

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in June, 1946.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Fresh Rule under Factories Act: Managers of
Non-Seasonal Factories to submit Half-Yearly
Returns.

The Government of Sind has framed a fresh rule under section 77 of Factories Act 1934, requiring managers of non-seasonal factories in province to submit on or before 15 July and 15 January each year two yearly returns in prescribed forms, one relating to the labour force employed in the factory during the preceding January to June or July to October as the case may be, and the other relating to the number of men and women employed and the amount of maternity benefits paid, during same period.

Reference was made to the draft of the rule at page 4 of the report of the Office for January 1946.

(The Sind Government Gazette dated 27-6-1946,
Part I, page 747).

United Provinces:

Draft Weekly Holidays (U.P.) Rules, 1946

The Government of the United Provinces has gazetted the draft of Weekly Holidays (U.P.) Rules, 1946, it proposes to make under the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942. According to the rules every employee in shops, offices, restaurants, etc., must get one holiday a week. Proprietors of establishments will have to display in a conspicuous place the day of the week on which employees are given a holiday. The rules prescribe the form in which the notice announcing the weekly holiday should be drawn up by the proprietors of the establishments coming under the Act, and they also require each proprietor to maintain a visit book in which an inspector visiting the establishment may record his remarks regarding defects that might have come to light at the time of his inspection. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 1-7-1946.

(Government Gazette of the United Provinces,
dated 1-6-1946, Part I-A, page 215).

Cochin State :

Cochin Factories (Amendment) Act, 1946 :
Holidays with pay for factory workers .

The Government of Cochin has recently passed the Cochin Factories (Amendment) Act providing for holidays with pay for factory workers. This Act closely follows the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945 in British India, vide pages 1-2 of this office report for April 1945). The term 'Small factory' has been defined and amendments of certain sections of the original Act, have also been included.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1946).

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SOCIAL POLICY.

U.P. Government Statement on Labour Unrest in Province.

In a Press note issued on 25-6-1946 the Government of the United Provinces expresses "great concern" over the noticeable industrial unrest in Cawnpore, Lucknow and elsewhere in the province, where several strikes have already taken place and notices of several more have been served on employers, and appeals to all employers and workers alike to exercise patience and restraint in this most critical period.

Need for Maximum Production.— Emphasizing the harm which these strikes cause not only to the workers and their employers but also to the province as a whole, the note points out that though the war has ended normal life has yet to be restored and there is a shortage not only of food grains but of many other manufactured goods, such as cloth, as well. The Government, therefore, feels strongly that loss of every working hour is a source of suffering all round, to workers most of all.

Government Sympathy with Workers' Demands.— The note declares that the Government has the fullest sympathy for the demands made by labour for amelioration of conditions of work, wages, hours of work, and holidays with pay and provision for the necessities of life and housing. But many of these questions are of all-India concern. Again, the note points out, industry in the province has to face competition from outside in all-India markets, and anything which retards progress towards rapid industrial development of the province will be a great public misfortune and cause grave public anxiety. Ultimately it will injure labour most.

Housing Enquiry: Building Programme to start immediately.— In the sphere of housing, the note points out that the Government has already ordered inquiries to be made into housing conditions of labour, not only in Cawnpore but throughout the province. As soon as this inquiry is completed within a few weeks the Government proposes to undertake an all-embracing programme for providing better housing and accommodation for industrial labour. This programme would require large funds and would have to be spread out over a number of years but a substantial beginning would be made immediately, the note states.

Medical Facilities for Labour: Sickness Insurance to be introduced in Select Areas.— Medical facilities are to some extent already specially provided for industrial labour in Cawnpore and in some other towns, in hospitals and dispensaries, and medical relief is also provided at labour welfare centres. The Government proposes to expand this organization considerably. The note adds that a scheme for sickness insurance is to be introduced in selected areas in the province.

Measure to reduce Retrenchment.— In the field of retrenchment the Government gives the assurance that it will ensure in consultation with employers and working class organizations that retrenchment is reduced to the minimum and that labour which is absolutely surplus, is found at other avenues of employment on discharge. The note emphasizes that in industrial expansion is urgently needed in the province and hopes that new mills and factories in large numbers will be established in different parts of the United Provinces as soon as conditions become favourable and heavy plant obtainable. Meanwhile particular attention is being paid to the speedy development of cottage industries to provide some immediate relief against unemployment.

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Warning against lightning strikes.- In conclusion, the note makes it clear that the Government will not tolerate lightning strikes, particularly such as may endanger public health. "The right to strike and to persuade others peacefully to join such a strike" the note declares "is one of the admitted rights of the working class. But at the same time such persuasion must not degenerate into compulsion. Those who want to work are entitled to protection and must be protected". As regards the position of the Government itself in industrial disputes the Government shall always hold the balance even. It will insist upon speedy adjudication and observance of the award when settled.

(The Statesman, 27-6-1946).

Cochin Government appoints Labour Enquiry Committee.

The Government of the Cochin State has appointed a committee to conduct comprehensive survey of the problems of industrial labour in the State as a prelude to legislation which it intends to introduce in the State Legislative Council during its session towards the end of July, 1946.

The Committee is composed of the following: Mr. K. R. Rao (representing capital); Mr. P. K. Dewar (Labour M.L.C.); Mr. M. K. Raja (M.L.C.); and Dr. (Miss) Francis (M.L.C.); Mr. B. V. K. Menon, Secretary to Government, as Chairman.

(The Hindu, 25-6-1946).

Committee to be set up in Central Provinces to draft Industrial Disputes Bill.

It is understood that in the Central Provinces and Berar a Bill to set up machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes in the Province is to be drafted by a Committee of six members representing Government, labour and millowners. The decision to appoint the Committee was taken by Mr. S. V. Gokhale, the C.P. Labour Minister, after consulting the C.P. Textile Workers' Federation and the millowners' representatives.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-6-1946).

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Amendment of Bombay Industrial Disputes Act,
1938: Government's Proposals

The main changes which the Bombay Government proposes to make in the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938 (reference was made to the proposal to amend the Act at pages 2-5 of the report of this office for May 1946) were outlined by the Director of Information, Bombay, on 14-3-1946.

