ordinated action by more than one Provincial Government, and proposals for action in other provinces which would help them in their work; (6) Proposals for action, legislative or administrative, called for on the part of the Government of India.

The Secretary is requested to circulate the material received from the Ministers of Labour to the members of this Committee and other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in advance of the meeting.

(3) Statistical Data re. Labour Conditions: The Committee feels that reliable statistics and information regarding wages, conditions of employment, and the state of organisation of industrial labour are essential for the proper understanding and for devising measures for the amelioration of the condition of workers, and, therefore, urges on the Provincial Governments, and particularly on Congress Cabinets the urgent necessity of collecting and publishing such statistics and information where they are not at present available.

(3) Labour in Protected Industries: The Committee draws the attention of the Congress Party in the Indian Legislative Assembly to the resolution of the Committee adopted on 18 and 19-8-1936, that the industries receiving protection from the State should be under a legal obligation to give adequate wages to their workers and generally accord fair treatment to them, and requests them to give effect to the said resolution. The Secretary be requested to communicate this to the Assembly party, inquire what steps are being taken in furtherance of the resolution, and to report to ~~the~~ the next meeting of the Committee.

(4) Congress to take active Interest in Labour Unions:

The Committee draws attention to its resolution of August 1, 1936, to the effect that Congress committees should take a more active interest in questions affecting the welfare of industrial labour, and give all such help as they can to unions working in accordance with the principles and policies of the Congress, and that where no labour unions exist, committees should, through a suitable agency, help workers to organise on the above lines. The Secretary should ascertain from Congress committees ~~as to~~ the steps taken in furtherance of the resolution and ~~to~~ report to the next meeting of the committee.

(The Times of India dated 21-9-1937.)+

Organising Labour in the Punjab:

Congress Plans for Provincial Labour Board. +

The President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee has recently outlined a plan to set up a provincial Labour Board under the auspices of the Provincial Congress Committee to organise labourers on proper lines, to generally better their lot and to deal with the labour problems of the Punjab. According to the plan, all the labour unions of the Punjab will be asked to affiliate with the Board, which will include in its membership leading Congressmen, Socialists and others, who are interested in the problems of labour.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-9-1937.)+