

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
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Report for November 1938.

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

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Ratifications

Draft Conventions and Recommendations
of 21st (Maritime) Session of I.L. Conference:

Statement by Commerce Member re.

Action proposed to be taken by Government of India.

The following statement laid on 29-11-38 on the table of the Central Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble the Commerce Member with the Government of India supplements the information contained in the statement laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on the 1st October 1937, and on the table of the Council of State on the 2nd October 1937, ^(see pages 10 and 11 of this Office's November 1937 Report) in regard to the course which the Government propose to follow in respect of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the 21st (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference:-

I. Draft Convention concerning the liability of the shipowner in case of sickness, injury or death of seamen.- This Convention seeks to define the nature and extent of the liability of a shipowner to provide assistance to the seamen employed by him in case of sickness, injury, etc. A close examination of the Convention has revealed that the Indian Merchant Shipping Law already provides for the principal requirements of the Convention, except in the case of Articles 4 and 5. The main difference, so far as Article 4 is concerned, is that whilst laying down the general principle that a shipowner is liable to provide medical assistance until the sick or injured seaman is cured or until the sickness or incapacity is declared to be of a permanent character, the Convention limits the duration of the shipowner's liability to a period of not less than 16 weeks from the date of commencement of the illness. The Indian Merchant Shipping Act, on the other hand, makes no reference to any specific period, but makes the shipowner responsible for providing assistance as long as the seaman remains on board or is in a foreign country. After careful consideration of the relative merits of the two sets of provisions the Government of India are of the opinion that, on the whole, ~~the existing law affords~~

the existing law affords better protection to the seaman than the limited assistance provided in the Convention for a period of 16 weeks, at the end of which he may still find himself ill in a foreign country without any means of support. Similarly in regard to the shipowner's liability to pay wages to sick or injured seamen, dealt with in Article 5 of the Convention there are important differences between the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, which are based on those of the British Merchant Shipping Acts, and the requirements of the Convention. The Government of India are in sympathy with the principle laid down in the Article, but cannot ignore the consideration that, in view of the decision of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom not to amend the relevant provisions of the British Acts, a modification of the Indian Merchant Shipping would only benefit a limited number of Indian seamen, the majority of whom are employed on ships registered in the United Kingdom. In these circumstances, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that the Convention cannot be ratified by India at present.

II. Draft Convention concerning sickness insurance for seamen.-

This Convention is designed to introduce an extensive system of compulsory insurance for seamen, providing for cash benefits as well as benefits in kind. After an examination of the terms of the Convention the Government of India are of the opinion that the institution of a compulsory system of insurance in India applicable to all classes of seamen covered by the Convention and providing for the grant of the different forms of benefits contemplated therein cannot be undertaken except as part of a comprehensive scheme catering for all classes of labourers. Further, in view of the fact that a large number of Indian seamen are illiterate a compulsory system of insurance is not likely to receive general support, and the Government of India have accordingly come to the conclusion that the Convention cannot be ratified. They are, however, in full sympathy with the object underlying the Convention, and they propose to explore in consultation with the interests concerned, the possibility of introducing, as an initial measure, a small scheme of health insurance providing for limited benefits to Indian seamen.

III. Draft Convention concerning the minimum requirement of professional capacity for Masters and Officers on board merchant ships.-

The most important provision in this Convention is Article 3, which

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requires that all officers, both executive and engineer, in charge of a watch on board a merchant ship shall be certificated officers. The general principle underlying this Article is one which must command sympathy, but its practical application in India presents numerous difficulties. As any extension of the hours of work of certificated officers on board ship must clearly be avoided, effect can be given to the provisions of the Article only by means of an amendment of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act providing for an increase in the number of certificated officers to be carried in merchant vessels. Indian opinion, however, is opposed to any such increase, because of the scarcity of Indians in possession of certificates of competency. Further, there is a large number of ships registered in the United Kingdom which trade in Indian waters and the Convention will not apply to such ships unless His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom choose to ratify it. The Government of India, however, understand that His Majesty's Government do not propose to ratify the Convention for the present, and in the circumstances, its adoption by India would result in setting up different conditions on board these ships and Indian registered ships operating ⁱⁿ the same waters. The Government of India do not, therefore, propose to ratify the Convention or to take any action on its provisions.

IV. - Recommendation concerning the promotion of seamen's welfare in ports. - The Government of India are in agreement with the principles underlying the various provisions of the Recommendation, but the views expressed by the Maritime Provincial Governments, Port Authorities, shipping companies, etc., have led them to the conclusion that, in present circumstances, it is not practicable to give effect to all the suggestions contained in the Recommendation. They understand, however, that the requirements of paragraphs 3,4,5,6,8 and 10(b) are already generally complied with at Indian ports, and they consider that no immediate or specific action on their part is necessary in respect of paragraphs 2 and 13. As regards paragraphs 1 and 9, there are at present several institutions under the charge of local bodies performing useful work at all important ports, and these receive annual grants from the Sunday Fees Fund. The Government of India are alive to the fact that these arrangements do not go far enough, but they are, for financial reasons, unable to take any further action in the

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directions indicated. Paragraphs 7, 11 and 12 call for administrative action in regard to the furthering of propaganda among seamen, but the Government of India consider that the necessary publicity work is more appropriately undertaken by private bodies interested in seamen's welfare than by them. As regards paragraph 10 (a), they are satisfied that there is at present no real demand from Indian seamen for the provision of a system of seamen's money orders, and they do not propose to take any action on the suggestion for the present.

National Labour Legislation.The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1938.

An Official Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, was introduced in the Central Assembly on 10-11-1938. The Bill authorised deductions by way of provident fund contributions being made from wages.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, has recently instituted a provident fund scheme for the benefit of its staff afloat. Briefly, the fund is to be financed partly by contributions payable by all eligible members of the staff by deduction at a fixed percentage ($8 \frac{2}{3}$ per cent.) from their monthly wages and partly by a contribution by the employers of an amount equal to the annual aggregate contributions of all the members. In pursuance of this scheme, the Scindia Steam Navigation Company has proposed the insertion in the Articles of Agreement of the staff of a clause to provide for the necessary deduction to be made from their wages, which in the case of an agreement with a 'seaman' as defined in section 2(1) (8) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 (XXI of 1923), requires the sanction of the Central Government under section 28(1) of that Act.

The British National Maritime Board has also recently brought into operation a contributory pension scheme for officers in the Merchant Navy which is to be financed similarly by contributions equal to a prescribed percentage ($7 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) of the officers' salaries, an equal amount being payable by their employers. As the officers' contributions are to be deducted from their salaries, the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, has also requested sanction to the inclusion of an additional stipulation similar to the one proposed by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company in all Articles of Agreement with seamen engaged by it.

Section 62 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, however, provides inter alia that an assignment of his wages, before they accrue, made by a seaman shall not be binding upon him, and unless this section is modified suitably, assignments to a pension or provident fund will not be in accordance with the law, and the Central Government cannot accord the requisite sanction to the inclusion of the proposed clause in the Articles of Agreement. It is accordingly proposed to amend section 62 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, on the lines of the amendment made in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and the present Bill is intended to give effect to this proposal.

The text of the Bill is published at pages 378-379 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 12-11-1938.

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The Central Provinces and Berar Unemployment
Relief Bill, 1938: Bill introduced on 28-9-1938.

Reference was made at pages 8-9 of our August 1938 report to C.P. and Berar Unemployment Relief Bill, 1938 (sponsored by Mr. V.R. Kalappa). The Bill was introduced in the local Assembly on 28-9-1938 and a motion for circulation was passed the same day. The text of the Bill is published at pages 373-375 of Part II of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 11-11-1938.

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The C.P. and Berar Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery
Bill, 1938: Bill introduced on 28-9-1938.

Mr. V.R. Kalappa introduced in the C.P. and Berar Legislative Assembly on 28-9-1938 the C.P. and Berar Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Bill, 1938 (for details, vide pages 9-10- of our August 1938 report). A motion to refer the Bill for circulation was passed by the Assembly on the same day. The text of the Bill is published at pages 369 -372 of Part II of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 11-11-1938.

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The C.P. and Berar Minimum Wages Bill, 1938:
Bill Introduced on 28-9-1938 and Referred for Circulation.

Mr. G.S. Page introduced in the C.P. Legislative Assembly on 28-9-¹⁹³⁸ a Bill called the Central Provinces and Berar Minimum Wages Bill, 1938 . The Bill covers all factories coming under the Factories Act as well as bidi factories and ^{workers} getting a daily wage not exceeding annas twelve or a monthly wage not exceeding Rs. 25. It is proposed that (1) for an 8-hour day, every adult male worker should be paid not less than as. 10/- per day and adult female worker as. 6/-; (2) over-time should be granted at 1¹/₂ times the normal rate; (3) women workers should be entitled to a maternity leave on full wages for eight weeks from the date of commencement of the leave or 6 weeks from the date of confinement which-ever is earlier; and (4) every worker should be entitled to a minimum of one month's sick leave with pay per annum.

The House adopted on the same day a motion to circulate the Bill. (The text of the Bill is published at pages 379-380 of Part II of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 18-11-1938).