Summary of main changes.- Quicker and more efficient disposal of industrial disputes and greater impetus to labour to organize itself are stated to be the keynote of these changes which, after public opinion is elicited, will be embodied in the Act. The main changes proposed are: (i) Labour Officers in the province, who at present endeavour to redress the grievances of textile workers by informal approaches to the management, are to be statutorily empowered to function effectively. The scope of their work is to be extended to all wage earners in organized industry. (ii) Special labour courts are to be set up for quick disposal of disputes in regard to the interpretation and application of standing orders, disputes arising out of changes made by the employer, references in regard to illegal strikes and lock-outs and illegal changes. Appeals will lie to the industrial court in regard to these points. (iii) Provision is to be made for the appointment of a full-time president for the industrial court. (iv) The period of 15 days, at present required for registration of a dispute after notice is given, will be reduced to seven days. The time limit for conciliation proceedings which is two months at present will be reduced to one month. (v) In respect of strikes, it is proposed that no strike be deemed to be illegal if the employees on strike resume work within 48 hours of a labour court declaring it illegal. Orders of dismissal or discharge issued after a strike or lock-out will be inoperative in the case of a legal strike or lock-out other than a lock-out which is a sequel to an illegal strike. The penalty for going on illegal strike will be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 10. (vi) The setting up of Works Committees for different occupations and for an undertaking as a whole under certain conditions.

The following is a more detailed survey of the proposed alterations and additions.

Classification of Trade Unions: Unions Placed on 'Approved List' to get Special Privileges.- (1) The following following types of Unions alone will have a place within the framework of the Act:-

(A) "Representative Unions", meaning unions having a membership of not less than 15 per cent of the total number of employees in an industry. (According to the existing provision the minimum percentage required is 25).

(B) "Qualified Unions", meaning unions having a membership of not less than 5 per cent of the total number of employees in an industry. (This takes the place of a Registered Union having recognition by the employer and five per cent membership. The requirement regarding recognition will be removed).

(C) "Primary Unions", meaning unions on the approved list having a membership of not less than 15 per cent of the employees in any undertaking in an industry.

(2) There will be only one union in an industry at a time, the larger displacing the smaller.

(3) In the definition of "member" the minimum subscription will ~~remain~~ be raised from one anna to two annas per month.

(4) 'Approved list'.- A union will be placed on the approved list if it satisfied the following conditions, namely:- (i) its constitution provides that it will not sanction a strike as long as arbitration is available and will not declare a strike until a ballot is taken and the majority of its members vote in favour of the strike; (ii) the executive of the union meets at least once in three months and all resolutions passed by the executive and ~~resolutions~~ the general body are recorded in a minute book; (iii) it agrees to permit an auditor appointed by Government to audit its accounts at least once a year, such audit being free of charge; and (iv) its membership subscription is not less than four annas per month.

(5) 'Registration'.- For securing registration under the Act a union will be required to have had the minimum membership for a continuous period of three months only, instead of for six months as at present.

(6) 'Removal from register'.- The registration of a union will not be liable to cancellation unless the membership at the date of an application in that behalf has been continuously below the prescribed level for a period of not less than three months.

(7) Privileges of a union on the approved list.- (i) Facilities for collection of union dues at a suitable place on the premises where wages are paid and at the time of the payment of wages, in accordance with the prescribed procedure. (ii) Facilities for investigation and representation of grievances of its members in accordance with the prescribed procedure. (iii) Permission to put up a notice board on the premises of the undertakings concerned for notices and communications addressed to the members of the union. (iv) In the case of unions having insufficient resources, legal aid by Government at Government expense in important proceedings before the Industrial Court.

Representative of Employees.- (1) "Representative of Employees" will mean (i) a representative union in the case of all disputes in the industry; (ii) failing (i) a Qualified Union or a Primary Union, as the case may be, where the majority of employees directly affected by a change are members of such union; (iii) failing (i) and (ii) the employees may (a) choose their elected representatives or the Labour Officer, or (b) authorise a qualified or a primary union; (iv) failing (iii) the Labour Officer will act on their behalf.

(2) The Act now requires a fresh election of representatives under (iii) (a) in the case of every notice of change. It is now proposed to provide for periodic elections once a year. The representatives thus elected will be empowered to act during the period and until new representatives are elected.

(3) In cases falling under para. 1 (iii) above, if the number of employees in an occupation does not exceed ten, there will be no election of representatives for that occupation. Such employees will be entitled to act for themselves and appear in any proceedings in person.

(4) A Conciliator, a Conciliation Board or the Industrial Court may permit any individual, whether an employee or not, to appear in the proceedings, if such appearance is required for the proper discharge of the functions of the authority concerned.

Labour Officers.- (1) The Government Labour Officers at present entertain complaints from workers in the textile industry and endeavour to remove them by an informal approach to the management. Statutory provision will now be made to enable the Labour Officers to function effectively for this purpose.

(2) The scope of the Labour Officers' work in this connection will be extended to all wage earners in organised industry.

Works Committee.- (1) Works Committees, for different occupations and for an undertaking as a whole, will be set up (a) in all undertakings in an industry for which there is a Representative Union, (b) in the absence of a Representative Union, in those undertakings which have at least 15 per cent of their employees as members of a Qualified or a Primary Union as the case may be.

(2) The union in each case will nominate members of the Committees and an equal number may be appointed by the employer, in the manner prescribed.

(3) The Chairman will be elected and the work of the Committees will be conducted according to the prescribed procedure.

(4) Any member of the Committee may bring up a proposal for a change. If no decision is reached or the majority decision does not satisfy either party, the matter can immediately go to a Labour Court or be seized by the conciliation machinery, as the case may be, without any further formalities.

(5) No decision affecting the workers will bind them, unless it is endorsed by the union concerned.

Labour Courts.- (1) Special Courts will be set up for quick disposal of (a) all disputes regarding the application and interpretation of standing orders; (b) all disputes arising out of changes made by the employer for which a notice of change is not obligatory under the Act; (c) references regarding illegal strikes and lockouts and illegal changes.

(2) Appeals to the Industrial Court will lie regarding points of law and against a Labour Court's decision about (a) illegal strikes and lockouts; (b) illegal changes, and (c) interpretation of standing orders.

Industrial Court.- (1) The original and appellate side of the work of the Industrial Court will be separated.

(2) Provision will be made for the appointment of a full-time President of the Court.

(3) An employer or an employee will be entitled to refer any to the Industrial Court any point of law arising out of any proceeding under the Act.

Standing Orders.- (1) The workers will have a right to approach the Labour Court with any grievances arising out of the operation of the standing orders although the employer may have duly observed the prescribed procedure under the standing orders.

(2) Provision will be made for maintaining a record of conditions of work and pay including the prevailing practices, usages and conventions in each establishment, and of industrial transactions and operations which may affect these conditions. Government will be empowered to obtain the necessary information for this purpose, the parties concerned being given an opportunity or being heard.

(3) Standing orders once settled will not be liable to change except reference to the Commissioner of Labour (subject to appeal to the Industrial Court).

Duration of Proceedings relating to Disputes.- (1) The period of 15 days at present required for the registration of a dispute after a notice of change is given will be reduced to seven days.

(2) No notice of change will be necessary (i) if a letter from a union addressed through a Labour Officer remains unanswered for seven days, or if the reply given does not satisfy the union; (ii) if disagreement has been recorded in the minutes of the Works Committee.

