

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for April 1939.

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

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Ratifications.Draft Convention regarding Statistics of Wages and
Hours of Work (Industries): Statement on
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The following statement laid before the Central Assembly on 12-4-1939 by the Government of India indicates the action which it has taken in respect of the Draft Convention concerning statistics of wages and hours of work in the principal mining and manufacturing industries, including building and construction, and in agriculture, adopted by the 24th Session of the International Labour Conference:

"As the competent authority for the collection of the necessary statistics is, in all the industries concerned, except mining, the Provincial Government, and as the Convention does not require implementing by legislation, the Government of India have addressed the Provincial Governments, enquiring whether they wish to give effect to the provisions of the Convention."

(Extracted from the Statement
a copy of which was received
in this Office)..

National Labour Legislation

Forced Labour in Kashmir: Bill Prohibiting Requisition
of forced Labour by Government Servants passed by
State Legislature. *

Mr. Jagat Ram Aryan introduced some time back in the Kashmir State Assembly a Bill to repeal the Kar-i-Sarkar Rules, which empowered State officials to requisition labour for administrative purposes from certain specified classes, though the Rules did not permit such requisition of labour without payment of wages. The Select Committee to which the Bill was referred did not agree to the repeal of the Rules, but suggested certain amendments, the more important of which were (1) that persons inhabiting such areas as lay within a radius of ten miles from the headquarters of a tahsil or munsif's court should be excluded from the operation of the Rules, and (2) that the fine imposed upon persons not complying with the orders should be reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5.

The Bill, with the Select Committee's report thereon, was taken up for consideration by the State Assembly recently, when Mr. Aryan opposed the changes proposed by the Select Committee and urged the total repeal of the Kar-i-Sarkar Rules.

The Law and Revenue Minister agreed to the total repeal of the Rules, and the Bill was passed unanimously.

(The Hindustan Times,
4-4-1939). *

The Employment of Children (Amendment) Act, 1939.

(Act No. XV of 1939). *

Reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our February 1939 report to the introduction on 8-2-1939 of the Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill, 1939, in the Central Assembly. The Bill as passed by the Central Legislature received the assent of the Governor-General on 8-4-1939; the text of the Act is published at pages 157 to 159 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 15-4-1939.

The Burma Trade Disputes Conciliation Bill, 1939:

Bill introduced on 3-4-1939. *

Attention is directed to pages 77 to 80 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 8-4-1939 where is published the Burma Trade Disputes Conciliation Bill, 1939, introduced on 3-4-1939 in the House of Representatives, Burma, by Mr. Myo Nyunt. The Bill provides for the appointment of a Commissioner of Labour, Labour Officers and Conciliators for the prevention and peaceful settlement of trade disputes. *

The Karachi Shops Bill, 1939: Bill introduced on 28-1-1939. *

Attention is directed to pages 221 to 235 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 13-4-1939 where is published the Karachi Shops Bill, 1939, introduced in the local legislature on 28-1-1939 by Mr. N.A. Bechar. The Bill seeks to prohibit the employment of children and limit the hours of work of young persons in shops ^{in the first instance} in Karachi City, and to provide for their early closing.

The Sind Shops Bill, 1939: Bill introduced on 28-1-1939. *

Attention is directed to pages 236 to 250 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 13-4-1939 where is published the Sind Shops Bill, 1939, introduced in the local legislature by Dr. Popatlal A. Bhoopatkar. The Bill seeks to prohibit the employment of children and limit the hours of work of young persons in shops and to provide for the early closing of shops. *

The U.P. Agriculturists and Workmen Debt Redemption

Bill, 1939: Bill ~~proposed to be~~ introduced by
Government.

Attention is directed to pages ⁵³ 2 to ⁶² 10 of ^{Part IV of} the U.P. Government

Gazette ~~Extraordinary~~ dated ~~22~~ 2-4-1939 where is published the U.P. Agriculturists and Workmen Debt Redemption Bill, 1939, ~~proposed to be~~ introduced in the local legislature by the Government of the province ^{on 12-4-1939.}

The statement of objects and reasons declares that previous legislation has failed to reduce debts to a level which would enable the adoption of measures to put agricultural credit on a sound basis. The object of the present Bill is to reduce agricultural debt and, the Bill applies only to loans incurred before 1-1-1938. Under the Bill the creditor is compelled to sue within one year of the coming into force of this Bill as an Act. If he does so the Court will apply the provisions of the Bill designed to reduce debt. If he does not the debt will be deemed to have been discharged.

Under the Bill debt is reduced by the application of low rates of interest - 5 per cent. per annum simple interest in the case of secured debt and 8 per cent. per annum simple interest in the case of unsecured debt - in those cases in which the contractual rate is greater than these rates. The Bill also provides for the application of the law of damdupat in the form in which it applies to paid as well as to unpaid interest. As regards execution against agricultural produce only one quarter of the agricultural produce of the debtor will be liable to attachment at any one time. The Bill applies to proprietors who pay not more than Rs. 500 land revenue and to tenants who pay not more than Rs. 500 rent. It also applies to persons employed on wages not exceeding Rs. 60 per month such as agricultural labourers, general labourers, blacksmiths, carpenters, boatmen, tanners, leather workers, scavengers, and other servants of the village community. +

Extension of the Payment of Wages Act in U.P. to Printing Concerns. +

The Government of the United Provinces has extended the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act to all printing presses in the province wherein or within the precincts of which ten or more workers are working or were working on any day of the preceding twelve months.

(The National Herald,
2-4-1939). +

The C.P. and Berar Employment of Children
(Non-Federal Railways) Draft Rules, 1939. †

Attention is directed to page 293 of Part III of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 30-3-1939 where is published the draft of the Central Provinces and Berar Employment of Children (Non-Federal Railways) Rules, 1939, made under Section 7 of the Employment of Children Act, 1938. The Rules define (1) the powers of Inspectors appointed by the Provincial Government under Section 6 of the Act to enter non-federal railway premises for carrying out the purposes of the Act, and (2) powers of medical practitioners to grant certificates of age..

The Bombay Lifts Bill, 1938: Select Committee Report. †

Attention is directed to pages 179 to 189 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 14-4-1939 where is published the Select Committee's report on the Bombay Lifts Bill, 1938, which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 3-2-1939, and referred to a Select Committee the same day. (For text of the Bill, vide pages 661 to 665 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 19-12-1938). †

The Bombay Rent Restriction Bill, 1939:
Legislation to be introduced in Bombay Legislature. †

Attention is directed to pages 202 to 209 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 18-4-1939 where is published the text of the Bombay Rent Restriction Bill, 1939, which the Government of Bombay proposes introducing in the local legislature. The object of the Bill is to restrict increase in rents of premises the standard rents of which do not exceed Rs. 80 per month. Due to the levy recently of an urban immovable property tax in the province, there is a

tendency for rents to be increased, and the Bill is intended to check this tendency. *

The Indore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1939: Protection of Honest Debtors from Arrest and Imprisonment for Debts. *

Mr. N.H. Dravid introduced in the Indore Legislative Council on 11-4-1939 the Indore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1939, which seeks to protect honest debtors of all classes from detention in civil prison and to confine such detention to debtors proved to be recalcitrant or fraudulent.

The first reading of the Bill evoked some opposition. Some members maintained that the measure was one-sided and aimed at helping debtors, for the protection of whose interests a number of laws had already been enacted.

The Bill passed the first reading and was referred to a Select Committee the same day - 4-4-39.

(The Times of India, 13-4-1939). +

The Sind Rent Restriction Bill, 1939.

Attention is directed to pages 264 to 273 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Rent Restriction Bill, 1939, which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. R.K. Sidhwa. The Bill proposes to restrict the increase in rents of houses fetching Rs. 30 or less, with a view to protect the interests of the classes renting such houses.

The Bombay Maternity Benefit (Sind Amendment) Bill, 1939. +

Attention is directed to pages 278 to 279 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Bombay Maternity Benefit (Sind Amendment) Bill, 1939, introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. N.A. Bechar. The ~~Bill proposes that the Act~~ ^{legislation} will apply in the first instance to all the factories in Sind which are regulated by the Indian Factories Act, 1934, and to wool-cleaning, hides-tanning, coal-discharging, **stacking** and bunkering and dry **fruits** cleaning establishments and grain and cotton godowns and warehouses. The Government may by notification in the Gazette, extend the Act ϕ to other factories, trades and industries.

The Bill also proposes that the benefit rates shall be eight annas per day, or the average daily rate whichever is higher. Power is also sought for making **rules** to provide free medical aid to the women entitled to benefits under the Act. +

The Sind Workmen's Minimum Rates of Wages and Amenities
Bill, 1939. +

Attention is directed to pages 306 to 307 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Workmen's Minimum Rates of Wages and Amenities Bill, 1939, introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. Jamshed Nusserwanjee. The Bill seeks to fix the minimum rates of wages at Rs. 20 per mensem and to set up Joint Boards to settle the wages of workers in factories, mines, etc., and the conditions relating to pensions, provident funds, leave facilities, maternity, sickness and other benefits. +

The Bombay Shops Bill, 1939; introduced on 17-4-1939. +

The Premier of Bombay introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 17-4-1939 the Bombay Shops Bill, 1939. (Vide page 3 of our January 1939 report). In introducing the Bill, the Premier estimated that in Bombay City alone there were nearly 200,000 persons to whom the Bill would apply.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee, with instructions to report before 31-8-1939.

(The Times of India, 18 and 19-4-1939). +

U.P. Payment of Wages Rules, 1936: Proposed Amendments.

Attention is directed to page 79 of Part I-A of the United Provinces Government Gazette dated 1-4-1939 where is published the draft of certain amendments which the United Provinces Government proposes to make in the U.P. Payment of Wages Rules, 1936. The draft will be taken into consideration on 30-6-1939, and objections, if any, are to be submitted by that date. (Notification No. 864/XVIII 522-1938 dated 28-3-1939).

U.P. Factories Rules, 1935: Proposed Amendments.

Attention is directed to pages 79-80 of Part I-A of the United Provinces Government Gazette dated 1-4-1939 where is published the draft of certain amendments which the United Provinces Government proposes to make in the U.P. Factories Rules, 1935. The amendments relate to Rule 93 and provide that all occupiers of factories with more than 150 employees and which will be notified later shall provide separate rest rooms, conforming to certain specifications, for men and women employees. Objections, if any, to the proposed amendments are

to be submitted by 1-7-1939. (Notification No. 96/XVIII-1044 dated 28-3-1939)..

Factories Act extended to Groundnut Shelling Establishments in Bombay Presidency.

By Notification No. 352/34 dated 24-3-1939, the Government of Bombay has extended the Factories Act, 1934, to all establishments in the Bombay Presidency wherein the manufacturing process of shelling groundnuts or any other process incidental to it is carried on with the aid of power and wherein on any one day of the twelve months preceding the date of notification ten or more workers were employed. (Page 640 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 27-3-1939).

Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act, 1939.
(Act XIX of 1939).