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The C.P. and Berar Unregulated Factories
(Amendment) Bill, 1938: Bill Introduced and Circulated.+

On 28-9-1938 a private Bill was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Assembly by Mr. R.G. Ghodichore with a view to amend the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937. The statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill states that employe~~ys~~ of bidi factories engage ~~women~~ women for work and exercise undue pressure over them for immoral purposes. The Bill lays down that (1) sorting of bidis made by women workers should be done by female sorters; (2) males should not be admitted to rooms where women are at work and (3) distribution of bidi leaves to males and females should not be made jointly.

A motion to circulate the Bill was carried by the House on the same day.

(The text of the Bill is published at pages 377-378 of Part II of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 18-11-1938).+

The Central Provinces and Berar Unregulated Factories
Payment of Wages Bill, 1938.+

A private Bill, called the Central Provinces and Berar Unregulated Factories Payment of Wages Bill, 1938, was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Assembly on 28-9-1938 by Mr. R.G. Ghodichore. The Bill covers factories coming under the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act, 1937, and declares that (1) workers shall not be paid for an 8-hour day less than As. 10/- per day for temporary workers or Rs. 20/- per month for permanent workers; (2) no arrears of pay due to a worker shall remain unpaid for more than two months; (3) the various malpractices of employers in sorting bidis should stop, and (4) every worker shall be entitled to one month's sick leave with pay every year and every woman worker to maternity benefits at rates laid down in the C.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

The Bill was referred by the House for circulation on the same day.

(The text of the Bill is published at pages 381-382 of Part II of the C.P. Berar Gazette dated 18-11-1938).+

Collection of Sickness Statistics among Mill
Workers in Madras: Government Notification.

Reference was made at page 4 of our May 1938 report to the proposal of the Madras Government to amend the local Factories Rules and insert a clause imposing an obligation on owners of factories to maintain a record of the periods of sickness of the workers with a view to provide material for the formulation of measures for the relief of sickness among factory workers. The Government has now revised the Madras Factories Rules accordingly. (Notifications, Nos. 774 and 775 (G.O. No. 19³7, Development, dated 15-8-1938), in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 4-10-1938).

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Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1936-37:
Report of the Controller of Emigrant Labour Assam. * .

Labour Conditions on Tea Estates: Labour Population.- The total population of adult labourers working and not working on tea estates in Assam was 601,365 at the end of the year under report, as compared with 615,360 in the preceding year; and of children 532,269 as compared with 526,870 in the previous year, making a total population of 1,133,634 as against 1,142,230 in the previous year. The number of new emigrants arriving in Assam during the year was 27,642 as against 23,879 in the preceding year.

Recruitment.- The Bombay Presidency is still an uncontrolled emigration area, but 565 souls were recruited from it by the Tea Districts Labour Association, through their depot at Igatpuri, as against 423 souls during the previous year.

Recruitment was carried on as in the previous years from the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, & The Central Provinces, Madras and the United Provinces, all of which are controlled emigration areas. 23,436 souls were recruited by the Tea Districts Labour Association through their depots in these provinces and 2,082 by the three other Local Forwarding Agencies at Ranchi.

During the year 46 Local Forwarding Agents' licenses were granted for recruitment of labourers in the controlled emigration areas, and some were renewed locally by the District Magistrates. In addition to their Local Forwarding Agency depots, the Tea Districts Labour Association maintained 34 Rest Houses as against 35 in the previous year. Out of these, 13 were closed during the year.

Provincial Distribution of Recruits.- During the year, 26,983 labourers were recruited for Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families, as against 23,175 during the previous year. The provincial distribution was as follows:-

Bengal 377; Bihar 14,531; Orissa 7,659; the C.P. 2,425; Madras 379; the U.P. 129; Bombay 565. Normally recruitment in the controlled emigration areas was carried on under the Sardari system, but 1,333 souls were recruited by other means during the year. 4961 non-assis-
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*Annual Report on the Working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXIII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1937. Shillong, Printed at the Assam Government Press, 1938. *pp 37.*

emigrants (i.e., ex-garden labourers returning to Assam within two years) and members of their families were forwarded to Assam during the year against 4,923 in the previous year.

Cost of Recruitment.- The average cost of recruitment increased from Rs. 55-10-10 in 1935-36 to Rs. 63-15-0 per soul in 1936-37, and from Rs. 75-12-0 in 1935-36 to Rs. 83-12-0, per adult labourer in 1936-37. The increase in cost of recruitment is attributed to enhanced expenditure for repatriation. Roughly speaking, it may be said that the cost per recruit, minus the repatriation cost, was about the same as last year. Bad harvests and scarcity of the last year had not the effect of raising prices sufficiently owing to the importation of foreign rice. The result was that more labourers were available than the demand, as in the last year, and consequently employers had the advantage of making a choice of the best labourers for garden work. Recruitment was restricted by many employers to married couples only, and as a result many labourers sought recruitment at the Local Forwarding Agencies by falsely describing themselves as married couples.

Conditions in Tea Industry.- Generally speaking the condition of the industry in the province can be considered as more satisfactory than during the previous year. The improvement in prices which has taken place is largely attributable to the satisfactory stock position in London, but the severe drought in Cachar and Sylhet in the latter part of the year, together with the outbreak of hostilities between China and Japan can also perhaps be considered as contributory factors.

A matter of major importance to the tea industry was the decision of the Government of India to introduce a bill to give effect in India to the New International Tea Agreement entered into by the principal producing countries, viz., India, Ceylon and the Netherlands East Indies, and the measure is expected to ensure comparative security to the industry which is such an important one in the economic well being of India as a whole and Assam in particular.

Wages.-

Wages.- The average monthly earnings of Faltu and Basti labourers on tea gardens in the Assam Valley for men remained the same as last year's figure, i.e., Rs. 4-9-6. That for women fell from Rs. 4-9-2 to Rs. 4-4-6, and that for children rose from Rs. 2-14-2 to Rs. 3-0-7. In the Surma Valley the average earnings of Faltu or Basti labourers on tea gardens for men and children rose from Rs. 4-4-8 and Rs. 2-2-4 to Rs. 4-8-7 and Rs. 2-3-7 respectively, and that for women fell from Rs. 3-5-3 to Rs. 3-3-3. The main reason why the earnings of Faltu or Basti labourers are lower than those of settled labourers is that the garden labourers do more work by way of ticca above their daily ordinary allotted duties. Faltu or Basti labourers are not ordinarily given to do the extra work which sometimes becomes necessary in the garden. Preferably the garden labourers are given this work which adds to their income and increase their average earning. The concessions of free housing, medical treatment, firewood, maternity benefits, grazing, land for cultivation, sometimes free of rent, and some times at concession rates were continued throughout the year. The arrangements for water-supply are generally good in the gardens of Assam. The sanitary conditions in the gardens also are reported to be on the whole good.

Vital Statistics.- Vital statistics show a satisfactory margin of births over deaths, viz., 36.58 against 22.92 death per mille, as compared with 36.45 and 22.80 respectively in the previous year. There was no serious epidemic in any tea estate during the year.

The majority of labourers of the tea gardens drink. The Assam Excise Department estimated that the tea garden population is responsible for about two-thirds of the total consumption of country spirit in Assam.

Tea garden population consists mostly of Hindus, Christians and Animists. The number of Muslims is insignificant. Proper facilities are given to the labourers for the observance of their respective rites and religious festivals in all gardens. Facilities for playing football, hockey, and other out-door games, are also afforded by several gardens.

Education of Children.- The total number of children living on tea estates in the Assam Valley at the beginning of the year under report was 375,198. The total number of tea garden schools in the Assam Valley during the year was 46 as against 55 in the previous year, and the number of pupils attending them was 1,403 as against 1,810 in the preceding year. In the Surma Valley there were 151,761 children living on tea gardens at the beginning of the year, and 53 tea garden schools attended by ~~2,009~~ 2,009 pupils during the year as against 48 schools attended by 1,904 pupils in the previous year. In addition to this enrolment, 1,471 pupils are reported to have attended ordinary primary schools as against 1,004 pupils in the preceding year.

Land Holdings.- 151,854 acres of garden land in Assam are held by labourers as tenants of the tea estates, without any right of occupancy. As usual a condition of their tenancy is that they should continue to work as labourers on the gardens. 12,700 acres of Government land are held by tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley and 3,423 acres in the Surma Valley. Ex-tea garden labourers held 368,123 acres of Government land in the Assam Valley as against 362,028 acres in the previous years, and 38,249 acres in the Surma Valley as against 37,793 in the previous year.

Labour Disputes.- There were only 9 complaints made by labourers against Managers and 4 by Managers against labourers, as against 8 and 4 respectively during the previous year. All the cases filed by labourers against Managers were decided against complainants. Three complaints were brought by Managers against labourers for unlawful assembling and rioting and all were decided in favour of the complainants and the accused persons were punished. One case against 12 labourers was tried under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, and the accused labourers were bound down for a period of 6 months for good behaviour.