(3) The time limit for conciliation proceedings, which is two months, at present will be reduced to one month. Government will have the power to

reduce it further in disputes or classes of disputes of an urgent nature.

Arbitration: Extension of Rights of Trade Unions and of Government.-

(1) The right to submit disputes to arbitration will be extended to the Qualified and the Primary Unions.

(2) The power of Government to refer disputes to the arbitration of the Industrial Court will be extended to cover cases in which Government is satisfied (a) that settlement is not likely to be reached by other means, or (b) that it is necessary in the public interest to make such a reference.

Strikes and Lockouts.- (1) No strike will be deemed to be illegal if the employees on strike resume work within 48 hours of a Labour Court declaring it to be an illegal strike.

(2) An order of dismissal or discharge issued after a strike or lock-out will be ~~be~~ inoperative in the case of a legal strike or a lockout other than a lockout which is a sequel to an illegal strike.

(3) The penalty for going on an illegal strike will be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 10.

The Bombay Government has invited suggestions and objections, if any, to the above proposals on or before 30-6-1946.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 17-6-1946).

Adjudication Award not legally Binding on Government:
Government of India's Press Communiqué.

In a press communiqué issued in connection with ^{the} dispute between the Government of India and the Railwaymen (vide pages 43-45 of this report), the Government of India explains Government's attitude towards adjudication in industrial disputes in which it is itself the employer of labour.

Legal Position.- The law on the point is clear. There are two enactments under which trade disputes can be dealt with, viz., the Trade Disputes Act and Rule 81 (A) of the Defence of India Rules. The latter has the following essential provisions: Government may refer to adjudication all or any of the points in dispute, and Government may enforce for such period as may be specified all or any of the decisions of the Adjudicator.

The Trade Disputes Act provides for conciliation and the appointment of a Court of Inquiry. It contains no provisions for adjudication. On the other hand, adjudication under the Defence of India Rules has been looked upon with favour by employers and workers alike as a method of resolving important industrial disputes.

Justifying the reservation made in Rule 81 (A) whereby Government is given the right not to accept the award of the adjudicator, the communiqué claims that similar provisions are contained in laws of other countries relating to industrial disputes. Even in cases where the Government is involved as an employer, in its capacity as a representative of the community as a whole, Government must retain the right, the communiqué claims, to reject an award as a whole or on any of the issues as have been referred to adjudication if it is considered necessary to do so in the larger interests of the community.

Conditions under which Government might reject an Adjudication Award.- The communiqué specifies the following grounds under which the Government might reject an award in whole or part: (1) The Award might have a grave

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upsetting effect on the general economy of the country or its public finances. (2) The Award may raise issues of such vital importance that Government may find it necessary to make their decision dependent upon the support of the Legislature or a committee of the Legislature. (3) The Award may favour unduly one section of labour whose case has been adjudicated upon at the expense of another section whose case was not under adjudication.

Government's Intentions.- The communiqué, however, makes clear the intention of the Government to respect the decisions of the adjudicator, and gives a specific pledge that the Government of India will give these decisions its fullest consideration.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-6-1946).

Proposal to extend scope of certain Labour Enactments in Madras.

The Government of Madras is stated to be considering the question of extending the benefits of ~~the~~ the Payments of Wages Act to tramway workers and bus workers in the province and also the extension of the Weekly Holidays Act to major panchayats. A decision in this matter is to be announced shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-6-1946).

Forced Labour.

Punjab Government's steps to abolish Forced Labour.

It is understood that the Punjab Government is taking immediate steps to root out all traces of begar (forced labour) from the province. All officials have been informed of the Government's orders on the subject and instructed that bona fide complaint of begar is to be promptly and thoroughly investigated and the offender suitably punished.

In this connection a Press note says that begar still persists, though in diminishing degree.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-6-1946).

Industrial Disputes.

Working of Bombay Industrial Disputes Act in Ahmedabad: Industrial Court Decisions declaring Legal even Sporadic Strikes without Proper Notice.

In an interesting article under the caption "Are Sporadic Strikes Legal" appearing in the May 1946 issue of the Indian Textile Journal reference is made to a number of cases where acting under the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1930, the Industrial Court has declared legal strikes organised by the workers even though without proper notice. The article relates mainly to the working of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act in the textile mills of Ahmedabad. The following is a summary of the article.

One of the avowed objects of the Act was to make strikes and lock-outs illegal until the whole of the machinery provided for by the Bill was made use of. But a number of decisions by the Industrial Court have made it clear that under the provisions of the B.I.D. Act no strike by workers is illegal except when it is connected with causes leading to an industrial dispute. The following are some of the leading cases in which a strike, even though without notice, was declared legal, by the Industrial Court, it being not connected with an industrial dispute.

Strike on Labour Union Anniversary.- In an application submitted in 1941, the court held that cessation of work without going through the procedure of the B.I.D. Act on the Textile Labour Association's anniversary day, being not connected with an industrial dispute, was not an illegal strike. Similarly, another stoppage of work by the workers without notice to take part in municipal elections was declared not illegal in 1942 on the same ground.

Political Strikes.- The textile workers of a centre resorted to a political strike of 105 days in 1942 Movement. The strike lasted from 9th August to 22nd November 1942, for which every worker on the average had to sacrifice about Rs. 126 by way of basic wages and Rs. 75 ad dear-ness allowance. The Strike, however, cannot be construed as illegal under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. Again in application No. 4 of 1944, the Full Bench of the Industrial court decided that striking without notice on 'Independence Day' was not illegal as it was not as a result of an industrial dispute.

Strikes without Notice by All on a Religious Day of one Sect.-Another interesting case was application No. 35 of 1944 and the Ahmedabad Kaiser-I-Hind Mills Co., Ltd., requesting the Industrial Court to declare that the strike without notice by its weavers on an Oras Day, a festival of a sect of Muslims, was illegal. The Textile Labour Association and several Hindu weavers were the opponents. The Court however held that cessation of work not being in consequence of an industrial dispute, it did not amount to an illegal strike. This decision of the Court has been very widely circulated amongst the workers by the Textile Labour Association.

Other Types of Sporadic Strikes.- Yet another type of sporadic strike, for which no provision has been made in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act is a strike without notice to honour a political leader, or to protest against Government action in breaking up a political meeting or to protest against a cut in the rations. Thus on 16-1-1946 the drawers-in- of Ahmedabad, together with Muslim weavers of some mills, struck without notice as a protest against Government action taken against a rowdy section which tried to break up a political meeting convened by the Khaksars. On 25-2-1946 about two dozen mills were wholly or partially

affected by strike without notice on account of the cut in ration and the sad incidents of a Bombay police firing. On 26-2-1946, because of the death of two Harijans, as a consequence of the scuffle that ensued a couple of days before between two parties of untouchable workers due to election propaganda, the ring spinners of some 20 mills struck work without notice to express their resentment, and as a result weavers too had to stop work. The stock defence adopted by the official union in all such applications has been this, that under the B.I.D. Act, although the strike has been without notice, it could not be declared illegal since it was not as a consequence of any industrial dispute.