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our February 1939 report to the introduction on 8-2-1939 in the Central Assembly of the Coal Mines (Stowing) Bill, 1939, the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, and the Committee's report thereon. The Bill was passed by the Central Assembly on 4-4-1939 and by the Council of State on 14-4-1939. It received the assent of the Governor-General on 21-4-1939.

The text of the Act is published at pages 169 to 173 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 29-4-1939.

Conditions of Labour.

Liberalising Leave and Pension Rules of inferior
Government Servants in U.P.; Government Decisions. +

According to a communiqué recently issued by the Government of the United Provinces, the local Government which has been considering the question of the liberalisation of the leave rules of inferior Government servants, as a part of the general question of improving their conditions of service, has now decided to liberalise the leave rules in the following two directions:

Earned Leave.- Permanent inferior servants will be allowed to accumulate earned leave on average pay at one-twentysecond of the period spent on duty up to 60 days instead of 30 days as at present.

Leave on Private Affairs.- In addition to earned leave on average pay and leave on medical certificate on half average pay, permanent inferior servants will now be allowed leave on private affairs on half average pay for a total period of 12 months in the entire service which will be admissible only after an inferior servant has rendered permanent service for five years, subject to the condition that the leave taken does not exceed 60 days at a time.

Pension.- Inferior servants in the U.P. Government will get henceforward half their salary with a maximum of Rs. 7 by way of pension from 1-4-1939). The new rules also provide for the grant of compensation of invalid pension after 25 years' service instead of 30 years as heretofore.

(The Hindustan Times
2-4-1939 and the National
Herald, 4-4-1939).+

Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives in Baroda State,
1936-37.* +

Number of Factories.- According to the Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31-7-1937, the total number of factories on the register was 143 as against 133 in the previous year. The number of factories in operation was 125, the same as in the previous year; of these, 27 were perennial and 98 seasonal. 17 perennial and 93 seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.

* Annual report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year 1936-37 (ending 31st July 1937) - Baroda State Press, 1937. - Price 12 annas, pp 90.

Number of Operatives.- The total number of factory operatives employed on all factories during the year was 27,537 as against 27,644 in the previous year. Out of 27,537 operatives 24,304 were engaged in cotton industries and 3,233 in other industries, as against 24,037 in cotton and 3,607 in other industries in the previous year. The apparent decrease under the category 'other industries' is due to the transfer of dye houses from 'other industries' to 'cotton industry'.

Shifts.- Of the 27 perennial factories, 13 worked on night shift, either for part or whole of the year; 8 worked on night shift almost throughout the year. Several of the seasonal factories also worked on night shift during some part of the season.

Inspection.- With the exception of a few, all the perennial factories were inspected more than twice and the seasonal ones, once and in some cases more than once. 14 seasonal factories out of the 25 factories in commission were not inspected during the year. As a result of surprise visits made by the inspectors, offences against hours of work and rest and weekly holidays were detected in 6 perennial factories and 2 seasonal factories.

Wages.- The average monthly rates of wages of higher paid skilled labour continued to decline except in the case of spinners (in which case the rate increased from Rs. 20-0-0 to Rs. 22-0-0). The average wages of daily-paid labour was, for men Rs. 0-9-5, women Rs. 0-8-0 and adolescents Rs. 0-7-0.

Sanitation.- Sanitation continued to receive the attention of the Inspectorate. Statutory lime washing of the walls of latrines, urinals and factories, has been insisted on and generally complied with. Compounds of factories are maintained generally in a clean and drained state.

Ventilation and cooling of factories have been found ~~xxx~~ satisfactory though there is need for considerable improvement.

Strikes.- Proposals for wage cut by the management of all the four cotton spinning and weaving mills in the Baroda City resulted in long strikes, involving a loss of 2,389,590 man-hours. In two cases settlement was arrived at by amicable adjustment of wages through the intervention of the Dewan of the State, while in the other two cases, employers and the employees settled their differences mutually.

Health of Operatives.- The health of factory operatives was found to be generally satisfactory.

Welfare Work - Housing and Medical Relief.- Housing accommodation was provided by the various mills only for 2,125 workers. The provision of medical relief remained ~~at~~ as it was in the previous year. Besides these welfare activities, there was a slight increase in the provision of creches, cheap cloth and grain to workers.

Fencing of Machinery.- There were very few accidents which were found to be due to inadequate fencing. At the same time it is pointed out that the fencing so far provided is not quite satisfactory and

that the Inspector continued to press for improvement. Tight fitting clothes are now generally supplied to workers engaged on work near moving machinery and the workers are gradually taking to use this kind of clothing while at work.

Accidents and Compensation.- A 156 accidents were reported to have occurred in factories as compared with 155 in the previous year. Out of the 156 accidents, 6 were fatal, 25 serious and 125 minor as against 2 fatal, 20 serious and 133 minor during the previous year.

During the year under report, compensation amounting to Rs. 7,386 was paid to workers in respect of injuries received by them on account of industrial accidents as against Rs. 6,712 in the previous year. The Inspector continued to scrutinize personally the amounts of compensation paid to workers, and where payment was found inadequate it was referred to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation.

Prosecutions.- 11 cases of breaches of the Act in respect of working hours and safety provisions were detected, in respect of which 3 prosecutions were instituted, warnings being considered sufficient in other cases. All the cases are pending in the courts while 3 prosecutions pending from previous year resulted in conviction.

Revision of the Factory Act.- Proposals in respect of the application of the British Indian Factories Act as drafted by a Committee appointed by the Baroda Government in the year 1935-36 have been submitted to the Government for their consideration.

Maternity Benefits.- The report points out that there is a satisfactory increase in the amounts given to women workers as maternity benefits as compared with those given last year and that this is due to the persistent efforts of the Inspector. Rs. 219-2-0 was paid by way of benefits to 23 women out of 1,557 women workers in the State factories.

Legislation regarding Payment of Wages.- The Millowners' Association of Baroda has been invited to offer its views on the application of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, of British India to this State, and it is expected that definite proposals for adopting a similar measure in the State would be submitted to the Government shortly.

Forced Labour in Chhota Udaipur: Government
appoints Enquiry Committee.

It is understood that the Government of Chhota Udaipur State has recently appointed a Committee, with a majority of non-officials, to enquire into charges against State officials of bribe-taking and of exaction of forced labour from the rural population.

(The Times of India, 15-4-1939).

Improving Conditions of Work of Bengal Miners:
Proposals of Labour Commissioner, Bengal. +

It is understood that Mr. A. Hughes, Labour Commissioner, Bengal, has put forward certain proposals for the improvement of the conditions of labourers in coal areas in Bengal. The proposals include (1) establishment of a permanent arbitration board to go into disputes referred to it by employers or workers, (2) standardisation of wages, (3) introduction of a scheme of insurance against sickness, based on contributions by employers and employees and (4) establishment of co-operative stores for workmen under the supervision of employers.

(All these proposals are to be considered first by the coal mining interests before being placed before the Government.

(The Statesman,
18-4-1939)..+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers
for various Centres in India during 19
February 1939. +

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during February 1939 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 February 1939 declined by 1 point to 104. The average in the year 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in February 1939 declined by 1 point to 69; for 1938 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during February 1939 fell by 3 points to 71. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in February 1939 declined by 1 point to 60.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the cost

- of living in Jubbulpore in February 1939 remained stationary at 57.

(Extracted from the
February 1939 issue
of the Monthly Survey
of Business Conditions
in India).

Forced Labour in the Punjab: Government's
Attitude explained in Assembly.

During question hour in the Punjab Assembly on 6-4-1939, Raja Gazanfar Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary, replying to a question asked by Iala Harnam Das, (a Harijan member) regarding the eradication of begar (forced labour) from the province, said that the Government did not admit that their communiqués and circulars regarding the stopping of begar had failed in their purpose. The question of having a law did not, therefore, arise.

The Parliamentary Secretary was faced with a number of supplementaries, in reply to these questions he admitted that begar which was a very old evil had not been eradicated wholly. But Government and its officers had again and again done their utmost to impress upon the people not to give begar. Government had also expressed their view to the Government officials that any encouragement or taking of begar would displease the Government greatly.

In reply to a number of other questions Raja Gazanfar Ali undertook to make enquiries and take action, if necessary, on any instances when begar was taken anybody was beaten. Sometimes harijans did some labour of love for Ministers, and that the Parliamentary Secretary was not prepared to consider it as begar.

(The Tribune, 8-4-1939).

Prohibition of forced Labour in U.P.: Government
Circular to District Officers.

In order to stop begar (forced labour) the Government of the United Provinces has circularized district officers that Section 374 of the Indian Penal Code which lays down that it is penal to "unlawfully compel any person to labour against his will", should be judiciously used to remove the practice by zamindars and others,

G.6 according to the village custom of exacting begar. The District Magistrates should therefore order investigation and prosecution by police of cases under this section. The circular also ^{points out} draws ~~attention~~ that Government officials are prohibited from exacting labour without payment or ^{on} insufficient payment.

(The Statesman,
24-4-1939). +

Protection of Labour employed on Public Works:
Bombay Government implements Whitley Recommendation. +

Steps have been taken by the Government of Bombay for the protection of labour employed in public works.

In pursuance of a recommendation of the Royal Commission on ~~in~~ Indian Labour, Government have issued a resolution containing certain rules regarding medical and sanitary arrangements to be provided in labour camps. Under the rules the contractor is required to engage, among other ~~things~~, a medical officer with a travelling dispensary for a camp containing 500 or more persons if there is no Government or private dispensary situated within five miles from the camp. The contractor is also required to consult the Assistant Director of Public Health before opening a labour camp, and his instructions on health matters will have to be followed by the contractor.

(The Times of India,
25-4-1939). +

Industrial Organisation

Employers' Organisations.

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: 6th Annual Meeting, Delhi, 1939..

The sixth annual meeting of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 9-4-1939 under the presidentship of Lala Padampat Singhania. A brief summary of the presidential address is given below:

Industrial Activity in India.- After referring to political developments in India and outside during the last year, Mr. Singhania reviewed the more important industrial and economic problems now facing India. While industrial activity in most countries, he pointed out, except the totalitarian ones, showed signs of slackening, industrial activity in India showed remarkable steadiness during the past year. As regards cotton textiles, industrial production was maintained at a high level, the average monthly production for the first ten months of 1938 being 354 million yards, compared to the average monthly production of 330 million yards in 1937 and 294 million yards in 1936. But recently there has been a slackening in demand.

Future of Indian Textile Industry.- Mr. Singhania then referred to certain factors which are likely to affect the future development and progress of cotton textile industry. The recommendations of labour enquiry committees in a few provinces have resulted in an increase in the wage bill of the textile industry. While the textile industry is called upon to bear additional burden for purposes of labour welfare, the Government of India has virtually withdrawn the protection which the industry enjoyed, by doubling ~~up~~ the duty on raw cotton imported into India and the proposed terms of the new trade pact between India and United Kingdom.