Inspection.- Out of a total number of 774 Estates (employing 50 or more labourers), only 288 estates were inspected during the year by various inspecting authorities. Estates employing less than 50 labourers are not inspected by Magistrates or by the Controller unless there is reason to suppose that they employ emigrant labourers. Hitherto there has been no such case. +

Repatriation.- The actual statutory repatriation work under section 13 of the Act commenced largely after a few months of the year had elapsed, and section 14, i.e., the postponement of waiver of the right of repatriation arising under section 7, then became practically effective in respect of labourers who wanted to stay and work in the garden for a further period after the expiry of their three years' term. Consequently, 5,508 assisted emigrants, together with 3,808 members of their families are reported to have executed agreements in Form 'J' under Government of India Rule 59 extending their terms for further periods. 61 assisted emigrants together with 93 members of their families postponed their rights of repatriations arising under section 9 of the Act (Rights of repatriation of the families of the deceased emigrant labourers.) Thus the total number of souls who postponed their rights of repatriation during the year by executing agreements in Form 'J' was 9,470. Over and above this figure a certain number of emigrants extended their terms probably by verbal agreements with the Managers, as there is no compulsion under the Act to reduce an agreement under section 14 into writing, and many others absconded from the garden without leaving behind their subsequent whereabouts. 26,473 emigrants, labourers and members of their families were repatriated during the year by their employees for various reasons. Out of 26,473 souls repatriated, 15,656 were emigrant labourers and 10,817 were members of their families. The reasons for repatriation were completion of three years' terms (section 7), dismissals, unsuitability for garden labour, ill-health, blindness, etc.

In accordance with Government of India Rule 60(2) as subsequently amended, 1,175 deaths were reported to the Controller during the year. In 20 of these cases adult deceased labourers left orphan children whose cases were disposed of with the approval of the Controller under the same Rule. In 126 cases the deceased left no family.

All repatriated labourers were sent back to their country through the same organisations by which they were originally recruited to Assam, which process gave facilities to those organisations to take necessary action under the new proviso to Government of India Rule 58.

This year also the Controller had to solve legal difficulties of that arose before Managers of Tea Estates in connection with their duties under section 9 and section 13 of the Act regarding the repatriation of families of deceased labourers.

In addition, as repatriation under section 7 assumed greater importance this year, a correct interpretation of the law of repatriation in a number of cases had to be given to the employers.

Amendment of the Act and Rules.- The introduction of provincial autonomy on 1st April 1937 had the effect of resuming to the Central Government all functions under the Act and Rules, other than those performed by Courts or officers of the Provincial Governments.

1. (a) A proviso to Government of India Rule 58 was added allowing the supply of meals in kind to repatriated labourers in lieu of cash subsistence allowance by the organisations through which they were originally sent to Assam.

(b) At the suggestion of the Controller, the Government of India Rule 60(1) was amended so as to remove unnecessary inconvenience to managers in appearing before a competent Magistrate, for the purpose of executing an agreement under section 14(1) when a right of repatriation accrues under section 7 to a widow, which the previous rule involve and to regulate the procedure actually followed by some garden managers in such cases. +

2. At the suggestion of the Controller clauses (a) to (h) of the Bengal Government Rule 19 were amended in March 1937 so as to enable a garden manager to give more correct and detailed information about garden conditions in respect of health, wages, situation, climate, etc., of a tea garden to the labourers. The Central Provinces and United Provinces Rules with regard to the information sheets were also similarly amended in July 1937.

(The Annual report on the working of Tea District Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for 1935-36 was reviewed at pages 27 - 30 of our October 1937 report)..

Conciliation in Railway Disputes:
Industrial Advisory Board set up in Calcutta.

The Government of India have set up an Industrial Advisory Board at Calcutta which will deal with the disputes referred to it by the Conciliation Officer (Railway). (For fuller particulars about this appointment see pages 20-21 of the Report of this Office for November 1937). Sir Zahid Suhrawardy has been appointed Chairman of the Board. He will be assisted by two members to be selected by him, one from a panel of members representing employers and the other from a panel representing workers.

The following gentlemen have consented to be nominated by the Government to the two panels:-

Employers' Panel:-

Mr. F.T. Homan, M.I.E.E., A.M.I. Mech. E.,
Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, M.L.A., (Central).
Sir Hari Shankar Paul, M.L.A. (Bengal).
Mr. D.P. Khaitan, M.L.A. (Bengal).
Mr. M.A. Isphani.
Mr. P. Hoerder.

Workers' Panel:-

Mr. Mohammed Mohsinallu, B.A., LL.B.,
Mr. N. C. Dhusya,
Mr. O.R. Surita, Bar-at-Law.
Mr. A. Malik, D.O.S. (Vienna).
Mr. Azizul Huq, M.A., B.L.,
Mr. Abdul Jubbar.

Functions of the Board.- The Board will deal with any disputes referred to it by the Conciliation Officer, Railway, who will have full discretion to refer any cases of importance in which he has himself failed to secure a settlement. On receipt of any such reference the Chairman of the Board will normally conduct a preliminary investigation with a view to determining whether (a) the dispute is of a

character which warrants the Board's consideration; and (b) whether there has been a definite failure to reach an agreement outside the Board.

Decision of Board.- If both these conditions are satisfied the Chairman will summon colleagues he has selected. The decision of the Board would normally take the form of a report ~~of~~ to the Railway concerned, with recommendations, where necessary, copies of the findings being supplied to both parties. It would be open to the Chairman to suspend the inquiry if during its pendency a stoppage of work took place.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 20-11-1938) ~~and~~

Opinions About the New Board.- The Indian Labour Journal in its issue dated 20-11-1938, makes the following comments on the Board:

The Government of India have set up an Industrial Advisory Board at Calcutta. About a year ago, a Conciliation Officer for Railways was appointed. Now an Advisory Board has been set up, so that disputes referred to it by the Conciliation Officer may be gone into by the Board. It may, however, be noted that it is left to the discretion of the Conciliation Officer to refer a dispute to the Board and it is also open to the Chairman to suspend the inquiry, if during ~~its pendency a strike takes place~~, while the decisions of the Board will not be in the nature of an award, but take the form of a report to the Railway Board or the Agent of the Railway concerned. It is also not known how the members representing workers have been appointed to the Board.

Although the Conciliation Officer has been appointed about a year ago, he has not been given such powers as will enable him to effectively intermeddle in the disputes. He is, perhaps, expected to sit on the fence and just watch. ~~The~~ Setting up ~~an~~ of an Advisory Board does not, therefore, improve the position of the Conciliation Officer, and still less the lot of railwaymen.

The Royal Commission on Labour has recommended for a Standing Machinery, so that grievances of workers may be redressed promptly. But, instead of setting up a machinery which can straightway deal with grievances of railwaymen, the Government has been making experiments. We are afraid such slow experiments might lead railwaymen to lose their confidence in the machinery.

The best method to conciliate will be to establish direct contact between trade unions and the Railway Administrations.

Employers ought to know that workers can have faith only in their own organisations but not in those set up either to substitute trade unions or undermine their influence. Let the Advisory Board take up the question of recognition of trade unions and make their recommendations.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 20-11-1938)

6-hour Day for Indian Workers :
Demand at Calcutta Labour Rally..

At a rally of 30,000 workers of Calcutta and suburbs held at Calcutta on 30-10-1938 to commemorate the foundation of the All India Trade Union Congress on 30-10-1920, when Dr. S.C. Banerji, President, A.I.T.U.C., in the chair, the following, among other resolutions, were adopted:

Fundamental Rights of Workers.- This meeting reiterates the fundamental rights of workers as enumerated below:-

(1) Establishment of a Socialist State in India; (2) socialisation and nationalisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange as far as possible; (3) amelioration of the economic and social conditions of the working classes; (4) promotion, safeguarding and furthering of the interests, rights and privileges of the workers in all matters relating to their employment; (5) freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, right to strike and right to work; (6) support and active participation in the struggle for India's political freedom from the point of view of the working classes; (7) co-ordination of activities of the Labour Organisations affiliated to the Trade Unions Congress; and ~~(8) abolition of political or economic advantages based on caste creed, community, race or religion.~~

Immediate Demands: 6-hour Day, Minimum Wages, One Month's Leave with Pay, Comprehensive Social Insurance, etc.- This meeting insists upon the Central and Local Governments to fulfil the following demands of workers by legislation or otherwise.-

(1) Statutory enactments providing for a six-hour working day; (2) minimum wages; (3) weekly payment of wages; (4) equal pay for equal work without racial or sex discrimination; (5) one month's leave with pay, or an equivalent amount of compensation when leave is not granted; (6) unemployment, sickness, old-age, accident and maternity insurance (7) pension for widowed mother and dependent children; (8) proper housing; (9) formation through Trade Unions of workers' Committees in factories, workshops, business houses and all other places where collective work is performed with a view to control the conditions of work inside those places; (10) abolition of the employment of children under 14 years of age; (11) payment of wages to female workers four weeks preceding and succeeding child-birth; (12) abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions; (13) abolition of fines and debts, and (14) effective control by the subscribers of Provident Funds.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-11-1938).+

Introduction of Workmen's Service Record Cards in Bombay Mills
from 1-1-1939: Decision of Millowners' Association, Bombay.

According to the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October 1938 the mill-owners of Bombay have decided to institute a system of Workers' Service Record Cards with effect from 1-1-1939.

Some of the more important considerations^A which weighed with the Association in recommending the scheme were: (i) the desirability of establishing closer contact between mill management and their individual workers; (ii) the possibility of further social legislation in the matter of holidays, sickness insurance, etc.; and (iii) the desirability of a service particulars record for the purpose of determining a worker's suitability for promotion and for many subsidiary purposes.