Power of Employer to punish Workers Striking without Notice under Payment of Wages Act.— The result of these decisions, it is alleged, has been a general and widespread tendency on the part of workers to strike without notice—to abstain from attending to work—on the slightest and flimsiest reasons. The employers, however, have not so far taken any drastic steps against the workers who have resorted to a strike without notice. They can, however, punish such workers, the article points out, under the Payment of Wages Act. Under section 9(2), rule 16 of the Payment of Wages Act, an employer is entitled to deduct up to 8 days' wages as a penalty for a strike without notice conducted by workers numbering more than ten, acting in concert, whether the strike is in connection with industrial dispute or not. The quantum of deduction depends upon the contractual obligation of either party to give notice before terminating the services.

In conclusion the article welcomes a statement recently issued by Mr. S.K. Patil, Secretary of the Hindustan Majdoor Sevak Sangh, which calling upon local labour leaders not to encourage or incite strikes in furtherance of political objectives, and urging that the sacrifice thus demanded of this section of the populace is wholly disproportionate to the means they possess; and another by Mr. M.K. Gandhi stating that "Any lightning strike is a form of dictation which is dangerous".

(The Indian Textile Journal,
May, 1946).

Holidays.

Working of Weekly Holidays Act 1942, in North West Frontier Province.

Scope of the Act.- The Act was extended to the N.W.F.P. on the 6-7-1943 and was in operation at 16 places in the Province covering 3802 shops or commercial establishments employing ~~2222~~ 2949 assistants (does not include figures for the Peshwar Cantonment Board and Municipal Committee). Fourteen inspectors were appointed under the Act to visit establishments and report irregularities. Ten irregularities were reported out of which six cases ended in successful prosecution.

Exemptions.- The Provincial Government has, however, exempted from the provisions of the Act, (a) Persons employed in a public utility service; (b) persons employed in a shop or Commercial establishment under the management or control of the Central or a Provincial Government; and (c) members of the family of the employer.

It has further exempted all the ~~municipal~~ municipal committees and cantonment boards, all shops run by owners and in which servants are not employed; establishments for the treatment or care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit and shops dealing in medicines or medical or surgical requisites or appliances; and tea shops, restaurants and food-bakers.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May 1946).

Working of Weekly Holidays Act 1942 in Bihar.

Area and Extent of Application.- The Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, and the Bihar Weekly Holidays Rules, 1943, were enforced in the Patna City municipal area and the area administered by the Patna Administrative Committee, from 1-2-1943. From 1-2-1943 the Act has been enforced in all the municipal areas in the Province.

The Act is applicable to shops, restaurants and theatres only located in the areas in which it has been enforced. Section 5 of the Act, providing for an additional half day closing for holidays in respect of certain establishments, has not been enforced for the present.

Exemptions.- No establishment has so far been exempted from the operation of all the provisions of the Act but chemists, druggists, pan and biri shops, shops selling country and foreign liquor, ganja, bhang and opium, and petrol shops have been exempted from the operation of section 3 ~~and~~ only of the Act.

Enforcement.- One Inspector under the Act was appointed for the Patna Area in 1943; at present though the Act has been extended to all the municipal areas in the Province no additional inspectors have been appointed, but the District Authorities have been asked to take cognizance of the offences under the Act on proper complaints by private parties concerned.

Forty one cases of prosecution have been launched for breaches of the various Sections of the Act.

While employees are reported to have appreciated the enforcement of the Act, shopkeepers have approached Government for exemptions from closing their shops during important festivals. During 1945 shops were exempted from the operation of the Act during the Dusshera and Id festivals. (Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1946).

14

General.

Madras Trade Union Congress Memorandum on better Conditions
for Textile Workers : Deputation Meets Labour Minister.

A deputation on behalf of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress, met Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Labour and Industries on 17-6-1946 and discussed with him a number of points raised by them in a memorandum submitted earlier regarding the position of textile mills, conditions of workers in the mills and measures necessary for ameliorating them. The memorandum was submitted after approval by various Textile Workers' Unions in different centres in the Province.

Minimum Wage Demand.- The memorandum stated that in contrast to the huge profits made by the textile industry since the war, the total earnings of the workers in terms of real wages had appreciably fallen during the period, and urged that wages in the industry should be immediately revised, guaranteeing a minimum living wage of Rs. 35 a month to the lowest category of workers. A time scale of wages should be fixed with annual increments.

Cloth shortage and Night Shifts.- In view of the cloth position in the country and ~~the~~ non-availability of more plants, the deputationists suggested a system of three shifts. Night work should be ~~for~~ paid ~~at~~ 25 per cent above day work. ~~The~~ relay system of multiple shifts should be ~~for~~ abolished. The "badli" system should be abolished and all workers after one year of service should be made permanent.

Other Demands.- Other demands put forward on behalf of the workers included improvement of bonus, maternity benefit, etc., and institution of a contributory provident fund and a system of gratuity dependent on the services of the worker and his wages, the proper housing of workers.

Joint Committees of Workers and Employers.- Emphasising the need for a proper organisation of the textile industry, the deputationists suggested that in order to ensure the smooth working of the production apparatus, joint committees of the workers and the management should be set up, which would help to remove frequent friction.

It was further suggested by the deputationists that the Government should take over the entire textile mills of the province and nationalise the industry.

(The Hindu, dated 18-6-1946).

Labourers' Plight in Chittagong Tea Garden:
Chittagong Labour Union's Memorandum to
Bengal Government.

In a memorandum submitted to the Government of Bengal early in June 1946, the Chittagong Cha Bagan Mazdoor Union draws attention to what it describes as the "appalling conditions" of the tea plantation labourers in Chittagong.

According to the memorandum there are about 20 tea gardens in the area employing among them roughly 10,000 workers. During the last famine, hundreds of them died, but no relief was provided them by owners who made "tremendous profits" during the war. Wages vary between annas 4 and 6 while those of child and female labourers are below annas 4. No dearness allowance is given and, though the workers live within the gardens, no housing is provided. While paddy is supplied with some measure of regularity, all other essential commodities are supplied only when the owners choose to do so. Cloth meant for workers is sold to outsiders while they themselves get very little. There are practically no medical arrangements, while maternity benefits are nil. Workers are subjected to constant indignities and owners have now begun to enforce yearly lease terms on those who have for years cultivated lands in the gardens as tenants paying regular rents, and to interfere with the legitimate activities trade union activities. ~~Setting forth the~~ ^{Setting forth the} ~~accounts of~~ ^{accounts of} the workers, the memorandum appeals to the Ministry to intervene ~~soon~~ immediately in the interests of justice and fair play.