Jute Industry.- As regards jute, he said that the industry was facing a crisis due to over-production and unremunerative prices. But disaster was averted in time due to Government of Bengal's Jute Ordinance and the voluntary agreement reached within the industry regarding hours of work and volume of output.

Other Industries.- The sugar industry was also faced with over-production, but during the last year, due to the shortage of cane, there has been a diminution in the production of sugar and the sugar prices have registered considerable increases. The iron and steel industry has maintained a steady level of production and, Mr. Singhania expressed the hope that India will be able to produce steel for her own requirements. The cement industry has maintained production at a high level, but, with the entrance of new competitors in the field, the cement industry is also faced with grave problems. The tea industry has benefitted from the working of the international restriction scheme, though, in recent months, the falling off in demand has to some extent checked the advance which the tea prices recorded in the United Kingdom market. The paper industry has increased its production during the year 1938, the average monthly production for the first ten months of 1938, being 94,000 tons, compared with 80,000 tons during the corresponding period in 1937. On the whole, despite the

downward trend of prices as a result of the recession in business which started in the U.S.A. in the middle of 1937, the majority of the Indian industries have maintained their production at a high level.

Labour Unrest in India.- Dealing with labour problems, Mr. Singhania pointed out that during the period under review, there has been a rapid increase in labour troubles in many of the important industrial centres, lightning strikes affected almost all the major industries, and were avoided in some cases at a fairly heavy cost. Strikes during the first three quarters of 1938 had entailed on Indian industries a loss of more than Rs. 10 millions. Cawnpore was the heaviest sufferer from labour troubles. Cotton, jute, iron and steel have been the biggest sufferers this year, due to the strikes. The time has come, Mr. Singhania declared, when the representatives of labour and capital ought to approach such problems in a spirit of give and take, and try with the aid of Government to meet legitimate and reasonable grievances. While employers must evince sympathy for the legitimate demands of workers, labour must, in its turn, realise its responsibility towards the industry and the public, and in no case should it resort to direct action without exploring the avenues for a peaceful settlement of their grievances.

Labour Legislation.- During the year under report, various Provincial Governments appointed labour enquiry committees. Some of the committees, which enquired into the causes of labour unrest in the textile industry in important centres such as Cawnpore, Bombay and Nagpur, recommended nearly ten to twelve per cent. increase in the wage bill on the basis of an essentially temporary phenomenon that the margin of profit in the industries in question has increased due to the fall of prices of raw cotton. If an addition of 10 to 12 per cent. in the wage bill, which is likely to be a permanent burden on the industry is to be recommended on the basis of such arguments, the committees should make provision that the additions to the wage bill ought to be removed as soon as the temporary advantage enjoyed by the industry disappears.

Mr. Singhania also criticised the labour programme of the Provincial Ministries and appealed to them not to put fresh burdens on Indian industries so long as an irresponsible government, prone to undertake legislation without any regard for the welfare of Indian industries, was flourishing at the centre.

In conclusion Mr. Singhania welcomed the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, as a wholesome measure which, he hoped, would bring about better industrial relations and understanding between employers and employees.

(Summarised from the Presidential Address, copies of which were supplied to this Office by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A copy of the Address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute F.6/697/39 dated 20-4-1939).

Office-bearers for 1939-40.- The following office-bearers were elected for the year 1939-40: President: Lala Padampat Singhania, Vice-President: Lala Shri Ram, Members of the Committee: Mr. G.D. Birla, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. A.L. Ojha, Mr. Hari Shankar Bagla, Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das, Mr. D.P. Khaitan, the Hon'ble Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Mr. S.P. Jain and Mr. Ramratan Gupta: Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Narendra Nath Law; Co-opted Members: Diwan Bahadur C.S. Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar, Mr. M.C. Ghia and Lala Gurusharan Lall.

(The Hindustan Times,
11-4-1939).

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All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers

Report of Committee for 1938-39.*

Membership.- The total number of members of the roll of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers at the end of the year 1938-39 was 13 Associations representing different industries and 93 industrial concerns, making a total of 106 members in all.

Relations with the I.L.O.: 24th I.L. Conference.- After referring to the recommendations made by the Organisation regarding the nomination of the Indian employers' delegation to the 24th I.L. Conference, the report deals with the report submitted by the Indian employers' delegation. (A copy of the Report of the Indian employers' delegation on the work at the Conference was sent to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/229/39 dated 9-2-1939).

Tripartite Technical Conference on Coal Mines.- The report recalls the representations made by the Committee of the Organisation to the Government of India to send non-official representatives to the Tripartite Technical Conference on Coal Mines held at Geneva in May 1938. The Government of India decided not to participate in the Conference, as it was mainly concerned with reduction of hours of work in the coal industry and public opinion in India did not favour further reduction at present in hours of work in Indian mines.

Appointment of Secretary to Indian Employers' Delegation to I.L. Conference.- The report points out that in recent years, employers' delegations attending the I.L. Conference at Geneva have been feeling the necessity of an additional adviser who would be helpful to the delegation in rendering secretarial assistance at these conferences and would thus be able to minimise the difficulties felt by the delegates who go to Geneva without any previous knowledge about the procedure observed at the Conference. The Government of India, on being approached on the subject, agreed to pay Rs. 1000 for each Session to cover all expenses if the Organisation and the Employers Federation of India were to recommend a suitable Indian as Secretary to the Delegation. The Committee of the Organisation rejected this suggestion and have made representations to the effect that, in view of the growing number and importance of subjects coming up before the I.L. Conference, a greater number of advisers should be nominated by the Government to accompany delegates.

25th I.L. Conference.- The Committee of the Organisation, in consultation with the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, recommended the following to constitute the Indian employers' delegation to the 25th Session of the International Labour Conference: Delegate - Sir Ardeshir R. Dalal; Adviser - Mr. D.G. Mulherkar.

* All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers - Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1938-39. - 28, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi. pp 13.

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(A copy of the Report of the Committee of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers for 1938-39 was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute F.6/697/39 dated 20-4-1939).

12th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers
of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, 1939.

The 12th Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 8 and 9-4-1939 under the presidentship of Mr. Jamshed N.R. Mehta, the President of the Federation. The salient features of the presidential address are given below:

Motor Vehicles and Income-Tax Acts.- Mr. Mehta criticised the Motor Vehicles Act as having the effect of stifling further progress in motor transport industries, but expressed the hope that as powers under the Act are vested in Provincial Governments, no undue influence from railway administration will affect the administration of the Act. Mr. Mehta also referred to the new Income-tax Act, introducing the principle of taxation on accrual basis of incomes earned abroad, and expressed anxiety as to the effect of this provision on Indian enterprise in foreign countries.

Foreign Trade.- Dealing with India's foreign trade, Mr. Mehta pointed out that one of the main features of India's foreign trade in the pre-war and pre-depression years was that she had an export surplus to the extent of Rs. 780 millions and was able to meet foreign obligations with the help of this export surplus. She had a favourable balance of trade with most European customers such as Germany, Italy and France. With the advent of the policies of extreme

nationalism and economic self-sufficiency in those countries, however, India's trade position has suffered a severe setback. For example, her trade with Germany, which gave India a favourable balance of Rs. 170 millions in 1927-28, diminished to such an extent that, in 1931-32, the active trade balance practically disappeared and in 1937-38, there was an unfavourable balance of Rs. 5⁷ millions with Germany. India's trade with France, which gave her a favourable balance in 1927-28, ~~which was~~ 61 million, decreased to Rs. 23 million in 1937-38. Recently, Japan also has joined the rank of the totalitarian countries and adopted measures of exchange control, which are similar to German methods and India's favourable trade balance of Rs. 111 million in 19²7-28 has now turned into a deficit of Rs. 40 millions.

The only way by which India can make her payments abroad, is by expanding her exports to countries like the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Indo-British Trade Pact.- Dealing with the new trade pact negotiated between the United Kingdom and India, Mr. Mehta pointed out that in the course of the discussion of the Agreement by the Legislative Assembly, several Members pointed out that the sacrifices which the Indian textile industry was called upon to make ~~was~~ too heavy a price to pay for the so-called benefits to the Indian cotton grower and the advantages in respect of general preferences in the United Kingdom market. Hence they gave a clear verdict against the ratification of the Trade Pact. He criticised the attitude of the Government in ratifying the Pact in spite of the verdict of the Assembly and the opposition of Indian industrial interests.

Government Policy regarding Tariff Board Reports.- Mr. Mehta condemned the procedure of the Government of India in delaying consideration of the recommendations of the Tariff Board on the sugar, magnesium, chloride and paper industries for nearly one and a half years, and then rejecting them on the plea that conditions since the submission of the report have materially changed.

Industrial Progress.- After urging that India should enter into trade pacts with her chief foreign customers, Mr. Mehta reviewed the progress registered by Indian industries during last year. He suggested that it would help planning of industries in this country if the Provincial Governments introduced suitable legislation making it obligatory by law for all factories employing not less than ten persons to submit relevant information regarding their production. This, he pointed out, would help the compilation of comprehensive and reliable data regarding production so necessary for planning. He also pressed the case for an industrial survey of the whole country which would give authentic figures relating to the mineral wealth as also the total volume of raw-materials, which are available in each province.

National Planning.- Mr. Mehta welcomed the steps taken by the Congress Ministries towards economic planning and the setting up of the National Planning Committee. The commercial community, he declared, wholeheartedly supports the aim which the Planning Committee has in mind.

Foreign Firms in India.- Mr. Mehta also stressed the need for

controlling non-Indian concerns which have grown up behind tariff walls in India in recent years, for developing the Indian shipping industry and for ending the coastal shipping rate war, and criticised certain Provincial measures like the sales tax on commodities of general consumption. Reviewing the work of the Provincial Ministries during the last two years, Mr. Mehta felt that the main issue in this country is the precipitous fall in the prices of agricultural produce; the chief concern of every Provincial Government should be to see that the internal prices of agricultural commodities improve and that agriculturist gets a somewhat reasonable return in exchange for his produce in the markets. The time has come when the Provincial Governments should devise suitable means and represent to the Government of India to revise the monetary policy in this country, with a view to put more money in the hands of the agriculturist, which alone would raise his purchasing power and consequently lead to an increase in his standard of life.

Annual Conference of Finance Ministers.- Mr. Mehta also emphasised the necessity for an annual conference of Finance Ministers with a view to secure greater co-operation and greater co-ordination of policy between provinces on the one hand and the Central Government on the other. If no effort is made in this direction at an early date, he said, confusion in the administration of these taxes and the practical difficulties in inter-provincial administration are bound to occur.

Resolutions: Co-ordination of Labour Legislation.- The meeting passed the following resolution on labour legislation: "This Federation notes that after the introduction of provincial autonomy, a large number of social and labour enactments have been passed by various provinces or are under the consideration of provincial Legislatures. As varying forms of such legislation create differing conditions in different parts of this country which may place the industry in a particular province at a handicap as compared to other provinces, this Federation strongly urges the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to appoint a board for the co-ordination of labour and social legislation already undertaken in the different provinces and to guide the future course of such legislation on uniform lines throughout the country."