(The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October 1938).

Abolition of Khoti System of Tenure in Bombay:
Private Bill proposed to be introduced in Bombay Legislature.

Mr. S.C. Joshi, M.L.C., Bombay, has given notice of his intention to move the Khoti Abolition Bill, 1938, in the local Legislature to abolish the system of revenue farming known as the Khoti system, and to extend the principles of the rayatwari system to areas where the Khoti system prevails.

According to the statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Khoti system is found mostly in the Ratnagiri District and in some parts of the Kolaba and Thana districts. The system of Khoti tenure, while it binds the Khot to pay revenue to the government, leaves him free to do what he likes to the inferior holders, and this freedom has been so grossly abused by the Khots that the inferior holders are not only subjected to all kinds of exactions but they have been reduced to a state of slavery. In recent years, the inferior holders have been carrying on a great agitation against Khots and have been demanding the abolition of the Khoti system. The relations between the Khots and the inferior holders have been so strained that three Khots were murdered by them.

The text of the proposed Bill is published at pages 568 to 575 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 5-11-1938.

Working Class Cost of living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during September 1938.+

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during September 1938 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in September 1938 remained unchanged at 105. The average in the year 1937 was 106.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in September 1938 remained unchanged at 71; for 1937 the average was 75.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during September 1938 remained stationary at 72. The average for 1937 was 73.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in September 1938 rose by 3 points to 63.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in September 1938 rose by 1 point to 57.

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India,
for September 1938).+

Alleppey Coir Workers' Strike:

Travancore Government appoints Conciliation Board. +

Under the provisions of the Travancore Trade Disputes Act, which came into force on 25-10-1938, the Government has appointed a Board of Conciliation to settle the dispute between the employees and the employers of the coir factories at Alleppey which recently led to a strike. The Board consists of Mr. K. George, Land, Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner, (President), Mr. N.G. Haydon of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce, Mr. N. Sankara Marar of the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, Mr. P.N. Krishna Pillai and Mr. V.K. Achuthan, representing the Travancore Coir Factory Workers' Union.

The Board will inquire into the labour conditions in the Alleppey factories, with particular reference to standardisation of wages, payment in kind or truck system and imposing restrictions on the establishment of factories with a view to avoiding the springing up of mushroom

factories with no capital, which naturally affect both the employees and the employers.

(The Hindu. 20-11-38)

Conference of Bombay Motor Drivers:

Demand for 8-hour day and Minimum pay of Rs.50/- per month.

At a conference of motor drivers of Bombay city held at Bombay on 27-11-1938, Mr. K.F. Nariman, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., presiding, the following minimum demands were formulated:

(1) A minimum pay of Rs. 50/- per month, (2) an eight-hour working day, with overtime for additional services, (3) one day off in the week and (4) leave with pay during illness up to one month in a year.

The conference further requested the Government to frame legislation for the provision of compulsory insurance against unemployment for motor drivers and other workers, and congratulated the Bombay Private Motor Drivers' Union on the scheme of Free Benefits to its members in the event of unemployment, illness and old age, which it had recently initiated.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 29-11-1938).

Madura Mills' Bonus Scheme for Workers:

Sliding Scale governed by Dividends declared.

The management of the Madura Mills Company, Madura, have recently issued a notice relating to the introduction of a bonus system for workers in their mills at Madura, Tuticorin and Ambasamudram. Details of the bonus scheme are given below:

Scope.- The bonus scheme will apply to workers, including maistries and mill writers, who have two years' service and over and who have qualified in attendance in keeping with the Company's leave rules. Arrangements are being made to alter the capital structure of the company. When this has been done, the undernoted bonus system will come into force.

Rates of Bonus.- When dividend to shareholders is less than 10 per cent., no bonus.

When dividend is 10 per cent. half a month's wage, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50, payable to any individual.

When dividend is 15 per cent., one month's wage, subject to a maximum of Rs. 100.

When dividend is 20 per cent., two months' wages, subject to a maximum of Rs. 200.

It is the expectation of the management that 10 per cent. dividend is feasible in respect of 1938, in which case a bonus to workers equivalent

to half month's wage will be payable in February 1939.

Workers welcome Scheme.- The workers to whom the bonus scheme was explained by labour leaders received the news with great jubilation. Mr. S.R. Varadarajulu Naidu, Secretary, the Labour Union, ^{Madura,} at a meeting of workers, stated that the management deserved high tribute for introducing the cherished principle of recognising the equality of labour and capital in industry.

(The Indian Textile Labour Journal,
November, 1938).

Mosabani Copper Mine Strike settled:

Wages of lower-rated employees increased by one anna per day. +

The Indian Copper Corporation has agreed to increase the pay of its lower-rated employees by one anna a day and ~~the~~ payment of the bonus sanctioned in respect of the working for the year 1937, as a result of the ~~settlement reported to have been arrived at in the middle of~~ November ³⁸ between the Corporation and its employees at the Mosabani copper mines, Bihar, where a strike has been in progress for a long time.

Terms of Settlement.- The terms of the settlement, which was arrived at after protracted negotiations, include the postponement for one year of the provident fund scheme in order to compensate the Corporation for the damage caused to the aerial ropeway and other property during the strike. Employees who are not accused of conduct prejudicial to discipline have been reinstated, while the cases of men dismissed for alleged serious breaches of discipline will be referred to the Labour Commissioner, whom the Government of Bihar, propose to appoint. The benefits sanctioned in respect of pay and bonus are in addition to those sanctioned in May 1938. +

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-11-1938).

Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee:

Sittings to begin from 7-12-1938. +

The Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay on 13-10-1938 submitted an interim report in February 1938, (for summary of the interim report see pages 11 to 14 of this Office's February 1938 Report; a copy of this report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/441/38 dated 3-3-1938). According to a

press communique issued in the last week of November 1938 by the Secretary, Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee, the Committee will again resume its sittings and conduct investigations from 7-12-1938 with a view to the submission of its final report.

Detailed Programme.- The Committee will assemble at Bombay on 7-12-1938 and hold sittings up to the Christmas holidays, after which it will reassemble at Ahmedabad. After taking evidence in Surat and Broach, the Committee will reassemble in Bombay on 20-1-1939; in February the Committee will visit Khandesh and Southern Maharashtra.

Questionnaire.- The Committee has framed a very comprehensive questionnaire, which has already been sent to employers' associations, individual mills, trade unions, chambers of commerce, etc. It asks for information on various subjects, important among which are the definition of a living wage standard, the adequacy or inadequacy of wages, the establishment of a minimum wage, night shift working, rationalisation, standardisation and automatic adjustment of wages, etc.

(The Times of India, 30-11-1938).

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Bombay Trade Disputes Bill, 1938, passed on 17-11-1938:
Committee of Inquiry appointed to investigate Police firing on Protest
Strike Day.

Reference was made at pages 10-11 of the report of this Office for October 1938 to the determined opposition offered in the Bombay Legislative Assembly by labour members to the Bombay Trade Disputes Bill, 1938.

The third reading of the Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 4-11-1938.

The one-day strike of 7-11-1938 initiated by the Bombay Provincial T.U.C. and the Independent Labour Party, Bombay, led to scenes of considerable violence in Bombay City and the police, in consequence, were compelled to fire on more than one occasion. On 10-11-1938, the Government of Bombay issued an order appointing a Committee of Inquiry consisting of the following to inquire into the disturbances:

The Hon. Mr. Justice H.J. Kania, Judge, High Court, Bombay (Chairman).
Mr. V.F. Taraporevala, Bar-at-Law, and
Mr. M.C. Chagla, Bar-at-Law, (Members),
Mr. H.K. Chalmari, I.C.S., will act as the secretary of the Committee.

According to the terms of reference, the Committee will report on :

- (a) The origin, cause, nature and extent of disturbances which took place in the City of Bombay as a result of the strike on November 7, 1938.
- (b) Whether the precautionary measures and the action taken by the authorities before and during the strike were adequate and justified, and
- (c) Such other matters as may be germane to the above.

The Bombay Legislative Council passed its third reading of the Bill on 15-11-1938, with a few amendments. On 17-11-1938, the Bill as amended by the Council was referred back to the Assembly; and the Assembly passed it the same day. (The Times of India, 18-11-1938).+

T.U.C. Criticism of the Bill.- To bring about better understanding between the National Congress Party in the Bombay Legislature and the Trade Union Congress, Dr. S.G. Banerjee, President, A.I. T.U.C, had a series of talks with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and other Congress leaders. In the course of a press interview on 20-11-1938 on the subject, Dr. Banerjee said that, in view of the fact that legislation on the lines of the Bombay Trades Disputes Bill was contemplated in U.P., Bihar and other provinces, he would advise the Congress Ministries not to hurry through with such legislation.

Asked as to what the T.U.C.'s principal objections to the Bombay Bill were, Dr. Banerjee said that its main objection was that the opinion of the only organisation representing labour in India, had been flouted, and its suggestions for certain improvements in the Bill were ignored.