(Anrita Bazar Patrika, 11-6-1946).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

A.I.M.O. Delegation to Tour America and Europe.

A delegation of industrialists consisting of nine members and representing the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, under the leadership of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, left for England in the latter half of June. The delegation will be on tour for four months and will visit, among other places, the U.S.A., Canada and the Continent of Europe.

The object of the delegation is to study the latest developments in industrial and economic spheres. The members will also acquaint themselves with labour legislation and welfare activities in those countries.

(The Times of India, 21-6-1946).

Hyderabad State Industrial and Commercial Delegation to U.K. and U.S.A.

A Hyderabad State Industrial and Commercial Delegation ~~led by Nawab Zain Yar Jung Bahadur~~ led by Nawab Zain Yar Jung Bahadur, Public Works Member, the Nizam's Council, left India for the U.K. in the latter half of June.

According to Nawab Zain Yar Jung the objects of the mission are : (1) to establish permanent contact between industrial magnates in U.K., U.S.A., and Canada and Hyderabad industrialists and Government, (2) to explore the possibilities of opening Trade Commissioner's office in U.K. and U.S.A. for advancement of local trade with those countries, (3) to make arrangements for training technical personnel, and (4) to place orders for machinery needed to give effect to Hyderabad's industrial and other plans.

(The Times of India, 19-6-1946).

Tariff Board submits Report on Three More Industries.

Reference was made at page 23 of ~~the~~ our report for April 1946 to reports on four industries submitted to the Government of India by the Indian Tariff Board. Further Reports on three other industries, namely, bichromates, phosphates and phosphoric acid and steel baling hoops have since been submitted. In addition, the Board has concluded oral examination of witnesses in respect of three more industries, namely, aluminium, coated abrasives and caustic soda and bleaching powder, and the reports on two of these industries will be submitted by 30-6-1946.

Oral evidence in connection with the following industries is to be taken during the next three months—Harricane lanterns, butter colour and aerated water powder colour, cocoa powder and chocolates, wood screws, non-ferrous metals, chloroform ether sulphuric p.b. and anaesthetic and potassium permanganate.

(~~The~~ The Times of India, 15-6-1946).

Marketing and Development of Fish Industries:
Report of the Central Agricultural Marketing
Department.

The need for proper marketing of fish and the development of this industry is emphasized in a report on the Marketing of Fish in India prepared by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India.

Co-operative Societies.- The report recommends that efforts should be made to popularise the consumption of preserved fish in areas where this type of food is still ~~unfamiliar~~ unfamiliar. For this, suitable methods of preservation and dehydration will have to be undertaken.

The cost of effecting such improved processing technique is considered to be beyond the means of individual fishermen and at present the marketing is almost entirely in the hands of the middlemen to whom the producers are hopelessly indebted. The report suggests the formation of fishermen's co-operative societies to dispose of their collective catches. For a proper marketing of this product in the consuming areas, it is stressed that these societies should be linked to the co-operative sale societies. It is further suggested that the production of medicinal oil from shark livers and hily fish should be developed as a cottage industry.

Mobile Canneries.- To encourage the canning of fish and to ensure regular supplies of it in good condition and at cheap rates, the report recommends the starting of mobile canneries. It is suggested that ~~some~~ recipes which would appeal to the Indian taste should be worked out by experts and the possibility of canning crabs, oysters and prawns in addition to fish and fish pastes should be examined. Also suitable methods of power fishing of Indian seas on a planned commercial scale, should be investigated.

(The Statesman, 8-6-1946
The Hindu, dated 14-6-1946).

Utilisation of Forest Products: Advisory Committee
set up in Assam.

By a resolution dated 29-5-1946, the Government of Assam has decided to constitute an Advisory Committee in relation to the utilisation of forest products. The Committee will be presided over by the Minister of the Province in charge of forests and its functions are (a) to examine the position of the timber and subsidiary trades in Assam, (b) to advise on the selection of the problems in the province which require investigation by the Forest Central Advisory Board, and (c) to maintain contact with the timber industry of Assam.

(The Assam Gazette, dated 5-6-1946, Part II,
Page 594).

18

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of Bengal Maternity Benefit Act during 1944.

Number of Cases and Amount of Benefit.- As compared to 1943, during 1944 the number of factories coming under the scope of the Act increased by 19 to 698 and the average daily number of women employed in them increased by 3,323 to 52,962. The total number of claims for maternity benefit paid accepted during the year was 4,280 and the total benefit paid Rs. 1,60,710-3-3. These represent increases of 1,263 and Rs. 50,413-1-6 respectively, over the 1943 figures.

Maternity Figures.- According to the information available, in respect of 4,185 accepted cases 3,415 women (83.1 per cent) and 3,226 infants (78.6 per cent) survived the four weeks following the day of delivery.

Complaints and Prosecutions.- Only two complaints were received during the year and these had reference to non-payment of benefit on account of the statutory nine months period of continuity of service not having been adhered to. The Inspector was successful in securing benefit in one of these cases although the records did not support its validity. No prosecutions were instituted.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May 1946).

Pension Scheme for Jute Mill Workers: Indian
Jute Mills Association's Scheme.

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The Indian Jute Mills Association has recently recommended to all its member mills to give effect to the following pension schemes as from 1-1-1946 :-

A life pension of Rs. 10/- per month for every worker after a continuous service of 30 years in the case of male workers and 25 years for female workers. All approved leave will be deemed as continuous service and joint continuous service between mills in the same agency will be permitted for purposes of pension. In cases where pensions are already given to workers, the rates, if below that now recommended, should be increased; but if higher, no change should be made in them.

Sympathetic consideration is to be given to all cases of workers who are found unfit for further service and are so certified by the mills doctor, provided that at least ten years' service has been put in. This, however, does not mean that in such cases, pensions proportionate to service will be given. The amount, if any, it is stated will be for the company to decide.

(The Employers' Federation of India,
Industrial Bulletin No. 481, dated
10-3-1946).

MIGRATION.

Indians in South Africa launch passive Resistance against Asiatic Land Tenure Act: Complaint filed with U.N.O.

The main developments during June 1946 consequent on the enactment by the South African Government of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, were the withdrawal of the Indian High Commissioner in South Africa by the Government of India, the launching of a passive resistance campaign by the South African Indians and the lodging of a formal complaint with the U.N.O. by the Government of India charging South Africa with discriminating against her Indian residents.

Recall of High Commissioner: Government of India's announcement.— In a press note released on 11-6-1946 the Government of India announced that as a protest against the South African Union Government's continued attitude of indifference to the representations of the Government of India for the postponement of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, the existing trade agreement between India and South Africa was being terminated; and that it had been found necessary to recall the High Commissioner.