Resolutions were also passed, inter alia, (1) condemning the present ratio of 18d to the rupee, (2) urging the reduction of the present stamp duty on Indian bills, (3) urging the establishment of the crude oil refining industry in India, (4) urging the control of drugs and pharmaceutical preparations in India, (5) recommending adequate Indian representation on Port Trusts, and the Indianisation of the services of the Imperial Bank of India, (6) appealing to provincial governments to follow the Bombay Government's example of placing all their insurance with indigenous companies, (7) criticising the Government of India for disregarding non-official criticism as regards the provisions and the ratification of the Indo-British Trade Agreement, (8) urging better measures for safeguarding the rights of Indians abroad, (9) stressing the need for the Government adopting a

policy of " full-fledged protection for industries under the active control and management of the nationals of the country, having for its object the achievement of industrial self-sufficiency within a reasonable period of time, " (10), urging the conclusion of trade treaties with foreign countries, (11) emphasising the need for controlling the competition of non-Indian concerns in India with Indian industries, (12) requesting the Government of India to revise its suspended enquiry into the position of minor industries, (13) emphasising the need for developing Indian shipping and controlling coastal traffic so as to put down rate wars, (14) urging the need for granting protection to the silk industry, (15) recommending an increase in the import duty on salt and (16) emphasising the need for abolition of inter-provincial excise barriers and for ensurance of uniformity in excise duties.

Office-bearers for 1939-40.- The following were elected office-bearers of the Committee of the Federation for the year 1939-40: President: Diwan Bahadur C.S. Rataasabapathy Mudaliar; Vice-President: Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha; Members of the Committee: Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Lala Shri Ram, Lala Padampat Singhania, Mr. J.C. Setalvad, Mr. N.L. Puri, Mr. D.C. Ghose, Mr. M.A. Master, Mr. S.P. Jain, Lala Karamchand Thapar, Mr. M. Mohammad Ismail, the Hon'ble Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, Mr. Keshavprasad Goenka, Mr. A.D. Shroff, Lala Gurusharan Lall, the Hon'ble Mr. Brijlal Blyani, Rao Bahadur Shivratn G. Mohatta, Mr. Guru Prasad Kapper, Rao Sahib C. Hayavadana Rao; Honorary Treasurer: Dr. N.N. Law; Co-opted Members: Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. D.P. Khaitan, Kumar Rajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Hon'ble R.B. Lala Ramsaran Das, and Mr. Hari Shankar Bagla; Secretary: Mr. D.G. Mulherkar.

(Summarised from the presidential address and text of resolutions copies of which were forwarded to this Office by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. A copy each of the presidential address and resolutions were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute F.6/697/39 dated 20-4-1939). +

Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce: 10th Meeting, Delhi, 1939.

The 10th annual meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 9-4-1939 under the presidentship of Mr. Jamshed N.R. Mehta. The following are the salient features of the presidential address: +

World Economic Conditions.- The year 1938 witnessed an economic recession which severely affected agricultural countries. The situation has been complicated by the growth of a large number of closed economies, the uncertainty about the American economic policy and the probable reactions of rearmament expenditure in the United Kingdom.

Certain Aspects of the Economic Conditions between 1929-1937.- One of the main tendencies of the economic depression and recovery during 1929-1937, he said, was the growing diminution of the interdependence of the world in economic matters. Since the great depression which started in 1929, expansion or contraction of trade in one country exercises a less wide influence on the trade activity in other countries. The abandonment of fixed exchange rates based on fixed gold values for different currencies, the application of exchange control, the imposition of import quotas and of tariffs - these and similar measures - have, to some extent, isolated each national economy. This feature has been well illustrated by the fact that the recovery in industrial production proceeded less uniformly in different individual countries between 1932 and 1936 than between 1925 and 1929.

Conditions in India.- In India, as in the United States and the United Kingdom, the downward trend in general business conditions continued during the first half of the year under review and was accentuated by the continuance of Sino-Japanese hostilities which seriously curtailed the trading capacity of India's principal customer for cotton. Owing to a fall in the demand for Indian primary commodities in the world markets, the foreign trade position was distinctly unsatisfactory for the first six months of the year with consequent repercussions on the exchange value of the rupee. Indices of wholesale prices showed a continuous fall in the middle of June. Industrial activity was, however, not affected to the same degree and the position of the textile and iron and steel industries was on the whole satisfactory. Indian industries as a whole resisted the general downward movement of the first six months of the year better than agriculture. An upward movement in the commodity market and the Stock Exchange was noticeable at the end of June, but improvement in all cases was not maintained and the outlook, at the end of the year, 1938, must be regarded as uncertain.

The attitude of the United States and the United Kingdom Governments, as revealed in their energetic devices to combat and mitigate the evils of depression and to actively stimulate recovery, makes a tragic contrast to the attitude displayed by the Government of India during the period of acute depression of agricultural prices. But for a short-lived ~~the~~ rise in prices, the condition of the mass of agriculturists in this country has remained practically the same throughout the period, 1929 - 1939. The Government in this country have consistently refused to take any active measures to better the condition of the mass of agriculturists and turned a deaf ear to the insistent public demand for stimulating a rise in internal prices by revising the ratio policy of the Government and of securing additional markets for India's surplus agricultural produce by negotiating bilateral trade agreements with our principal customers abroad. The time has come when Government should help the process of rapid industrialisation in this country, which would ultimately

provide an assured home market, instead of an uncertain foreign market, for some of India's surplus exportable produce.

Anglo-American Trade Treaty.- The one relieving feature of the present economic situation, he said, was the conclusion of a trade treaty between America and the United Kingdom, the importance of which it would be difficult to exaggerate. These two countries together are responsible for more than a quarter of the world's imports and exports, and any arrangement calculated to promote the freer exchange of goods between them must necessarily have a profound influence favourable to the development of world trade as a whole.

Balanced Economy for India.- The commercial interests in this country are deeply interested in every measure of an international character which is likely to promote good relations and world trade. At the same time, however, one cannot ignore the changes that have come over in the economic policy of the various States of the world during the post-depression years, and it is quite legitimate that India should aim at the ideal of a balanced economy for itself. The pursuit of such an ideal is quite consistent with India's professed intentions of rendering every assistance to the development of freer trade and better economic relations in the world. He recalled the views of experts in this field that the industrialisation of countries like China and India, with the consequent increase in the standards of living of these people, will, in the long run, prove a blessing rather than a ~~bane~~ to the western world.

(Summarised from the presidential address, copies of which were forwarded to this Office by the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce. A copy of the presidential address was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute F.6/697/39 dated 20-4-1939).

Office-bearers for 1939-40.- The following office-bearers were elected to the Indian National Committee for 1939-40: President: Diwan Bahadur C.S. Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar; Vice-President: Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha; Members of the Committee: Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. G. D. Birla, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Lala Padampat Singhania, the Hon'ble Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, Mr. Gaganvihari Lal Mehta, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das, Mr. A.D. Shroff, Mr. Chunilal B. Mehta, Mr. J.C. Setalvad and Mr. M. Mohammad Ismail; Honorary Secretary Treasurer: Dr. N.N. Law; Co-opted Members: Mr. D.P. Khaitan, Mr. Gordhandas G. Morarji, Mr. D.N. Sen, Lala Gurusharan Lall, Sardar P.S. Sodhabans and the Hon'ble Mr. Brijlal Biyani.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-4-1939). +

Workers' Organisations

2nd Session of U.P. Shop-Assistants' Conference,
Lucknow 31-3-1939. .

The second session of the United Provinces Shop-Assistants' Conference was held at Lucknow on 31-3-1939 under the presidentship of Mr. Sajjad Zaheer. A large number of delegates from all important centres of the province participated in the Conference.

Mr. Jugal Kishore, Parliamentary Secretary, United Provinces Government, in his speech inaugurating the Conference gave an assurance of the Congress Ministry's desire to improve the conditions of work of shop-assistants and urged better organisation for purposes of effective collective bargaining.

The President emphasised the need for a united front of shop-assistants.

Resolutions.- Among others, resolutions were passed demanding immediate legislation in regard to salaries, conditions of work, employment and dismissals, pensions, provident fund, leave and free medical aid. Other demands included removal of the ban imposed by the local Government on the Communist Party and allotment of seats on local boards for shop-assistants.

(The National Herald,
2-4-1939 and the Hindustan
Times, 6-4-1939). +

4th All-India Kisan Conference, Gaya, 1939. +

The 4th Session of the All-India Kisan (Peasants) Conference was held at Gaya, Bihar, on 9 and 10-4-1939 under the presidentship of Acharya Narendra Deo.

Presidential Address.- The following is a summary of the presidential address:

Peasants' Awakening.- The agrarian problem of India is a complex problem and is assuming gigantic proportions. The masses are on the march and are almost everywhere engaged in a grave struggle for the conquest of their rights. Seeing power slipping out of their hands the landowners are making a last effort to save their position and hence their tyranny and oppression have multiplied a hundred-fold.

Work of Congress Ministries.- Legislation is being undertaken to afford some measure of relief to the impoverished peasantry by the

various Governments in the provinces. The measures are not adequate to meet the immediate needs of the situation. Much more is possible within the framework of the ~~present~~ present Act and perhaps much more will be done in due course of time. But it is regrettable that agrarian reform in all its aspects is being delayed for no good reason.

Criticism of Congress.- A disquieting factor of the present situation is that several of the Congress ministers look upon kisan organisations and their workers with an eye of suspicion and distrust. Adequate legislative measures should be taken to give protection to tenants against village usurers and village banias. The question of rural indebtedness should be carefully examined, and if rural debts cannot be wiped out completely, the burden should be considerably eased. Special attention will have, at the same time, to be paid to the provision of capital and cheap credit facilities for the farmers. Suitable laws should be enacted for the marketing of agricultural produce so that middle-men's profit be eliminated. Close attention should be paid to the promotion of subsidiary industries and measures be taken for comprehensive land improvement.

Congress and Kisan Organisations.- The Congress being a multi-class organisation, the peasant is not able fully to assert himself in the national organisation. In order therefore to enable him to give up his hesitancy and to assume a more independent attitude, it is necessary to give him preliminary training in an organisation of his own class. If the necessity for a separate organisation of the peasants is established it is necessary to emphasize the imperative duty for the kisan sabhas to enter into friendly relations with the local Congress organisations and to carry on their activities in co-operation with them as far as possible.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference:

1. National Planning.- The Congress welcomed the appointment of the National Planning Committee in the hope that it will place before the country a comprehensive plan embracing agricultural and industrial development in order to raise the standard of living of the masses and help in the solution of the problem of unemployment. The resolution expressed disappointment at the non-inclusion of agricultural planning in the planning programme and suggested that the Planning Committee should tackle the problems of crop planning, utilisation of Indian agricultural products for home industries, giving employment for the rural masses.