According to the T.U.C, while no worker was opposed to the provisions of the Bill relating to conciliation, before the compulsory conciliation measures were enforced, provision should have been made for preventive measures, such as standardisation of wages, free growth and recognition of trade unions, establishment of works committees, welfare schemes, and better housing conditions. After these provisions had been made, if any dispute arose, the next step for the Government would naturally be to bring about a settlement by ~~negotiations~~ negotiation between employers and employees. If the Government's attempts at such mutual negotiations failed, then compulsory conciliation would become ~~compul-~~ ~~xxx~~ obligatory. The Bombay Trade Disputes Bill did not give any attention to these preventive measures and negotiations. Another objection to the Bill that Dr. Banerjee raised was that the Bill tried to maintain the status quo all through the conciliation proceedings. He thought that the dispute should be allowed to go on ^{until} the conciliation proceeded, and the obligatory portion should come in only when there was a complete deadlock threatening a national crisis.

(The Times of India, 22-11-1938),+

Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 31-3-1938

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 1st quarter of 1938 ending 31-3-1938, published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, there were 102 disputes during the period. The 102 disputes involved 118,301 workers and entailed a loss of 1,811,719 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where 36 disputes involving 24,115 workers entailed a loss of 149,707 working days. Next come Bengal with 30 disputes involving 31,786 workers and entailing a loss of 209,213 working days, Madras with 19 disputes involving 38,659 workers and entailing a loss of 1,168,405 working days, Bihar with 7 disputes involving 5,970 workers and entailing a loss of 173,612 working days, the Central Provinces with 5 disputes involving 13,267 workers and entailing a loss of 29,719 working days, the Punjab with 2 disputes involving 68 workers and entailing a loss of 98 working days, and Delhi, Sind and the United Provinces with 1 dispute each involving 3,390, 150 and 890 workers and entailing losses of 71,455, 1,500 and 8,010 working days, respectively, while there were no disputes in Orissa.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 42 disputes which involved 67,868 workers and entailed a loss of 1,356,758 working days; jute mills were responsible for 8 disputes involving 23,898 workers and entailing a loss of 140,086 working days; engineering workshops were responsible for 5 disputes involving 4,245 workers and entailing a loss of 60,928 working days; other industries were responsible for 47 disputes involving 22,290 workers and entailing a loss of 253,947 working days; railways (including railway workshops) and mines did not report any strike.

Of the 80 disputes during the quarter under review 59 were due to wage questions, 21 due to personnel, 4 due to leave and hours and 18 due to other causes. In 13 disputes the workers were successful, in 25 33 partially successful and in 49 unsuccessful. 17 disputes were progressing at the end of the period under report.

Enforcement of Conventions.Labour Conditions in Indian Mines.Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, 1937.*

Number of Persons Employed.* During the year 1937 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 267,958 as compared with 269,593 in the previous year. Of these persons 122,807 worked underground, 72,747 in open workings and 72,304 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

| | Men. | | Women | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1937. | 1936. | 1937. | 1936. |
| Underground | 118,920 | 123,423 | 3,887 | 7,301 |
| In open workings | 48,268 | 52,122 | 24,479 | 17,071 |
| Surface | 52,387 | 51,415 | 19,917 | 18,263 |
| Total | <u>219,575</u> | <u>226,958</u> | <u>48,283</u> | <u>42,635</u> |

Number of Women Workers.* The number of women employed underground was 3,887, or 3.17 per cent. of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 3.79, as compared with 6.87 per cent. in 1936. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows:-

| Province. | Number of women employed underground. | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | In coal mines. | In Salt mines. | Total |
| Bengal | 1,352 | ... | 1,352 |
| Bihar | 2,185 | ... | 2,185 |
| Central Provinces | 335 | ... | 335 |
| Orissa | ... | ... | ... |
| Punjab | ... | 15 | 15 |
| Total | <u>3,872</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>3,887</u> |

as compared with 7,301 in 1936.

In February 1937 the Government of India issued regulations under the Indian Mines Act prohibiting the employment of women underground. It was intended that the regulations should come into force with effect from 1-7-1937, but it was actually enforced only from 1-10-1937. There was agitation by the Labour Associations in the two major coalfields for higher rates in view of the exclusion of women from underground workings. Increased rates of two to three annas per tub, according to the capacity of the tub, were given at most collieries. Many of the women excluded from underground workings have been found employment on screening plants, preparing inert dust for treating coal-dust, on general surface work and in quarries.

* Indian Mines Act, 1923 -- Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1937. pp. 211. Delhi: Manager of Publications. Price Rs. 2-2-0 or 3s.6d.

Distribution of Workers: Coal Mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 171,149, which is 8,232 more than the number employed in 1936. Of these persons 46,192 were males employed in cutting coal, 24,356 were males employed as loaders of coal and 22,887 were women. The increase in the daily average number of persons employed in coal mines in 1937, as compared with 1936, is reflected in the larger quantity of coal produced. Annual returns relating to coal mines showing the number of persons actually at work and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent on a selected day in February 1938, showed that on the selected day 266,571 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 95,422 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1937.

Works in other mines.- The number of persons employed in metaliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 96,709 which is 9,967 less than the number of employed in 1936. Of these 71,313 were men and 25,396 were women. Of the women, 15 worked underground in salt mines.

Wages Position.- There was a general increase in the wages paid to underground miners in all the coalfields. There were also small increases in wages paid to other classes of labour in practically all the coalfields.

Accidents.- During the year 1937 there were 208 fatal accidents which is 6 less than in 1936, and 28 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were, 1,085 serious accidents involving injuries to 1,115 persons, as compared with 978 serious accidents involving injuries to 1,611 persons in the previous year. 248 persons were killed and 1,156 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 41 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 229 less than in 1936. 228 persons killed were men and 20 were women.

Causes of

Causes of Accidents.- There was a decrease in the death rate of men employed underground, in open workings and on the surface. With respect to women there was a decrease in the death-rate underground and an increase in open workings and on the surface. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

| | No. of fatal accidents. | percentage of total number of fatal accidents. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Misadventure | 136 | 65.39 |
| Fault of deceased | 29 | 13.94 |
| Fault of fellow workmen | 9 | 4.33 |
| Fault of subordinate officials | 17 | 8.17 |
| Fault of management | 16 | 7.69 |
| Faulty material | 1 | 0.48 |
| Total | 208 | 100.00 |

✓ +

Amendments to the Indian Mines Act.- An Act further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, came into force on the 3rd December 1937. The Act refers to the adoption of certain measures for ensuring better safety in mines.

Health and Sanitation:- (a) Assansol.- The year 1937 was healthier in Assansol Coal fields than the preceding three years. There was a decline in deaths for all ages and for infants, while the upward trend in the birth-rate, noticed in 1936, was maintained in 1937. The death-rate among the colliery population was considerably lower than that of the general population. Both the upper and lower limits of monthly death-rate in the mining population were lower than that of the previous year.

(b) Jharia.- The estimated population of the Jharia Settlement was 555,573 persons. The death-rate was 16.50 per thousand, as compared with 16.10 in the previous year. 889 samples of food were analysed in the Board's laboratory and prosecutions were ordered in all cases of adulteration. With a view to improve the colliery housing the five years' housing programme enforced by the Board last year continued during the year. Subjects chosen for propaganda work were leprosy, maternity and child welfare, general hygiene and sanitation and ventilation in mines.

Inspections and Prosecutions.- During the year 1,230 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times. 3,246 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mine owners, Superintendents and Managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large proportion of the time of the Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwellings and roads by reason of the underground working of coal mines, in dealing with underground fires, and in examining protective works against the risk of inundation. In addition, a large number of inspections of the sanitary conditions at mines were made by medical officers as Ex-officio Inspectors of Mines.

It is pointed out that during the year many reports were received from provincial and district Medical Officers of Health concerning health and sanitation. All the reports were dealt with and most of the recommendations were carried out.

During the year under review, the Inspectorate instituted 46 prosecutions under the Act involving 100 persons; 89 of the persons prosecuted were convicted.

(The Working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in 1936 was reviewed at reviewed at pages 35-38 of our December 1937 report.). +

Workers' Organisations

Bombay Hotel Workers set up Union, Bombay.

A meeting of the hotel workers of Bombay City was held on 1-11-1938 at Agripada, Bombay, under the presidentship of Mr. Nasratulla Abbasi. Messrs. Ranchodas, Rehmat Khan, K.V. Shirode and Asim spoke at length about the grievances of the hotel workers.

A Union of hotel workers was then formed. Mr. Shidhi Mahmud was elected President of the Union, Messrs. Nasaratulla Abbasi and V.S. Shibrurhar, vice-presidents, and Messrs. Rehmat Khan and E. Bolekar as Secretaries. A managing Committee of thirteen members was also elected.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 2-11-1938).

Progress of Trade Unionism in Orissa in 1937-38.

Reviewing the progress of trade unionism in Orissa during the year ended 31-3-1938, the Registrar of Trade Unions, Orissa, in a report submitted to the Government of Orissa, points out that no trade union was registered during the year, not ^{there} was ~~their~~ any case of refusal to register a trade union. The only trade union which ~~was~~ working at the end of 1936-37, the Ranabha Rice Mill Labour Association, was dissolved during the year. The press workers of the province are planning to form a Press Workers' Union.