Government of India's Charge.— After tracing the history of Indian emigration to Natal and recounting the disabilities placed on Indians the note refers to the decision of the Union Government in December 1944 to withhold assent to the ordinance for creating a Licensing Board and to explore an alternative solution of the Indian question (vide pages 24-25-26 of the report of this office for January 1945). In June, 1945, the Union Government undertook legislation for the provision of better housing facilities for all classes of the population, including Indians. The Housing (Emergency Powers) Act was passed and under one of its provisions, the Natal Housing Ordinance was enacted by the Natal Provincial Council (vide pages 35-36 of the report of this office for October 1945 and pages 29-30 of the report for December 1945). The High Commissioner for India and representatives of the Indian community were taken into confidence at various stages. The Government of India also acquiesced on administrative assurances being given that the new measure would not in any way prejudice existing Indian interests. The Government of India, the note alleges further, was given a hint that the Pegging Act 1945 would be allowed to lapse after 31-3-1946. These matters the Government of India hoped, would prove adequate in solving the problem of Indian rights in land.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act worse than Pegging Act.— The Draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill, introduced in the Union Parliament, came, therefore, as a surprise to the Government of India. In the opinion of the Government of India, this Bill is worse in many respects than the Pegging Act because, while that Act applied only to residential land in urban areas, the present Bill applies to all kinds of land, including agricultural land, both in urban and rural areas. The Government of India considers that its effect will be to extend permanently the provisions of the Pegging Act to all kinds of land, urban and rural, throughout Natal and the Transvaal. The franchise, which is proposed to be given on a communal basis, will provide for representation by Europeans, except in the case of the Natal Provincial Council where it may be Indians.

Finally, the note regrets the rejection by the Government of South Africa of the Government of India's request for postponement of the legislation and its refusal to receive a representative delegation of Indians to explore an alternative settlement as recommended by the third Broome Commission.

South African Indians Launch Passive Resistance.— In South Africa, the Indians observed a partial throughout the Union on 15-6-1946 and launched a passive resistance campaign in Durban on the same night when 20 Indians led by Dr. G.M. Naicker, Chairman of the Natal Indian Congress, pitched five tents and camped in a controlled area. The passive resistance in Durban is still continuing and among the leaders who have been sentenced in connection with the movement is Mr. Serabjee Rustomjee, leader of the recent South African Indian delegation to India (vide pages 30-31 of the report of this office for March 1946), who was sentenced on 2-7-1946 to three months imprisonment and hard labour.

Complaint filed with U.N.O.— On 23-6-1946 the Government of India also filed a formal complaint with the U.N.O. charging the Union of South Africa with discriminating against the approximately 250,000 Indians living in South Africa. The complaint was filed by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, head of the Indian U.N.O. Delegation, who called on the U.N.O. Secretary-General, H. Trygve Lie, to place the case before the General Assembly which meets on 3-9-1946. Commenting on this move Sir Ramaswami pointed out that the difficulties between India and South Africa had already caused the former to terminate her trade agreement with South Africa and recall her High Commissioner. The situation was now so serious, that it ~~threatened~~ threatened to "impair the relations between India and South Africa".

As a further measure of retaliation the Government of India has announced its intention to refuse temporary visas to South Africans wishing to enter India.

Board to work without Indians: Union Government Decision.— The South African Government, however, is proceeding to give effect to the provisions of the Act relating to land tenure. Both the Natal and the Transvaal Indian Congress organisations refused to submit panels of names for the selection of two Indian representatives to serve on the Asiatic Land Tenure Advisory Board to be set up under the provisions of the Act (vide pages 25-26 of our report for May 1946) but the Board with its three European members began functioning on 1-7-1946. Welcoming the chairman of the Board at a meeting at Pietermaritzburg on 1-7-1946, Senator C.F. Clarkson, the Minister of the Interior announced that "It must be distinctly understood that the Asiatic Land Tenure Board was in existence and the Bill was going to be administered as Parliament intended, notwithstanding any protests that might take place."

(The Hindustan Times, 12, 13 and 24-6-1946;
The Hindu, 22-6-1946; and
The Statesman, 3-7-1946).

27

Indians in Ceylon : Fight for Citizenship Rights.

Strike to protest against eviction of Indians from Knavesmire Estate.— Nearly one million Indians in Ceylon staged an one-day strike on 4-5-1946 as a protest against the Ceylon Government's action in serving quit notices on 400 Indian labourers and their dependants who have been working on Knavesmire Estate for almost two generations. The Government recently acquired the estate to allot it to landless Sinhalese peasants who are to run it on a co-operative basis. Among the five demands of the Indians in Ceylon as formulated by the President of the Ceylon Indian Congress Mr. S. Thondaman are franchise on a footing of ~~sex~~ equality with the rest of the population of the island; comprehensive citizenship rights to all Indians by a quinquennial residence test and a declaration of intention to settle permanently in Ceylon; pending legal measures to secure franchise and civic rights, suspension of all discriminatory actions.

Demand for Full Franchise and Citizenship Rights: Big Strike in Rubber and Tea Estates.— The Knavesmire incident has sharply brought to the fore the whole problem of the status of Indians in Ceylon and on 12-6-1946, under the guidance of the Ceylon Indian Congress, twenty five thousand Indian labourers working on the rubber and tea estates in the Kelani Valley began what they called "an indefinite strike" demanding constitutional recognition and full franchise and citizenship rights for Indian labourers in Ceylon. By 18-6-1946 the strike had spread to the upcountry tea estates in the Hatten area, and according to reports received by the Ceylon Indian Congress, 50,000 men had ceased work bringing the total number of strikers to 95,000. During the later stages the strike is claimed to have involved as many as 125,000 Indian labourers.

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Asian* This led the Ceylon Planters' Association and the Ceylon Estate Employers' Association to issue, in the third week of June, a severe warning that all stern measures available to employers under the estate labourers. The announcement declared that planters had no power either to grant political rights to Indians or alter the land settlement scheme of the Government in any way. In the absence of any dispute or differences between labourers and employers to go on strike on either grounds, made labourers guilty of bad conduct and breach of contract. Therefore, concluded the announcement, estate employers would take all measures within their power to counter the strike.

The Ceylon Indian Congress, on the other hand, alleged that strong economic pressure was being brought to bear on labourers on strike in the estate areas by Superintendents by denying them medical facilities, withdrawing educational facilities to labourers' children and by persuading small boutiques and ration shops in the adjoining estates not to sell necessities to strikers. Another complaint was that the employers were trying to defeat the struggle through their authority on estates without giving a word of encouragement ~~to~~ to Indians' demands for franchise and citizenship although it was Indian labour that kept their ~~industries~~ industries running.