2. Crop Planning.- The Conference urged the Provincial Governments and Indian States to appoint conjointly an All-India Crop Planning Committee with a view to readjust the areas under different crops and thus lessen the present disastrous dependence of kisans on the vicissitudes of world trade conditions, restrict the policy of raising commercial crops to the detriment of food and fodder crops and bring about a proper and progressive diversification of crops and introduce the economy of rotation.

3. Co-operation with the A.I.T.U.C.- The Conference emphasised the community of interests between the All-India Kisan Sabha and the All-India Trade Union Congress and expressed the need for concerted action between both the organisations.

4. Rural Debt Relief.- The Conference criticised Provincial Ministries for not taking adequate steps to declare a long debt moratorium, scale down agrarian debts and afford cheap credit facilities to kisans.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10 and 11-4-1939). +

The Progress of Trade Unionism in Bombay, 1937-38.* +

Number of Registered Unions and Membership.- During the year ending 31-3-1938, 11 new unions were registered and the registration of 3 cancelled, thus, there were 51 unions on the register at the end of the period under review. Complete returns were received from only 46 unions.

The total membership of the reporting unions increased from 53,303 to 76,072, the important among the groups which contributed to this rise being Tramways - 85.42 per cent, textiles - 55.16 per cent., municipal - 237.75 per cent., seamen - 71.91 per cent., and Docks and Port Trusts - 52.43 per cent. The position as regards female membership also showed considerable improvement during the year. In 1936-37 there were 14 unions having 1,945 female members on their rolls; these numbers increased to 16 and 2,643 during the year under report.

Finances of Unions.- The General Fund was the principal liability of the majority of the unions. It formed the only liability of 18 unions, while these unions had liabilities other than the "General Fund". The total amount at the credit of the General Fund Account of all the unions was Rs. 225,305-5-2 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 46,330-2-8. The total assets of all the unions amounted to Rs. 276,885-14-10. This, however, includes an amount of Rs. 63,771-10-2 for "unpaid subscriptions due" the real value of which is very doubtful.

Number and Membership of Unregistered Unions.- According to the quarterly reviews published in the Labour Gazette, at the beginning of the year the total number of trade unions- registered as well as unregistered - in the Province of Bombay was 100 with

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Province of Bombay, 1937-38. Bombay, Supdt. Govt. Printing and Stationery. Price Anna 1 or 1d. pp 19.

a membership of 88,078 while at the close of the year there were 126 unions comprising 108,587 members. 51 of the unions were registered under the Act. Of the remaining unions 32 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department consisting mainly of clerical workers. -

All-India Printers' Conference, Poona, 8-4-1939.

At the All-India Printers' Conference held at Poona on 8-4-1939, Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghose, Editor, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, presiding, a number of important resolutions regarding conditions of life and work of printing employees and the need for stimulating unionism among the workers was adopted. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address.

Wages.- Dealing with the subject of wages, Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghosh pointed out that it was very necessary that the printing industry should be able to offer "standard conditions of wages and emoluments sufficiently attractive for youths at their school leaving age to take up printing or any of the allied trades as their vocation in life". He said that at present the wages offered in the industry were very inadequate, but hoped that the wage rates would improve with the improvements of indigenous craftsmanship. In his opinion, two reasons mainly contributed to the present low wage standard in the industry, first, the absence of a trained and efficient personnel, and secondly, uneconomic rate-cutting by managements.

Training Facilities.- Indian printing was very much inferior to European and American printing, and this was due, not so much to the absence of up-to-date presses and printing machinery, as to the lack of adequately trained personnel. It was difficult to get trained printers to handle efficiently the latest types of machinery. If Indian standards of printing improved, newspaper proprietors and other employers would be quite willing to sanction higher rates of wages. He recalled certain attempts recently made at Poona and Bombay to give technical education to suitable young men for training in the various skilled operations of the industry, had unfortunately both proved unsuccessful. He then referred to the opening by the Bombay University of a Faculty of Technology, in the curriculum of which is included education in the technology of printing crafts; though this was a new venture, he felt sure that, unemployment conditions being what they are, educated young men will resort in large numbers to the printing industry.

Un-economic Rate-cutting.- The prevailing low wages and generally unsatisfactory conditions in the industry was, in his opinion, attributable largely to the prevailing cut-throat competition between printing establishments; and he therefore condemned such uneconomic rate-cutting mostly resorted to by managers of the smaller job printing presses. He also urged that the Indian industry should adopt a scientific

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scientific costing system on ^{lines} somewhat similar lines ^{to those} as ~~that~~ adopted by the British Master Printers' Association.

The Printers' Responsibilities under Press Act.- He directed attention to the clauses of the Press Emergency Powers Act, making printers, who had invariably to act under the orders of editors, responsible along with the editors for publication of objectionable matter, and urged that, in view of ~~the~~ conditions prevailing in Indian presses and the low level of education of the majority of printers, they should be exempted from such responsibility.

Unionism.- Dealing with the need for stimulating unionism among the employees, he said that the formation in 1937 of the All-India Printers' Association was a step in the right direction, but urged that printers' associations should be formed in every important city in India, and that they should be all incorporated in the All-India Organisation in the pursuit of a common goal, viz., (1) to improve the position and prospects of the members, and (2) ~~to improve~~ ^{to improve} printing standards in India.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted:

Elimination of Unhealthy Competition.- "The Conference recommends the printing houses to base their prices on the cost system and abstain from cut-throat competition in their own interests."

Training of Printing Personnel.- "The Conference realises the need of trained workers in the printing and allied industries and desires that the Governments and Universities should help the existing schools of printing and also start their own institutions for Technology of printing as early as possible and give diplomas for the courses."

Trade Union Organisation.- "The Conference is of opinion that there should be district associations of printers which should be affiliated to the All-India Printers Association, and recommends that a Committee should be appointed with powers to co-opt, to organise these district associations." Mr. S.B. Sahasrabudhe, Poona, was appointed convener of this Committee.

Press Emergency Powers Act.- "The Conference notes with deep concern the attitude of the provincial governments towards printing presses, and strongly protests against their action under the Indian Press Emergency Powers Act. It re-affirms its opinion that this Act is detrimental to the very existence of printing establishments and urges upon members of legislatures to take immediate steps to remove the Act from the Statute Book, so that the printer, who has merely to carry out orders, may not be penalised."

Research in Printing Technology.- "The Conference is of opinion, that provincial governments should allocate certain amount for research work in printing and allied crafts, out of the grants for the development of indigenous industries."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 10-4-39 and Amrita Bazar Patrika, (4-4-39) +

Recognition restored to B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union from 1-5-1939.

The recognition of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union which was withdrawn on 19-2-1937 (Vide pages 25-26 of our March 1937 Report) has been restored with effect from 1-5-1939 by the B.N. Railway Administration, subject to the submission of Government certificate of membership up to the end of the financial year 1938-39, balance-sheet for the same period and Rules of the Union as amended, and personnel of the Central Council and other Executive Committees. The terms of recognition secured by the Union are more detailed and definite than before and in some respects they are an improvement over those in operation before the 1936-37 general strike. The following is a summary of the main terms:

Channel of Representation.- The channel of representation of cases has been clearly defined by providing for representation of cases affecting a class or group as well as individual cases in respect of suspension, stoppage of increment, discharge or dismissal. The Union once contemplated to resort to a general strike on the issue of its right to represent individual cases. And this demand again figured in the strike note served on the Railway Administration in 1936. With the present restoration of recognition, the Union regains not only the status quo ante bellum, but also a right for representation of individual cases, which is definitely an advance over the facilities that obtained on the eve of the 1936-37 strike.

Representation regarding Supersession Cases.- Cases of supersession may be represented up to the District Officer if the Branch Secretary of the Union has good reason to believe that the employee has endeavoured to appeal in the first instance and has had his appeal suppressed.

Conciliation Board.- A new feature of the terms is the setting up of a standing Conciliation Board consisting of three railway officers and three representatives of the Union to deal with cases concerning the Kharagpur workshops.

Encouragement of Trade Unionism.- The terms also recognise sound trade union principles. One of the clauses stipulates that "Railway employees who are officials of the Union will be ipso facto considered to have joined any general strike declared by the Union". This will eliminate from the Executive of the Union such of the employees as were in the habit of driving poor workers into strikes, while they take good care to see that they themselves do not join them.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 30-4-1939).

Views of Indian Labour Journal.- The Indian Labour Journal,

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Nagpur, whose editor, Mr. V.R. Kalappa, is the president of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union, observes in the course of an editorial on the subject: "The terms of recognition which are somewhat comprehensive have been drafted in the light of past experience with a view to avoid all misunderstandings in future. They are, therefore, terse and unambiguous. What was implicit in the past has been rendered explicit in the present terms. After all it is not the letter that matters but the spirit. The Union takes it that "the terms are but an earnest on the part of the Railway Administration to strive for and maintain good relations". That is the proper spirit with which the terms should be taken. On the whole, the terms, if carefully followed, will place the Union on a sounder footing and the organisation will be none ~~is~~ the weaker for it."

(The Indian Labour Journal,
30-4-1939).

Economic Conditions.

Industrial Survey of C.P. : Report of ~~the~~ Committee +

Reference was made at page 27 of our December 1939 report to the appointment of an Industrial Survey Committee by the Government of the Central Provinces to survey the position in respect of the industrial development of the province and to make recommendations for further development. It is understood that Part I of the Report of the Committee has recently been published; a brief summary of the main findings of the Committee is given below:

Government Stores Purchase to support Provincial Manufactures.- In regard to general principles and policies to be followed, it is recommended that Government should direct their expenditure policy in such a way that the revenues and taxes collected from the people should return to the people in the province rather than be allowed to leave. Accordingly, Government's requirements, such as cloth, paper, building materials, food-stuffs, etc., should be met by production in the villages.

Provincial Self-Sufficiency.- Government should plan the agricultural activities of the province so as to make it self-sufficient in food and other primary necessities as far as possible. Power-driven oil, flour, and rice mills and ginning, spinning and weaving mills should be worked under a license from the Government. Research should be undertaken to increase the efficiency of implements in use at present in cottage industries.

State Ownership of Industries.- Large-scale production, whenever desirable, e.g. in the case of key industries, public utilities and of exploitation of natural resources, should not be given over to private enterprise. It should be either carried out or closely controlled by the State itself. An attempt should be made to convert the raw materials of the province into consumable articles as far as possible in the province itself or in the country.

Re-organisation of Department of Industries.- Reviewing the work of the Department of Industries, the Committee remarks that as this department is intended to increase the productivity of the people, it ought to be the premier department of the Government in its organisation and functioning. The present budget of the Department is very small and the major portion of the allotment is absorbed for administrative work. The department should provide direct help in every way, viz., financial, technical and marketing. It should be equipped to regulate the quality of goods by grading and standardization, and also to control weights and measures. It should organise village products and find an outlet for the product of village manufacture.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Department should be remodelled to help the industries in the villages by carrying on

research, technical and scientific, by organising the supply of raw materials, marking of goods and generally looking after the welfare of the artisans. The Director of Industries should be a permanent incumbent of the post.