(Extracted from Letter No. 1655 - LXVI - 6/38 Registration dated 21-7-1938 addressed to the Government of Orissa, Law and Commerce Department, by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Orissa.) +

Progress of Trade Unionism in Burma in 1937-38.

The following information about the progress of ~~the~~ trade unionism during the year ended ^{31st} March 1938 in Burma is taken from the report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in the province during the period issued by the Labour Commissioner, Burma:-

Number of Registered Unions.- There were nine registered trade unions in Burma at the beginning of the year, namely, the Burma Motor Drivers' Association, the Burma Railways Employees' Union, the Rickshaw Owners and Pullers' Association, The Burma Railways Accounts Office Clerks Association, the Race Horse Syces' Samiti, The Burma Commanders' Association, the Anglo-Burman Seamen's Union, the Corporation Conservancy Labour Union, Rangoon, and the Rangoon Headcart Pullers and Bag Lifters' Union. Of these, the Anglo-Burman Seamen's Union ceased to exist and its certificate of registration was cancelled during the year on the 28th March 1936. One new trade union was registered during the year, viz., the Rickshaw Karmika Sangham, Rangoon.

Applications for Registration.- Applications for registration were received during the year from four trade unions, and two applications were pending at the end of the previous year. In one of these six cases the union concerned was registered. In another case, the application for registration was withdrawn, and two other cases in which replies to references made to the unions concerned had not been received for a long time, were considered as closed. Two cases remained pending at the end of the year.

Registered Federation and Political Fund.- No federation of trade unions in Burma has applied for registration yet. ~~Table B is accordingly blank.~~ No political fund has been constituted by any of the registered trade unions.

Unions of Government Servants.- No rules for the recognition of associations of its industrial employees have yet been framed by the ~~Government of Burma.~~

Unregistered Unions.- There is still a number of unregistered trade unions in Burma. Although there has been an increase in the number of registered trade unions during the last four years, there is still some hesitation on the part of unregistered trade unions in Burma to take advantage of the provisions for registration afforded by the Act. It is pointed out that the progress of the trade union movement depends largely on the raising of the standards of literacy and intelligence among industrial workers. Although under the Government of Burma Act, 1935, membership of a recognised trade union is a qualification for the labour franchise, this has not yet proved any great stimulus to the growth of trade-unionism in Burma. +

Economic Conditions.

Five-Year Industrial Plan for Bihar:

Scheme of Mr. J.B. Sen, Parliamentary Secretary. +

A five-year industrial plan for Bihar was submitted by Mr. J.B. Sen, Parliamentary Secretary, to the Conference of experts which recently met at Ranchi at the instance of Dr. Mahmud, Development Minister. The following are its main features:-

An Industrial Bank with Rs. 200 million capital.- The scheme suggests, as a first requisite, the establishment of an industrial bank, with State support and State guarantee of interest for a limited period. For such a bank in Bihar Mr. Sen states that a capital of Rs. 200 millions would be needed.

Demonstration Factories.- Secondly, he proposes the opening of what he calls, "Pioneer and Demonstration Factories", to design and manufacture machinery. Certain machinery, it is admitted, will have to be obtained from abroad, but it is hoped that this will be "copied" by the factories, thus obviating the necessity for further purchases.

Recruitment of Trained Personnel.- In regard to recruitment of workers, the scheme proposes that persons with the necessary industrial knowledge should be entertained, provided with free housing, free clothing, bedding and pocket money. Attached to these factories will be well-equipped research institutes.

The manufacture of electrical goods, such as insulators and switches, from mica and lac, which are easily procurable in Bihar, and of small motor cars is also proposed.

Foreign Experts.- Mr. Sen advocated the employment of Czech and other foreign experts, who are leaving their respective countries in order that Indians might acquire further industrial knowledge under their guidance. Provision is made in the plan for the manufacture of by-products of coal. Finally, Mr. Sen suggests the manufacture of products, such as glass and pottery not requiring the use of complicated machinery.

(The Statesman, 2-11-1938). +

Industrial Planning in Bengal:

Expert Committee set up to conduct Industrial Survey. +

As a preliminary to 'planning' Bengal's industries, the Government of Bengal recently decided to set up an expert Committee to carry out an extensive industrial survey of the province and make recommendations. The scope of the survey will include the exploration of possibilities of starting new industries and investigation into the problems and difficulties of the existing industries of the Province, both large and

small, and cottage industries with a view to suggesting ways and means for their development along healthy lines.

Personnel of Committee.- The personnel of the Committee which was announced on 15-11-1938 includes Scientists and persons actively associated with the industries of the province and well acquainted with the economic problems of Bengal. The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. John Matthai, Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics with the Government of India, and its Secretary, Mr. J.N. Sen Gupta, Secretary of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

Terms of Office Reference:-

(i) Review of Industrial Conditions.- To examine the position of the existing large and medium-sized industries in the province showing (a) which industries have reached a stage of full development and (b) which of them still hold out possibilities of further expansion and (c) in which directions there are still possibilities for the establishment and development of still such new industries with a fair prospect of success.

(ii) Problems of Bengal Industries.- To enquire into the difficulties and problems that confront the existing important large and medium-sized industries of the Province and suggest measures for the improvement of their condition.

(iii) Distribution of Industries.- To examine the location of existing industries and industrial resources of the various divisions of the province and suggest means for securing the utmost diversification and the best geographical distribution of industrial activities throughout the province.

(iv) Scope of Subsidiary Industries.- To advise what industries subsidiary to large-scale industries have a fair prospect of success in the province and how far and by what methods such industries can be developed within the province.

(v) Planning of Large-Scale Industries.- To advise on the measure which the Government can undertake to promote and develop large-scale and medium-sized industries within the province and, in particular to draw up a plan for the establishment and development of industries of national or economic importance including "key" industries.

(vi) Present Position of Cottage Industries.- (A) To examine the present position and working of small and cottage industries, including those which are in the nature of hereditary callings of any class or caste, with special reference to: (a) sources and terms of supply of raw materials; (b) credit and financial facilities; (c) marketing and (d) improvement of productive technique. Recommendations should be made as to how (a) may be improved and facilities as to (b), (c) and (d) may be provided.

(B) Recommendations should also be made about such of the cottage industries as are in a moribund condition with a view to effect their rehabilitation.

(C) To advise as to the possibility of starting new cottage and small industries in the villages.

(vii) Review of Work of Industries Department.- To enquire and assess the results achieved by the various measures instituted by the Industries Department for the last seventeen years and advise how far these measures have been actually effective in developing industries and how far they hold out material prospects for such development, and which of the measures should be discarded as of little or no practical value and what new steps should be taken to further the object in view.

(viii) Recommendations.- And finally to make such other recommendations as pertain to state policy with regard to industrial development within the province.

It is expected that the survey will be completed within a year, but the Committee may, as and when it considers necessary, submit interim reports on specific matters comprised in the enquiry.

(Extracted from Press Note dated 15-11-1938 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal). +

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Subsidies to Indigenous Industries of Bombay:
Government Resolution carried by Legislature.

The Hon. Mr. L.M. Patil, Minister for Local Self-Government with the Bombay Government, moved in the local Legislative Assembly on 16-11-1938 a resolution to the effect that "for the development of industries Government may in appropriate cases give aid to indigenous enterprises in the province by one or more of the following ways: (1) by lending or subscribing part of the capital needed, (2) by guaranteeing a minimum return on the invested capital, (3) by placing available technical advice at the disposal of the person concerned, (4) by giving such other facilities as may be deemed necessary; (5) provided that in giving such aid Government may direct that the maximum return on the invested capital shall be restricted to a reasonable limit and may lay down such further conditions as may in public interest be deemed necessary; provided further that no such aid shall be given as may result in unfair competition with existing industries."

In moving the resolution, the Minister observed that Government aid to private industrial enterprise was being afforded more or less on the lines similar to those suggested in resolutions in Madras and Mysore among other provinces and states in India, and also in western countries. Hitherto, the Industries Department of the Bombay Government had been confining its activities to industrial research, the promotion of technical education and demonstration, the provision of marketing facilities, the solving of difficulties of industrialists,

and so on. It was now proposed to adopt a more progressive policy in consonance with the requirements of the situation and with a view to enabling the Province to develop further on industrial lines.

Mr. Jammadas Mehta, in supporting the resolution, hoped that Government while actually giving aid would see to it that employers guaranteed a minimum decent standard of living to the working classes.

The resolution was carried by the Assembly the same day and an identical resolution moved in the local Legislative Council by Mr. Patil was adopted on 17-11-1938.

(The Times of India, 17-11-1938,
The Bombay Chronicle, 18-11-1938).+

Conference of Provincial Industries Ministers:

To be held at Bombay in January 1938. +

The conference of Ministers of Industries of the Indian provinces scheduled to be held on 19 and 20-12-1938 at Bombay, has been postponed to the third week of January 1939, the venue remaining the same. The Viceroy will open the conference. The conference will be presided over by Sir. Mohd. Zafrullah Khan, ^{Commerce & Labour} ~~Industries~~ Member, Government of India.

(The Statesman, 25-11-1938).