However, it was announced on 24-6-1946 by the Ceylon Indian Congress that the 40,000 Indian labourers striking on Kelani Valley rubber plantations would return to work on 26-6-1946. The two weeks' strike in Kelani Valley had already demonstrated what it set out to demonstrate—the depth of feeling of Indian labourers on franchise and citizenship rights—and it was not the Congress' intention to put estate owners to needless loss.

(The Statesman, 5 and 26-6-1946;
The Hindu, 8, 13, 19 and 23-6-1946).

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President Truman signs Indian Immigration Bill.

On 2-7-1946 the Indian Immigration Bill (vide page 38 of the report of this Office for October 1945) was signed by President Truman. The Bill provides for naturalization of Indians in the United States and for naturalization of those who choose to migrate to the United States. 75 "Eastern hemisphere Indian" will be permitted to enter the United States every year.

It is understood that the Bill will affect immediately the 4,000 Indians now in the United States, particularly those who could not lease or own land, because they were not citizens.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-7-1946).

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Indian Merchants' Chamber Protest against Immigration Control in East Africa.

It is understood that the Indian Merchants' Chamber have approached the Government of India to seek its intervention in getting the consideration of the immigration control legislation recently introduced in the various provincial legislatures in East Africa (vide page 38 of our April 1946 report, and page 27 of our report for May 1946) postponed.

Business Community Affected.— The Merchants' Chamber point out that the Indian business community in East Africa, who were primarily responsible for developing the country's commerce and industry would lose the right of replacing, replenishing and adding to their staff under the new legislation. The Chamber have further asked the Government whether it was consulted by East Africa before this legislation was formulated, as in the Chamber's opinion "Indian interests both in this country and in Kenya will be vitally affected by the provisions of the ordinance".

(The Hindustan Times, 22-6-1946).

Indian Government's Representative to tour Various Countries in East Indies on special Mission.

It is understood that following representations from Indians in Sumatra, Java, British North Borneo and Sarawak to the Indian Government about the difficulties they are undergoing in those countries, the Indian Government has deputed its representative in Malaya, Mr. S.K. Chettur, to go on a special mission to these places.

In the course of his tour, Mr. Chettur also proposes to study the situation of the Indians who are being held on charges of collaboration during the Japanese regime.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 21-6-1946).

AGRICULTURE.

Bombay Scheme to Provide Crop Finance through Grain Depots.

The Government of Bombay has decided to encourage every effort on the part of co-operative societies or any other non-official agency to start grain depots for the purpose of advancing loans for crop finance to agricultural debtors who are parties to any proceedings under the Debt Relief Act or in respect of whose debts adjustment has been made.

Grain depots are run on two models, Igatpuri or Thana model. The former is on a co-operative basis and charges interest in kind at 25 per cent, and credits one-third of the interest to the share account of the borrower. The latter charges interest in kind at 16 2/3 per cent. Recovery in cash is against the spirit of the grain depot system and is not permitted. Loans required for opening grain depots are to be advanced by Government and recovered in ten equal annual instalments with interest at 4 per cent. No interest will, however, be charged for the first five years and no amount of the principal will be repayable during the same period. The loss on account of the grain depots, if any, will have to be borne by the organisers.

(Bombay Information, 8-6-1946).

Debt Adjustment Boards set up in Bombay.

A note published in the Bombay Information dated 1-6-1946 reviews the working of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act since its enactment in 1939.

The Bombay Agricultural ~~Debtors'~~ Debtors' Relief Act was first applied to two selected talukas and petas in the province in 1942 and eight Debt Adjustment Boards were established. In August 1943, the Government appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the Act and to suggest measures for simplifying the procedure for debt adjustment and to provide for a large-scale and speedy composition of agricultural debts. The recommendations of the Committee were considered by the Government and the Act was amended in 1945 (vide page 43 of the report of this Office for February 1945), and forty-three new Debt Adjustment Boards were set up in the Province. The Act is now in operation in 93 talukas and petas in the Province.

Extent of Relief Granted.— Debts totalling nearly Rs. 2,750,000 were written off by the eight Debt Adjustment Boards which were established in 1942, and a total of 335,274 applications involving debts amounting to Rs. 153,132,775 have been received so far by the Debt Adjustment Boards established in different parts of the Province since May 1945.

(Bombay Information, 1-6-1946).

India to manufacture Power-Operated Agricultural Implements: Bombay Firm's Enterprise.

It is learnt that a firm of agricultural engineers in Bombay has undertaken to organize the manufacture of tractor-drawn ploughs, disc ploughs, disc harrows and cultivators; and supply them in time for useful work during 1947. The Government of India has placed with this firm an order for 1,250 of these agricultural units; the delivery will start from the middle of February, 1947. The Government has also agreed to lease to the firm the Peena Aircraft Factory which was built during the war years and which is equipped with the latest production machinery so as to enable it to start work immediately on this job, while a permanent factory is being built with a capital of 10 million rupees. The latter latter is expected to be completed within a year.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the Government of India had obtained recently about 450 Diesel track-type tractors from abroad and an equal number of tractors from American war surplus property in the India-Burma theatre, but failed to procure the necessary implements to work behind these tractors.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-3-1946).

Reform of Land Tenure in Madras: Government Appoints Special Investigation Officer.

The Madras Government has appointed Rao Bahadur N. Raghavendra Rao as Special Officer to investigate the land tenure system in the ryotwari areas in the province, with a view to bringing in legislation for necessary reform. It is expected that the investigation will be completed in six months.

The Minister for Revenue, Mr. K.R. Narayana, in a statement to the Press explaining the object of this enquiry, states that the Government intends to introduce legislation in respect of land tenures in the ryotwari areas of the province in accordance with the Congress election manifesto. As tenancy conditions vary from district to district and sometimes even in one and the same district, it was that a full and proper investigation should be made regarding the conditions of tenancy including ~~assessing~~ security of tenure, duration of tenancy and fairness of rent.

As regards Malabar district there is already a report submitted by Committee appointed by the late Congress Government in 1939 on the working of the Malabar Tenancy Act. The report is at present under the examination of the Board of Revenue, and Rao Bahadur N. Raghavendra Rao will also go into the investigation of the conditions in Malabar in the light of that report.

(The Hindu, dated 28-3-1946).

25

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Working of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939:
Mr. Bakhale to Conduct Inquiry.

In the Statement of Labour Policy issued by Government of Bombay on 22-5-1946 (vide pages 2-5 of the report of this Office for May 1946), it was announced that the working of the Bombay Shops and Establishment Act, 1939, would be reviewed and an early endeavour made to remove the deficiencies that might be disclosed. In pursuance of this policy the Government of Bombay has now appointed Mr. R.R. Bakhale, B.A., M.L.C., to make an inquiry into the working of the Act, to study any difficulties that may have been experienced in the administration of the Act and to make recommendations, if necessary, for improving the administrative and the substantive provisions of the Act, having regard to the needs and interests of all sections of the population affected by the law.