Development of Cottage Industries.- Small working units of the various cottage industries should be established and worked with inexpensive and simple equipment by the Department of Industry. This Department should take students as apprentices for receiving industrial education and training. Museums, which should depict the industries in miniature, should be attached to the working units introduced at the various district headquarters. As regards state-aid to industries, Government should not give financial aid to industries which do not demand ^{such aid} them by the nature of their organisation. The help should be chiefly functional. Cottage industries must be encouraged. Government should help villagers to ~~breed~~ breed better types of poultry. Poultry-keeping in villages should not be followed for commercial purposes.

Taxation Policy.- Government should examine scientifically the system of taxes levied by the local bodies, the malguzars and by Government themselves, so that none of these harms the village industries. Instead of taxing locally-made articles, the local bodies should levy a high sales tax on the goods which are imported into the villages in large quantities for sale in the bazaar. The restrictions imposed by the Excise Department in the collection of juice from the palm trees when it is to be used for making gur, should be abolished. The Provincial Government should arrange with the Central Government to provide duty-free salt for use of village industries, e.g., to shepherds for being given to the sheep and to village chamars for curing hides.

(A Copy of The Report of The Industrial Survey Committee - Part I, Vol I was sent to Geneva with This Office minute D.1/791/39 dated 4-5-1939).

(The Times of India, 3-4-1939). *

The Sind Middle-Class Debtors' Relief Bill, 1939.

Attention is directed to pages 303 to 305 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Middle-class Debtors' Relief Bill, 1939, which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. Namshed Nusserwanjee. The Bill seeks to impose a moratorium till 31-3-1942 for debts of middle-class non-agriculturists, to reduce excessive rates of interest, and to scale down debts.

The Sind Industrial Loans Bill, 1939. ,

Attention is directed to pages 348 to 351 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Industrial Loans Bill, 1939, which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. R.K. Sidhwa. The Bill seeks to provide for the grant of Government loans for starting small-scale industries; it is hoped this will indirectly lead to a lessening of the incidence of unemployment. *

Employment and Unemployment.

Unemployment in Calcutta: Corporation appoints
Committee to examine Scheme for Amelioration. *

The Corporation of Calcutta held a meeting on 30-3-1939 to consider a scheme prepared by Mr. Debjiban Banerjee, Concillor, to reduce the incidence of unemployment in the City. The meeting appointed a Committee of seven members, including the Mayor, to examine the scheme and to submit a report on it by June 1939.

Details of the Scheme.- Mr. Banerjee points out that there are in Calcutta 39,544 non-Bengali traders and that a scheme of planned absorption of the City's unemployed could be put through, even half of these trading houses could easily absorb about 20,000 of the unemployed. He was, therefore, of opinion that, whatever may be the magnitude of the problem in the entire province, in Calcutta the number of the unemployed could easily be brought under control if the non-Bengali business houses, the Government, the Railways and other utility concerns, the jute mills, and the Corporation of Calcutta jointly decide upon a scheme of planned absorption. According to the estimate of Mr. Banerjee the number of middle-class educated unemployed in the city would be in the neighbourhood of 60,000. He urges that in view of the large numbers involved, a regular survey of the unemployed may profitably be made.

Unemployment Survey urged.- In order to conduct the survey and to formulate a scheme of planned absorption of the unemployed, he suggests the Corporation should form a special Unemployment Committee. The census of the unemployed of the city would help the Committee to formulate ways and means to find solutions.

(The Amriata Bazar Patrika,
1-4-1939). *

Co-operative Colony for Educated Unemployed:
Annamalai University Scheme. *

The Annamalai University, Madras Presidency, has started a co-operative colonisation society to help educated unemployed youths. The University has assigned about 100 acres of wet and garden land for cultivation by the educated unemployed. Ex-students of the University and other educated unemployed are eligible for admission, provided they have a strong physique and ^{are} willing to do all kinds of

manual labour. Selected candidates must take shares to the value of Rs. 100 payable in 5 equal instalments at intervals of two months. Two students, one a B.A. and the other a B.Sc. Honours joined last year and lived in the farm with their families without remittances from their homes. The hearty co-operation of the Revenue, Agricultural and the Co-operative Departments of Government has already been secured for the scheme.

(The Hindu, 6-4-1939).+

Social Conditions.

Sind Vagrancy Bill, 1939. +

Attention is directed to pages 280 to 282 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Vagrancy Bill, 1939. The Bill seeks to prohibit able-bodied vagrants from begging in public. *

Prohibition and Workers' Budgets: Results of
Ahmedabad Enquiry by Prohibition Department. +

A rapid enquiry was conducted by the Prohibition Department of the Government of Bombay in the months of October to December 1938 to assess the social consequences of the policy of prohibition enforced in Ahmedabad. The enquiry covered 424 families, of which one or more members were known to be addicted to drink. The returns have been analysed, and a full report will be issued later.

Higher Standard of Living.- The following summary of the report is taken from an article on the subject in the Bombay Chronicle of 17-4-1939:

Some interesting figures, revealing the nature of the transformation that has occurred in the lives of large numbers of persons in the city, can however, be made available now. It has been ascertained that the average outlay on drink per family in the pre-prohibition days was Rs. 11-10. With the introduction of prohibition, this amount of money became a saving which, coupled with the increase in wages obtained as a result of the recommendations of the Textile Enquiry Committee, became available for expenditure in other directions. What use has been made of this new fund may be seen from the following figures:

Utilisation of Savings (Total of four months).- Redemption of Debt - Rs. 27-1; ornaments - Rs. 13-5; clothes - Rs. 2-6; furniture and vessels - Rs. 1-15; food - Rs. 0-15; Savings - Rs. 10-11; education - Rs. 0-4; medicine - Rs. 0-10; other uses - Rs. 7-1; total - Rs. 64-4.

A large scale inquiry will be undertaken shortly, covering about 10,000 workers of ex-drinking as well as non-drinking families to elucidate in complete detail, the full reaction of the prohibition policy.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
17-4-1939).*

Public Health.

Health Co-operative Societies for Madras Villages:
Congress Ministry's Scheme. +

The Government of Madras has under consideration a comprehensive scheme for the setting up of Health Co-operative Societies in the 40,000 odd villages of the Presidency. The following information about the scheme is taken from a Press Note dated 29-3-1939 on the subject issued by the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department (The scheme has been given wide publicity for eliciting public opinion, and all suggestions and criticisms have to reach the authorities by 30-4-1939):-

Co-operative Basis of Scheme: Economic Aspect of Health and Labour Efficiency.- Justifying the co-operative basis of the projected Health Co-operative Societies, the Note points out that in so far as the improved health of the agricultural population tends to increase the efficiency of labour, all activities directed towards raising the efficiency of labour can be classed as economic activity and can therefore rightly come under the scope of the Co-operative Societies Act. It is also pointed out that though it is the duty of the State to provide medical help, it is not possible for them to cater effectively to the requirements of the innumerable villages of the Presidency, and that, therefore, the best agency for the purpose are Health Co-operative Societies which will lighten the financial obligations of the Government by delegating a part of the responsibility for rural medical aid to the rural population itself.

Aims and Objects.- Like all co-operative societies, the health societies are associations of persons, directly interested in the undertaking and sharing in its management with equal rights and obligations. Their by-laws, laying down the duties and responsibilities of the managing committee, General body, etc., are similar to those of other co-operative societies. The main objects of these societies are:

1. the organization of a medical establishment with a qualified medical officer, compounder, and dispensary, each member paying an annual subscription in cash or in kind of equivalent value towards the expenses;

2. to carry out sanitation and preventive work, such as the filling up of stagnant pools, laying down approach roads, sinking of tube wells, providing bore-hole latrines etc., with the help of organised squads of the young men of the villages.

Finances.- The funds required to run such societies will be derived from annual subscriptions from members, grants from Government and District Boards, contributions from the Common Good Funds of Central Banks and Societies, and fees collected from members for Doctor's visits to houses.

Number of Societies and Membership charges.- It is proposed to start eight societies in the Presidency, as an experimental measure. One society will be formed for a group of villages and none of the villages will be more than five miles distant from the dispensary. Each of the groups chosen comprises about 1000 to 2000 families, and it may reasonably be expected that at least 500 persons representing 500 families will join the society. Each member will have to pay an annual subscription of Rs. 1-8-0 (0-2-0 per month) payable in cash or in kind or in labour. The subscriptions may be increased after societies have functioned for some time. Members will be given medicine at cost price, and medical advice at the dispensary free of charge. They should, however, pay a small fee, say, annas four per call for the services of the doctor at individual houses. The income from this source will be credited to the funds of the society.

Expenditure.- The approximate cost - capital and recurring - of a health co-operative society will be as follows:

Cost of the dispensary building - Rs. 250; cost of quarters for the doctor and compounder - Rs. 400; furniture - Rs. 60; one cycle - Rs. 40; office equipment - Rs. 50; initial stock of medicine and surgical instruments. - Rs. 200; total = Rs. 1000.

Recurring expenditure.- Doctor's salary at Rs. 50/- per month Rs. 600; compounder's salary at Rs. 15/- per month - Rs. 180; Servant and sweeper's salary at Rs. 5/- per month - Rs. 60; contingencies at Rs. 5/- per month - Rs. 60; total - Rs. 900.

Income.- Annual subscription (at 2 annas per month) - Rs. 750; income from call fees (4 annas per call), injection fees (8 annas per injection), etc., the average per month being taken to be 15 calls and 15 injections. - Rs. 150; total Rs. 900.

Aid from Government and Co-operative Institutions.- The financing of capital expenditure is expected to be shouldered by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank, several central banks, urban banks and co-operative societies which have large amounts to the credit of their Common Good Fund. If, however, the response from the co-operative institutions is not adequate, the help of Government or District Board may be necessary. In the early stages the income of the society may not be sufficient to meet the recurring expenditure, and in such cases the Local bodies, which are spending large sums for running subsidised rural dispensaries, may come forward to meet the deficit, if any.

Health Unions.- After a number of societies are started in an area, a central organization called a "Health Union" will be necessary to co-ordinate the activities of health societies. Every such union will maintain a better qualified medical officer, one sub-assistant surgeon for relieving the doctors in different centres in case of absence on leave, a small hospital, with a nurse, a clinic with a laboratory technician, one clerk for keeping accounts, and if possible, one organiser and propagandist officer. Its main functions will include: 1. co-ordination of the activities of health co-operatives; purchasing in bulk of drugs and materials required for dispensaries; and 3. promotion of new societies. The income of the

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Health Union will be derived from out of contributions made by Health Co-operatives affiliated to it and subsidies from Government, local bodies and others.