Two New Industrial Ventures in Bombay with capital of Rs. 100 million each: Iron and Financing of Cinema Industry. +

It is understood that two important new industrial ventures, each with a capital of Rs. 100 millions are shortly to be launched in Bombay. The board of directors in each instance is comprised of well-known industrialists and influential business men. One company will be concerned with the production of iron, its supplementary commodities and by-products, with a large plant in Bombay Presidency. The other is concerned with finance and banking, particularly in relation to the cinematograph industry. In each case, as considerably more than the minimum subscriptions have been already guaranteed, the directors will proceed to allotment immediately after registration.

(The Times of India, 22-11-1938).+

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian textile industry during the year ending 31-8-1938. The salient features of the statement are summarised below:-

Number of Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India on 31st August 1938 was 380, as against 370 on August 31, 1937. The number of equipped mills in Bombay City and Island remained the same as last year. The number of equipped mills in Ahmedabad dropped by three owing to the scrapping of machinery in three concerns. On the other hand, the number of mills in the Province of Bombay, excluding the Cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad, increased from 50 to 51; one mill at Broach scrapped its machinery, but two others at Jammagar and Navsari are added to the list as they commenced work during the year. The only mill in Sind which started work in February 1937, went into liquidation during the year and is at present not working. The number of mills in Bengal rose from 26 to 28. No change was recorded in the number of mills in the Central Provinces, Berar, and the United Provinces, but one more mill started work in Rajputana. In the Province of Madras there was an increase of seven in the number of mills, that number of new concerns having started work. In Bihar, which previously had no mill, two new cotton mills were started.

Mills not in Commission.- Out of the 380 equipped mills in the country, 25 were partially or completely idle, as against 35 last year. Of these 25 mills, two were located on Bombay Island and three in Ahmedabad.

Capital Invested.-

Number of Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles in equipped mills in the country now stands at 10,020,275 as compared with 9,731,000 at the end of the previous year. The number of looms increased by 3,100 to a total of 200,286. In the city and Island of Bombay the number of spindles at 2.9 millions was slightly more than last year, while the number of looms rose from 66,735 to 67,294. In Ahmedabad the number of spindles decreased from 1,976,000 to 1,942,000 and the number of looms from 48,000 to 47,100. In the Province of Bombay, exclusive of these two cities, the number of spindles and looms increased by 23,400 and 500 respectively to 1,257,704 and 26,381.

Capital Invested.- The total paid up capital of the industry at the end of August 1938 amounted to Rs. 40.49 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 39.83 lakhs the previous year. During the year the industry consumed 1,831,000 candies of 784 lbs. each of cotton, which is approximately 250,000 candies more than last year.

Number of Operatives.- The number of operatives employed daily on the day shift was approximately 438,000 as compared with 417,000 in the previous year. Particulars of the numbers regularly on night shift work are not available.

(The Times of India, 19-11-1938).

(The position of the cotton textile mill industry in India during 1936-37 is reviewed at pages 70-71 of the report of this Office for December 1937)..

Industrial Research Fund for Punjab:
Punjab Government earmarks Rs. 150,000 -

To supplement the steps taken by the Punjab Government for the furtherance of industrial research, Government now propose to create an industrial research fund. The main object of the fund will be to subsidize industrial research systematically directed towards definite ends, in order:

- (1) to help the industrial growth of the province;
- (2) to increase the number of industrial research works in the province.
- (3) to help in solving the problems of the manufacturers who cannot afford to maintain their own research staff; and
- (4) to encourage joint action for industrial research laboratories, private laboratories and Government laboratories.

The fund will be started with Rs. 150,000 during the current financial year, to which further additions will be made by Government from year to year. It will also be open to industrialists and others interested in industrial research to make their contributions to this fund.

(The Times of India, 21-11-1938)+

Prohibition in Sind Province:
Prohibition Committee's Six-year Scheme. +

A scheme for the introduction of complete prohibition throughout Sind in six years has been prepared by the prohibition Committee appointed by the Sind Government. The scheme aims at the gradual eradication of the evil, entailing an annual loss of Rs. 40,00,000 to Government, which the Committee proposes to recoup by the levy of the full water rate for jagiri lands, professional taxes and income-tax on agricultural incomes.

Details of Scheme.- The scheme is divided into six stages, each stage covering a period of 12 months, Government will slowly decrease the number of vending shops until they go completely out of the picture, and establish their own depots, where sealed bottles will be available for those holding permits. The Committee expects that the restrictions enforced by the various stages will eventually prevent the poorer section of addicts having easy access to intoxicants. The committee's other recommendations include the prohibition of Bhang, charas and ganja and a ban on liquor advertisements in newspapers.

(The Times of India, 7-11-1938) +

Closure of Liquor Shops on Pay Days in Bombay:
Minister of Health pronounces Experiment a Success. +

The Hon. Dr. M.D. Gilder, Minister of Health, Bombay, has recently analysed the results obtained from the closure of liquor shops in Bombay City on pay days (vide page 36 of the report of this Office for July 1938) and given it as his considered opinion that the experiment of "dry" pay days has led to a considerable decrease in the consumption of liquor.

Less Consumption.- Inaugurated in August 1938, the experiment has now been on for the last three months, during which Government have declared the pay day and the day following it as "dry" days when liquor shops in the industrial areas of the city are kept closed. The ~~figures~~ ^{figures} indicate that :

- (1) The consumption "due to opportunity" is completely wiped off.
- (2) A considerable percentage of habitual consumers are also managing without liquor on these two days.

The figures show that for every 100 gallons of country liquor normally consumed, only 72 gallons were consumed on these "dry" days; similarly, the percentages for beer and other spirits work out at 19 and 55 respectively. Statistics of last year indicate that on an average the consumption of liquor on pay day and the day following

rose to ~~2 1/2~~ to ~~3 1/2~~ ^{2 1/2} ^{3 1/2} times the consumption on an ordinary day.

Further Action Foreshadowed.- It is understood that the heartening results of the experiment have encouraged the Prohibition Department and it is likely that the present experiment will soon be followed up by more stringent measures in furtherance of the policy of prohibition.

(The Times of India, 17-11-1938,
and The Hindu, 16-11-1938). +

Social Insurance.Provision of Old-age Pension for Employees of Local Bodies:Private Bill to be introduced in Central Provinces Legislative Assembly +

Mr. G.S. Page, M.L.A., (Labour), has given notice of a Bill to be moved in the C.P. Legislative Assembly, providing old-age pension and gratuity to sweepers employed by local bodies ^{who} are granted neither pension nor provident fund at the time of their leaving service in their old-age.

The Bill provides that every sweeper, on attaining the age of 55 years shall be entitled to old age pension equal to half of his pay at the time of his retirement, provided he has completed 30 years' service. In the case of sweepers who have reached the age of 55, but have not put in 30 years' service, provision is made for gratuity equal to one month's pay of each year of completed service or a graded pension scheme according to the length of his qualified service.

(The Statesman, 4-11-1938). +

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Unemployment Insurance in Madras. +

The Royal Commission on Labour in India did not at the time of making its report in 1931 regard any national system of unemployment insurance with which it was familiar as feasible in India. With the existing turn over and in the absence of an industrial population which is both permanent and regular, the risk is not a calculable one; and the Commission therefore concluded that even if the workers were able and willing to contribute there was no basis on which a satisfactory scheme could be built.

Realising the difficulties of the problem, but at the same time determined to make an experiment however partial and limited in scope towards its solution, the Hon. Mr. V.V. Giri, the Minister for Labour and Industries of Madras, is now trying to formulate a scheme of unemployment relief under which the contributions by the employer and the employee might be sufficient to meet the demands on the insurance fund without state subsidy to any large extent. Mr. Giri's idea was to confine the scheme to the textile industry of Madras, which was well organised and employed a permanent labour force. There are at present about 64,000 workers employed in the textile industry of the Madras province, and official statistics revealed that unemployment in this industry in the province ranged between 7 and 8 per cent.

As regards the rate of contribution and of benefits payable, it has been roughly calculated that a contribution of a quarter of an anna for each working day from each employee and employer would enable a benefit payment of Rs. 4-8-0 per month for a single man and Rs. 7/- a month for those with families; while a contribution of 1/64th of the wage earned by the employee and 1/64th of the wage bill of the employer, would enable a benefit payment of a week's wage for each month of unemployment. In either case it is believed that the accumulations in the fund would be sufficient to meet the demands, but if the collections were found to be insufficient, the government would have to meet the deficit.

Some details of the scheme now being considered are given below. The scheme excludes those who become unemployed owing to sickness, accidents or old age, or those who voluntarily left service or were dismissed. An employee to be eligible to receive the benefits must have been in service for at least 3 years prior to joining the scheme and

should have subscribed for a minimum period of 6 months continuously. He should also have been unemployed continuously for a period of 4 weeks. The period during which the benefit would be payable would be double that during which contributions were made by him, subject to a maximum period of two years. A person who had already received benefit under the scheme would be eligible for further benefit, if reemployed and again thrown out of employment after contributing to the fund for a period of at least three months. In order to prove eligibility to receive benefits, the worker would be required to present himself each day at the Employment Exchange if any is set up. In order to encourage keeping the worker in continuous employment, some rebate might be made in the contributions of the employer periodically.