Budgets of Health Unions.- The budget of a Health Union will be roughly as follows:-

Expenditure (annual).- Chief Medical Officer at Rs. 100 per month - Rs. 1,200; one Sub-assistant Surgeon at Rs. 50 per month - Rs. 600; office (club, etc.) - Rs. 200; clinical laboratory - Rs. 200; hospital - Rs. 400; travelling allowance - Rs. 200; total - Rs. 2,800.

Income (annual).- Contribution from 12 Health Co-operatives at Rs. 150/- per year - Rs. 1,800; income from clinical laboratory - Rs. 200; subsidies from Government, Local bodies and others - Rs. 800; total - Rs. 2,800.

The question of starting a health union will arise only after a number of primary societies begin to function in an area. There may not be the need to start Health Unions largely, as there are Local Board dispensaries at almost all Taluk headquarters. +

Rural Health in Bengal: Government to start
National Welfare Units. +

It is understood that the Government of Bengal will be launching shortly a scheme designed to give an impetus to rural welfare activities in the province.

National Welfare Units.- Under the scheme, units called "National Welfare Units" will be set to work in all the districts. The duty of these units will be to carry the message of health and prosperity to the rural population of the province. Each of these units of which there will be 21 in all, will consist of a medical officer, a compounder, and a lecturer, the latter's duty being to deliver lectures on subjects such as improvement of agriculture, cattle-welfare, cottage industries, health and hygiene. Each unit will carry a stock of agricultural and industrial exhibits such as improved varieties of seeds, jute fibres, cutlery, pottery, bell-metal work and other cottage products. In addition, each unit will have attached to it a cinema projecting apparatus and an operator with a stock of instructive films on nation-building subjects. A feature of these units will be that they will not be confined to any particular area but will move about from place to place, the means of locomotion being either house-boats, or bullock-vans according to the nature of the districts to be served.

Modus Operandi of the Units.- The modus operandi of the units will be somewhat as follows: When a unit reaches a village, the medical officer will prepare a rough census of the sufferers from chronic diseases in the locality and will treat as many of the cases ~~in~~ it as

is possible for him to treat while the unit is in the village. The medical officer will be instructed to get into touch with the local district board doctor or the doctor attached to the local hospital or charitable dispensary and arrange for the future treatment of these cases. The compounder will dispense medicine according to the prescription of the medical officer, free of charge.

While the work of medical relief is thus proceeding, the lecturer will organise meetings and deliver lectures concerning rural welfare, health and hygiene, while the cinema operator will arrange to show films which will both amuse and instruct the villagers.

Cost of Units.- It is estimated that the cost of equipping the units will be about Rs. 46,000, while the recurring annual expenditure for working the scheme will be approximately Rs. 100,000.

(The Statesman,
17-4-1939). + ✓

Education.

Basic National Education: 60 Schools started experimentally in Bombay Presidency.

The Wardha Scheme.- The scheme of Basic National Education, otherwise known as the Wardha Scheme, has been placed before the country by Mahatma Gandhi ~~some~~ over a year and the consensus of opinion of educational experts and institutions has been in its favour. (Vide pages 33-34 of our January 1939 report). The soundness of the principle underlying the scheme (education ~~through~~ some productive activity) has been accepted by all, and the scheme offers a good alternative for the present one which is admittedly far too literary and almost unfit for rural areas. As the scheme is likely to revolutionize the existing educational system, the Government has decided to experiment on a small scale in order to find out its possibilities as well as its financial implications and to introduce basic education in compact areas in the three divisions of Karnatak, Maharashtra and Gujarat in about 60 schools in all.

A Five Years' Experiment.- The schools will be started from June 1939 and instruction in basic education will be imparted in the two bottom classes only in the first year and will gradually grow upwards into the upper classes. The experiment is likely to continue for about 5 years during which interval the working of the schools will be kept under observation with a view to find out what modifications in the syllabus will be necessary for introducing the scheme on a mass basis, if found otherwise suitable. The financial implications will also be kept in view during the period. In the compact areas, schools of all types, i.e., first grade primary schools, second grade primary schools, Urdu schools, girls' schools, one-teacher schools, etc., have been included so that the working of the scheme can be observed in all its aspects.

Syllabus of Studies.- The syllabus to be followed in these schools has been drawn up on the lines of the syllabus suggested by the Zakir Hussein Committee. This syllabus is for the first three standards only and will be extended to other classes in due course. The subjects to be taught are as under: (1) Basic craft - through which other subjects like ~~the~~ mother tongue, arithmetic, geography, science, etc. are to be taught. (2) Agriculture - as a part of general science. (3) Mother tongue - i.e., Gujarati or Marathi or Kannada or Urdu (Hindustani will be a part of the Mother tongue only in the last 3 standards, i.e., standards V, VI and VII of primary schools). (4) Arithmetic. (5) Social Studies - this includes history, geography, civics and practical work for rural reconstruction and also physical instruction. (6) General science - this includes agriculture, nature study, hygiene, etc. (7) Drawing.

The syllabus is subject to modifications as a result of experience gained during the period of experimentation. The Basic Craft that

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is proposed to be followed in these schools is spinning and carding, as that is the only craft which does not require adult labour. There is provision for taking up agriculture or wood work as basic craft in later stages when children will be sufficiently grown up. To supply trained teachers, Government have instituted three training centres - where about 100 teachers are given a short course of training in the principles underlying the scheme and in the basic craft of spinning and carding. These teachers will be ready by the end of May 1939.

Basic Education Advisory Committee.- A Basic Education Advisory Committee of ten members, with Mr. L.R. Desai, Special Officer, as Secretary has been appointed.

(Summarised from Communiqué dated 29-4-1939 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay). +

Agriculture.

The Sind Reduction of Interest Bill, 1939. .

Attention is directed to pages 289 to 291 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Reduction of Interest Bill, 1939, which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. Jamshed Nusserwanjee. The Bill seeks to give relief to debtors by reducing the rates of interest for debts contracted since 1-1-1933. +

The Sind Small Land-holders Relief Bill, 1939. +

Attention is directed to pages 292 to 295 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939 where is published the Sind Small Land-holders Relief Bill, 1939, introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1939 by Mr. Jamshed Nusserwanji. The Bill secures till 31-3-1941 indebted small land-holders from ejection and prosecution, gives facilities for the settlement of their debts through payments in instalments and limits interest rates on debts.

The protection of small land-holders in Sind from alienation of their lands in payment of debts is the object of another Bill introduced in the Assembly on the same day as above (28-1-1939) by Mr. Ghanshyam Jethanand, (Vide pages 310 to 316 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette dated 20-4-1939). +

The U.P. Money-lenders Bill, 1939.

Attention is directed to pages 77 to 88 of Part VII of the United Provinces Gazette dated 22-4-1929 where is published the United Provinces Money-lenders' Bill, 1939, proposed to be introduced in the local Legislature. The Bill provides for the registration and licensing of money-lenders and for their maintaining correct and up-to-date

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accounts. Licences are to be cancelled on grounds of fraud or breaches of the provisions of this enactment. Further access to courts for recovery of debts are restricted to duly licensed money-lenders. +

Rural Indebtedness in Chhota Udaipur State: Government
appoints Enquiry Committee. +

It is understood that a committee consisting of two non-officials and one official, has been appointed in Chhota Udaipur State to enquire into the origin of farmers' debts and to suggest ways and means for their redemption and to make recommendations for the improvement of the economic condition of the State subjects. It will carry out a statistical census of two typical villages in each taluka and will issue a questionnaire to the "sowkars" and to the agriculturists with a view to eliciting their opinions.

(The Times of India,
15-4-1939). +

Migration.

Indians in Mauritius in 1937.

The following information about the conditions of Indian workers in Mauritius during 1937 is taken from a communique dated 17-4-1939 reviewing the Annual Report for 1937 of the Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius, issued by the Department of Public Information, Government of India:

Total Indian Population.- The total Indian population in Mauritius by the end of 1937 was over 269,000 according to the latest Annual Report of the Protector of Immigrants. 80 per cent. of the labour population of the island is composed of descendants of Indians who emigrated from India in the middle of the last century. Over 30,000 reside on the estates and the rest off the estates. The ratio of females to males in the Indian population is 93 to 100. The death rate amongst the Indian population on the estates was 17.9 per mille and amongst those residing off the estates 31.3.

Wage Rates.- The rates of wages paid to casual labourers were higher. In the inter-crop season, the daily wages earned by agricultural labourers working by the day or by the job varied between 40 cents and Rs. 1.25 cents, and in the crop time between Rs. 1.25 cents and Rs. 1.75 cents. The position of artisans and of workers unfamiliar with any form of field work remained acute. Relief works were started to provide work chiefly for artisans, but continuous employment could not be given.

Relief of the Destitute.- The number of Indians in receipt of poor relief was 7,400, giving 27.4 per thousand as the figure for destitution. 31 of the old and disabled immigrants repatriated to India at the expense of the Colony, are receiving relief from the Government of Mauritius. There were in the island 39 estate hospitals, which were generally in good repair and well kept. Simple medicines are supplied to servants of estates having no hospital.

Economic conditions.- Nearly 64,500 acres or 35.8 per cent. of the total area under cultivation was cultivated by Indians. Of this acreage, over 56,000 acres were under sugarcane. The immigrants and their descendants continue to hold the largest number of draft animals and carts, and likewise the largest number of milch cows and goats; they also own nearly all the smaller dairies, and run practically eight-tenths of the motor buses, taxi-cars and lorries throughout the colonies.

Labour Legislation.- Three ordinances intended for the benefit of labourers in the island were passed, providing for (1) protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships or at any deck, wharf or quay; (2) protection of human beings against dangers arising from game snares and wells; (3) pay-

ment of compensation to workmen for diseases contracted in the course of their employment and amending the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. The Labour Inspector sees to it that the factories are taking precautions necessary to ensure the safety of workers. Under the Labour Law, all labourers are free to work where and how they like. There are no special punishments for labour offences. The Protector of Immigrants, who looks after the interests of all labourers, visited nearly all the estates during the year. Willingness and co-operation were, as usual, readily shown by owners and managers of estates in carrying out the improvements suggested by the Protector.

Labour Unrest.- For the first time in the history of this Colony, serious labour unrest, accompanied on two occasions by firing and loss of life, broke out in 1937 in sugar estates just at the opening of the period of harvesting, and lasted approximately 60 days. In July, 1937, the workers of three estates ceased cutting canes which were to be sent to a certain factory for crushing. The strike rapidly spread to the other estates, the main grievances of the workers being (1) the unfairness of the 15 per cent. cut imposed at the weighbridges on the weight of their canes planted in the Flacq district, (2) low rates of wages, (3) unfair dealings of sirdars and jobbers in the settlement of wages earned (4) refusal to allow small planters to control at weighbridges the correctness of the weight of canes sent in by them. In addition, the following general complaints were also received by the Protector: (1) inferior quality of rations, (2) low rates of remuneration for overtime work, (3) poor medical treatment and (4) cut in rations and wages on account of absence. The complaints were investigated and after such concessions as would, in the opinion of the Protector, give satisfaction to the men had been obtained, they were communicated to the labourers who agreed to resume work.

Enquiry Commission.- A commission was appointed by the Government to enquire into the causes of the unrest. The Commission had not reported at the end of the year. The Report has however subsequently been received and examined and a number of far-reaching changes are now taking place as a result of the re-organisation of the Labour Inspectorate. *

General.All-India Landlords' Conference, Lucknow, 8 & 9-4-1939.

At the first All-India Landlords' Conference held on 8 and 9-4-1939 at Lucknow under the presidentship of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, a number of decisions of importance to the land-holding classes were taken. The relations of landlords with their tenants and landless agricultural labourers, and with the Congress, the methods of dealing with the present agrarian discontent, the new tenancy legislation introduced in several Congress Provinces, and the readjustments that the landlord class has to make in view of changed political and economic conditions were, among others, subjects which came up for prominent discussion.

Presidential Address.- The Maharaja of Darbhanga, in his presidential address, stressed the need for an All-India Federation of Landholders, even though tenancy legislation and other matters affecting land policy were provincial subjects under the new constitution. While admitting the need for reform and change, he did not want Communism to spread in India, and therefore urged the landlord classes, to reform themselves and take up the leadership of rural India. The so-called antagonism between landlords and tenants was, according to him, a spurious issue; the real fight was of landlords and tenants versus the numerous middle-men who undervalue agricultural commodities and underpay the primary producers. Agriculture, in his opinion, was an industry in which the landlords and the tenants are capitalists charged with their universally recognised duties towards agricultural labour. Referring to the attitude of Congress towards the landholding classes, he regretted the steady growth of agrarian unrest since the advent of Congress Ministries, and appealed to the Congress to see that legislation affecting landlords was passed only on the basis of agreement and not by the tyranny of a majority of votes.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted:

All-India Landholders' Federation.- It was resolved that an All-India Landholders' Federation should be set up; a draft constitution for this body was adopted.

Agrarian Questions.- It was resolved that the Committee of the Federation should appoint a sub-committee of 17 members, with powers to co-opt, to examine all questions affecting landlords and to take suitable action.

Relations with Congress and Settlement of Land Policy.- The following resolution was adopted on this subject: "This Conference resolves that a representative committee of 25 members be formed with authority to negotiate on behalf of the All-India Landholders' Federation for an understanding with the Indian National Congress and the

Provincial Governments regarding the present day problems affecting the welfare of landlords and tenants."

Protest against Agricultural Land Tax.- Resolutions were also passed protesting against the agricultural land tax imposed in Bihar and demanding that legislative measures affecting rights of landlords should receive the support of a majority of landlords before they are adopted.

(The National Herald,
9-4-1939 and the Leader
11 and 12-4-1939). *

Labour and Industrial Policy of Madras Government:

Speech of Mr. Giri in Madras Assembly. *

The demand made in the Madras ~~As~~ Legislative Assembly on 29-3-39 by the Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, for a grant of Rs. 1,900,300 for his department, and the motion for a token cut of Rs. 100 moved by Mr. H.S. Town, furnished the occasion for a debate on the Madras Government's labour and industrial policy, in the course of which both Mr. Giri and the Prime Minister made statements about the attitude of the Government towards labour matters, and Mr. Town and Mr. P.R.K. Sarma gave out the views of employers and labour respectively. The following is a brief summary of the debate:

The Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri.- The Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri said:

State Ownership of Key Industries.- The policy of the Government ~~is~~ regarding industries in the Presidency was the policy of the Congress which was clearly indicated in the Karachi resolution on fundamental rights. The encouragement of khadi and village industries had long been planks of the Congress programme. In starting other industries, protection would be given to the interest of producers and village industries would be safeguarded. The Karachi resolution also provided for ~~the~~ state ownership of key industries and railways, waterways, shipping and other means of transport.

Revival of Village Industries.- The first plank on which the industrial policy of the Government would be based was the revival of village industries. Unless subsidiary occupation was found for the villagers, whatever they might do in the matter of industrialisation, they would not be helping the country. Even if large-scale industries and key industries were established, they would accommodate only ten million families in this country. There would still be sixty million families to be provided for according to the present

census.

National Planning Committee.- The Government stood also for the organisation of key industries and their maintenance by the State, if necessary. In October 1938, the Congress Ministers were brought together and they met at Delhi under the presidentship of the Congress President and appointed a committee to formulate a comprehensive scheme of national planning. It was expected that the Planning Committee would finish its labour soon and that a Planning Commission with representatives of the Provinces and the States would come into existence. When the Commission finished its work, it would be a sort of Board of Control for industries so that in future industrialists would be enabled to know whether by taking up particular industries in particular places, they would be profitted or not. It would also provide guidance to Governments as to which industries they might take up as State concerns. It was necessary that India should achieve a certain balance between her industrial and agricultural economy and that she should definitely pursue a policy designed to promote the full use of the raw materials she produced locally.

Marketing Facilities.- Mere talk of village industries and building up of big industries would be of no avail unless they made sure that the articles produced were marketed. The Congress Government realised the importance of providing adequate marketing facilities and today they were "thinking in terms of museum-cum-emporiums-cum-warehouses". Such museum had been established at Vellore, Guntur and Mangalore. By the end of next year, they would be established at every important centre.

Labour Policy:- Trade Unionism to be Encouraged.- The Government did not unduly favour either the employers or the workers, as has often been alleged; on the other hand, the Government stood for industry which was both capital and labour. Industry is an instrument which would provide employment to many and improve the prosperity of the country. The labour policy of the Government had been made clear in the Press Communiqué issued in October 1937. (Vide page 101 of our October 1937 report). The Government stood for the encouragement of trade unions on right lines. It was not the policy of the Government to interfere with the rights and privileges of either capital or labour. If there were unorganised workers and if those people were unable to make representations to their employers, the Government would help such men to place their points of view before the employers. The Government always preferred internal settlement of disputes rather than settlements imposed from outside.

Conciliation and Arbitration.- A deputation of the Employers' Federation had recently waited on the Government and stated that the Government always interfered in a dispute at a very late stage. That was not a correct statement of facts. The Federation had suggested that the Government should appoint permanent conciliators, who would study the conditions of labour and who would interfere when there was any likelihood of a dispute between employers and workers. He would tell the House that even at present some such work was being done by the district magistrates. The Labour Commissioner was also vigilant and active and was doing his best to

settle disputes. The Government proposed to make an experiment at Coimbatore and appoint a conciliator there who would be able to devote his whole time to studying the labour situation.

Slow Pace of Labour Legislation.- There was a complaint among the workers that the Government had been slow in bringing forward labour legislation. There was some truth in that complaint. But it was the desire of the Government that conventions should grow and traditions should be built up in this matter. The Government were not sleeping over the matter. If the workers organised themselves on sound trade union lines, there would be no occasion for strikes of any kind. The employers would then be in a position to carry on negotiations with the representatives of the workers. Legislation on such lines would soon be drafted.*

Premier Rajagopalachari's Views.- The following is a brief summary of the views expressed by Premier Rajagopalachari:

The Premier said that the Congress Ministry, while being sympathetic to labour's ~~claims~~ needs, had to see that employers are not denied their rights. Referring to the recent stay-in strikes, he said, that refusal to leave the premises was a mockery of non-violence. Government could not be a party to it. He pointed out that the ~~stay-in strikes were~~ an importation from the West, which has no moral basis. Picketing conducted peacefully and without violence would be permitted, but if picketers were violent, it was the duty of the ~~police to intervene~~. Till a new social order is established, Capitalism will have to be put up with. Industry can only flourish when there is trust between capital and labour; if frequent labour troubles disturb the rhythm of industry, many industrial establishments will have to close down and unemployment conditions will be accentuated. There is a school of labour leaders who want to precipitate such conditions, so that there may be revolution and so that through it the "classless society" of their dreams may be established; but he hoped that the number of such labour leaders was extremely limited. Finally, he appealed for more faith in the Ministry and promised sympathetic treatment of the workers' grievances.

(The Hindu 29-4-1939).*

List of more important publications received
at this Office during April, 1939.

National Labour Legislation.-

(The Indore Payment of Wages Act (No. II of 1939), 1939.

Conditions of Labour.-

- (1) "A Memorandum on the Welfare of Tea Garden Labourers in Assam" by S.J. Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A. (Assam), Shillong.
- (2) "Journal of the University of Bombay" Vol. VI, Part I (July 1937), (containing articles on ~~the~~ Housing and Rent among the Muhammedan Working Classes of Bombay - M. Mohsin Bhaiji) and Vol. VI, Part IV (January 1938) (containing articles on Dock Labourers in Bombay : II - Coal Labourers - R.P. Choila).
- (3) Report of the Strike Enquiry Committee, 1934 of the Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi.
- (4) Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31st July 1937.

Industrial Organisation.-

- (1) Second Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1938-39. Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 4-4-1939.
- (2) Speech delivered by Sir Tracy Gavin Jones, Kt., Chairman of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, at the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th April, 1939.
- (3) Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Province of Bombay, 1937-38.
- (4) Annual Reports and Accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1938. The Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi.
- (5) Delhi Cloth Mills - Souvenir: Golden Jubilee, 1889-1939.
- (6) Printed Text of Speech of Mr. Jamshed N.R. Mehta, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Twelfth Annual Meeting held on 8th April, 1939 at Delhi.
- (7) Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee for the year 1938-39 of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Vol. 1, 1939.
- (8) Printed text of Resolutions adopted at the Twelfth Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held in Delhi on 8th and 9th April, 1939.
- (9) Printed text of Speech of Lala Padampat Singhania, President, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers at the Sixth Annual Meeting held at Delhi on 9th April, 1939.

- (10) Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, for the year 1938-39.
- (11) Printed text of the Speech of Mr. Jamshed N.R. Mehta, President, Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce at the tenth Annual Meeting held on 9th April, 1939, at Delhi.
- (12) Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, for the year 1938-39.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) "The Indian Sugar Industry (Protection) Supplement, 1939" by M.P. Gandhi, Chief Commercial Manager, Rohtas Industries Ltd., and Dalmia Cements Ltd.
- (2) Statistical Abstract of Baroda State from 1927-28 to 1936-37. 1938.
- (3) Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1936.

Social Conditions.-

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Seva Sadan Society (Registered under Act XXI of 1860) Bombay: Adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th December 1938. 1938.

Women and Children.-

Twelfth Annual Report (for the year ending 31-12-1938) - Children's Aid Society, Bombay. (1938).

Education.-

- (1) Supplement to Report on Public Instruction in Baroda State for the year 1935-36. (1938).
- (2) Report on Public Instruction in Baroda State for ^{the} year 1936-37. (1938).

Migration.-

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1937. (1939).

References to I.L.O.-

Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour, No. 66. The Twenty-fourth Session of the International Labour Conference (June 1938): Report of the Delegates of the Government of India. 1939.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) "Madras in 1938". (Government of Madras Publication), 1939.
- (2) "Madras Administration, 1937-38". 1939.