Special legislation will have to be made undertaken to make the scheme compulsory and to enable the contributions to be collected from the employers and the workers; Employment Exchanges may also have to be set up by the government in the districts in which the scheme is to operate. It is expected that the administrative costs of the scheme would not exceed 12.5 per cent of the income of the fund, a proportion which is generally allowed by the law for other purposes.

The Madras Labour Minister is understood to contemplate entrusting the administration of the scheme to an insurance concern, commercial or co-operative, to minimise the commitments of the State.

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Public Health.Control of Smoke Nuisance in Calcutta in 1937:32nd Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission.*

The Commission, which represents all the interests concerned in the abatement of smoke nuisance, held 10 meetings in 1937. 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.

Preventive Action in 1937.- During the year 2334 offences were reported for departmental action; 3,659 inspections and tests of installations were made, 14 statutory warnings were given and 6 prosecutions were conducted. In addition to the above preventive action, 140 steamships and launches and 121 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. 175 and the minimum Rs. 35. In the six prosecutions which were launched, resort to the penal law was found necessary in four 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 81 complaints were received, against 78 in the preceding year.

The 32nd Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission for 1936 was reviewed at pages 75-76 of our September 1937 report.

* Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission for the year 1937. Superintendent, Government Printing. Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1938.

Price -- Indian, anna 1; English, 2d. +

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The Madras Public Health Bill, 1938. +

The Minister for Public Health, Madras, intends introducing shortly in the local Legislative Assembly, the Madras Public Health Bill, 1938.

Salient Features.— The following are the salient features of the Bill:

(1) The constitution of ~~the~~ Public Health Board for the Province; (2) The statutory recognition of the Director of Public Health and the vesting of adequate powers in him for the effective discharge of his duties; (3) The taking of power — (a) to compel the employment of Health Officers by important local authorities; and (b) to fix the scales and the conditions of service of the public health establishments employed by local authorities; (4) provision that local authorities should earmark a definite percentage of their income for public health expenditure; (5) the imposition of an obligation on local authorities at the discretion of the Government to provide a sufficient supply of drinking-water and provision for the compulsory levy of a water-tax for financing water-supply schemes; (6) effective provisions for securing proper drainage, and a sufficient number of public latrines, etc; (7) the prevention and abatement of nuisances; (8) adequate measures for the prevention and eradication of infectious diseases; (9) the prevention, ~~of~~ treatment and control of venereal diseases; (10) maternity and child-welfare measures; (11) mosquito control; (12) the reservation of areas for residential purposes; control over insanitary buildings and the abatement of overcrowding; (13) registration of lodging houses; (14) food control; and (15) special provisions regarding fairs and festivals, including the levy of a pilgrim-tax in the case of water-borne traffic and of tolls on vehicles.

Earmarking of income for public health expenditure.— one of the most important provisions contained in the Bill is that which requires every municipality to earmark not less than 30 per cent of its income from all sources for public health expenditure, and every district board or panchayat to earmark not less than 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of its income from all sources for such expenditure. The Government have, however, been given power to relax this requirement where financial or other reasons render such a course necessary. Power has also been taken to determine whether any particular item of income or expenditure should or should not be taken into account for this purpose.

Reservations of areas for residential purposes and control over Buildings; ~~the~~ factories, Workshops, etc.— Every urban local authority is required, within a year of the Bill becoming law, to notify the localities, wards or streets which shall be reserved for residential purposes. The local authority may at any time add to the list of these localities, wards or streets. In areas so notified, no fresh factories, workshops, or workplaces can come into existence and the operation of existing factories, etc., may also be suitably controlled.

Workers' Tenements: Back-to-Back Dwelling Houses.- Provisions for securing that new buildings are not constructed on insanitary sites have also been added. The construction of back-to-back dwelling houses has been specifically prohibited. Dwelling houses which are unfit for the purpose of human habitation may be ordered to be vacated until they are rendered fit for such purpose. Power has been taken to make rules for determining whether tenements or any class of tenements are either over-crowded or are not maintained in a habitable condition and any infringement of these rules is to be punishable.

The text of the Bill is published at pages 1 to 95 of the Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary to Part IV dated 10-11-1938. +

Slum Clearance in Cawnpore:

The U.P. Town Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1938. +

The U.P. Government has gazetted the United Provinces Town Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1938, which it intends to introduce shortly in the local Legislature. The Bill seeks to hasten the pace of slum clearance in Cawnpore, which has a large population of industrial workers.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Government was convinced that the early clearance of slums in Cawnpore is very necessary for improving the health of the city. The number of slums is large and preparation of schemes in detail will take a considerable time. Meanwhile construction of buildings will continue and add to the congestion as well as the cost of acquisition. The proposed amendment of section 40 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act will facilitate early sanction of schemes which will authorize the Trust to assume powers under section 49 (1) of the Act and prevent further undesirable constructions in the slums (Ahatas). The Trust will also be able to save on the cost of acquisition by persuading a number of Ahata owners to improve the Ahatas themselves according to the Trust design. As funds are limited this will result in a much better progress in slum clearance than can otherwise be possible. The procedure will be welcomed by a number of property owners who do not desire to part with their property and also by their tenants who live in insanitary houses and will appreciate early improvement of the slums.

The text of the Bill is published at pages 1208-1209 of Part VIII of the Government Gazette of the United Provinces dated 12-11-1938. +


House Rents in Nagpur:C.P. Government appoints Committee of Inquiry.

A C.P. Government notification dated 28-11-1938 announces the appointment by the C. P. Government of a committee to examine the question of house rents in Nagpur. The Chairman of the Committee is the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, and its Secretary Rao Sahib N.V. Joshi, Nazul Officer, Nagpur. Mr. Kalappa is also a member of the Committee.

The question whether house rents in Nagpur city should be regulated has been under the consideration of Government since the introduction of the Nagpur House Rent Bill by Mr. V.R. ~~Kalappa~~ Kalappa in the Central Provinces Legislative Assembly in December 1937. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion in January 1938. The Government, after an examination of the opinions received, came to the conclusion that the material at its disposal was not sufficient to enable it to reach a decision regarding the attitude to be adopted towards the Bill. Government have, therefore, appointed the Committee.

Terms of Reference.— The terms of reference of the committee are: (a) to examine whether the rentals of premises occupied by the working and the middle classes in the city of Nagpur are such as to require regulation by legislation; (b) If so, to suggest the nature of the required legislation with particular reference to Mr. Kalappa's House Rent Bill; and (c) to report on such other matters as may be germane to the points referred to in (a) and (b) above.

(The Times of India, 30-11-1938). +



Education.Compulsory Education of Children in Urban Areas of Bihar:
Bihar Government to launch Scheme in 1939.

It is understood that the Government of Bihar is considering a scheme for the introduction of compulsory education for all children of school-going age in all urban areas in the Province. The scheme it is learnt, will cost about Rs. 200,000 annually, and is likely to be included in the next year's budget. Compulsion, it is understood, will apply only to male children while in the case of girls, attendance in schools will be optional.

(The National Herald, 27-11-1938).

Migration.

Indians' Franchise Rights in Ceylon:
Government of India's objection to Amendment to
Village Committees Ordinance rejected by Government of Ceylon.

Reference was made at page 35 of the report of this Office for September 1938 to the keen resentment felt in India over the amendment to the Village Committee's Ordinance by which Indian plantation workers in Ceylon have been denied franchise rights. The Government of India had made representations to the Government of Ceylon protesting against the proposed amendment and urging the grant of franchise rights to Indian estate workers also, but in a letter sent to the Government of India in the second week of November, the Government of Ceylon has rejected the ~~x~~ representations.

The Ceylon Government's reply points out that the Amendment substitutes purely occupational and residential criterion identical for the home born and the immigrant alike. According to the Ceylon Government the placing of Indian and non-Indian estate labourers entirely on a level of equal footing removes the objectionable features of the Bill.

This view, of course, is not finding acceptance in India.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1938.)

General.

Mr. K. Kuriyan of the International Labour Office, Geneva, on leave in India during the period of this Report, was in Delhi from the 2nd to the 6th November. He came to this Office every day during his stay here, pursuing his enquiries regarding the application of ratified Conventions in India, and the services of this Office were utilised by him both in conducting his studies and in establishing contacts with the persons whom he wanted to see.

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Publications received in this Office during November 1938.

Conditions of Labour.-

- (1) "Industrial Disputes in India, 1928-1937" (Brochure issued by The Employers' Federation of India, Bombay).
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1937.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1937.

Enforcement of Conventions.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Orissa for the year 1937.
- (2) Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India on the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the year ending 31-12-1937.

Industrial Organisations.-

- (1) Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1937 (Appendices).
- (2) Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in Burma for the year ending 31-3-1938 (cyclostyled).

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar, for the year 1936-37.

Social Conditions.-

Report on the working of the Prohibition Act (Salem district), till the end of September 1938 (Government of Madras, Revenue Department, G.O. No. 2846, dated 3-11-1938).

Public Health.-

- (1) Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission for the year 1937.
- (2) Report on the Progress of the Hyderabad City Improvement Board for the year 1346 Fasli (1936-1937).

Co-operation.-

Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1937.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for 1937-38.
- (2) Report on the administration of the Department of Agriculture, W.P., for the year ending 30th June 1937.

Miscellaneous.-

"Indianisation of Services" by J.K. Mehta, Secretary, The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.