(Resolution No. 9779/34 dated 12-5-1946.
The Bombay Government Gazette Extra-
ordinary, dated 14-6-1946, Part I,
pages 1957-1958).

Increased Dearness Allowance for Bombay Primary Teachers.

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned an increase in the dearness allowance granted to primary teachers in the employ of all District Local Boards and all Local Authority Municipalities in the Province, with effect from 1-4-1946. Primary teachers will thus get the same dearness allowance as Government servants in whose case the allowance was recently increased as from 1-4-1946. In some districts the primary teachers will get a dearness allowance of Rs. 24 where their pay is below Rs. 40 and Rs. 26 where their pay is Rs. 40 or above per month. In others, these rates will be Rs. 20 and Rs. 24 respectively.

It will be recalled that a strike of some 40,000 primary school teachers was called off in April 1946 on the assurance of the Government that their grievances would be sympathetically considered (vide page 43 of our report for April 1946).

(Bombay Information, 8-6-1946).

26

First Meeting of All-India Bank Employees' Association,
Calcutta, 20 and 21-4-1946 - Demand for Better Working
Conditions.

The All-India Bank Employees' Association at its first general meeting held at Calcutta on 20 and 21-4-1946 put forth the following demands :-

(1) That a minimum starting salary of Rs. 75 should be given to each employee of the clerical cadre and Rs. 40 to each in the subordinate non-clerical cadre with reasonable dearness allowance and an annual increment of Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 respectively; (2) that the employees should be granted privilege and casual leave at least according to the fundamental rules of the Government of India; (3) that working hours should not exceed seven hours a day (including one hour's respite); (4) that there should be provision for Provident Funds, Gratuity and/or pension for the employees; and (5) that security of service of the employees must be fully assured and the question of dismissal or sub suspension referred to a board of arbitrators.

Other demands include the grant of bonus, free medical aid, cheap food grain supply and employees' representation on the bank's board of directors.

The Association has recently submitted a memorandum of the employees grievances for circulation among leaders and legislators and for the benefit of the general public. Some of the complaints specified in the memorandum are that there is at present no limit on hours of work, no compensation for extra time, lack of leave rules and no security of service.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-6-1946).

Pay Commission's Recommendations to be given effect to
from 1-1-1946.

Reference was made at pages 29-30 of this Office report for May 1946 to the appointment of a Pay Commission by the Government of India to investigate the conditions of service of Government employees.

It has now been decided that all changes in scales of pay which may be decided upon in the light of the Pay Commission's recommendations will be given effect to from 1-1-1946. This decision will apply to all classes and grades of Government servants under the control of the Governor-General-in-Council.

(The Statesman, dated 18-6-1946).

Increased Pay for Mysore Policemen.

The Mysore Government has revised the scale of pay of its subordinate police staff numbering in all 10,710.

The revised scales are: for constables, the basic pay is raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 18 with one increment every three years till the maximum of Rs. 22 is reached; the sub-inspector's pay is raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60, rising up to Rs. 100 in three yearly increments; the inspector's pay is raised to Rs. 125, Rs. 150 and Rs. 175 in three grades; the scale of pay of traffic sergeants is raised from Rs. 50-5-80 to 50-5-90.

The extra expenditure involved is Rs. 837,000 per annum.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1946).

Postal Employees' Union Serves Strike Notice on Government of India.

Reference was made at pages 36-37 of the report of this Office for March 1946 to the dispute between the Post and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India and the All-India Postmen and Lower grade Staff Union, the concessions announced by Government on 5-3-1946 and the consequent decision of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union to defer the strike.

Strike Notice Served. Workers' Demands.- On 27-6-1946, however, the Secretary of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade (including R.M.S.) Staff Union served notice on the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs that, unless the Union's 12 listed demands were conceded before the 11-7-1946, the members of the Union would go on strike from that date.

Qualifying this new move, Mr V. G. Dalmi,
The General Secretary of the Postmen's Union stated during the course of a press interview that though the Government had referred to adjudication some of the union's demands relating to dearness allowance, house rent, bad weather allowance, and hill allowance (vide page 37 of our report for March 1946), ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the following essential demands yet remained to be considered: (1) representation on the Pay Commission; (2) no retrenchment; (3) men officiating in higher grades should be confirmed in their posts and not reverted; (4) classification of different areas should be abolished and all areas should be treated as 'A' areas in the matter of privileges; (5) adequate compensation should be given for work on Sundays and other public holidays; (6) all temporary men, who have been working for more than one year, must be confirmed and must not be removed under the excuse of medical examination; (7) old leave rules should be reintroduced; (8) more leave reserves should be taken to act in place of men who go on leave.

Government Reply: Threefold Rise in Postal Employees' Earnings.- In a press communique issued soon after the receipt of the strike notice, the Posts and Telegraph Department complains that this is the third notice of its kind received from Union during the last 19 months, the two previous ones having been withdrawn. The communique lists the various concessions to postal employees announced by Government in March 1946 (vide page 36 of the report for March 1946), refers to the appointment of Pay Commission and emphasizes that the grievances of the

All-India Postmen and Lower Grades Staff Union and other service bodies that the salaries of employees on the revised scales of pay are not adequate has already been referred to adjudication (vide pages 36-37 of the report of this Office for March 1946). The Pay Commission is expected to begin work immediately and the Government of India has decided to give effect to its findings as from 1-1-1947.

As regards retrenchment the Government has already given an assurance that discharged temporary employees would be given preference in filling future vacancies which may occur after 1-1-1946. Those people whose qualifications do not conform to the minimum qualifications required for the post which they now hold will be offered alternative employment.

In further justification of the Department's own stand, the communiqué points out that the starting pay and allowances of an inferior postal servant (such as peons and porters), for instance, in Bombay come to Rs. 63-5-0 per month, in 'B' class areas (like Lahore, Nagpur and Madras) Rs. 43 per month, and in 'C' class areas (small towns and villages) Rs. 40 per month. They are nearly three times what they were before the war and, accordingly to the communiqué neutralize fully the increase in the cost of living. The Government of India considers that it should not be called upon to concede at present the demands of the Union relating to the pay, leave, pension and allowances when considerable relief has been granted in those directions and the Union can obtain through the adjudicator and the Pay Commission redress of grievances which it still nurses.

The communiqué further alleges that seven of the 12 demands now put forward by the Union were not embodied in the last notice of strike dated 12-2-1946, and some of them are absolutely new, having never been made before.

Strike Illegal.- It is understood that a personal letter is being sent by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, to the employees concerned, stating the facts, in answer to the strike notice and ~~imposingly~~ informing them that the strike will be illegal, as certain of the issues have been referred to adjudication.

(The Statesman, 25 and 26-6-1946; and 2-7-1946).

Bombay Shop Assistants' Conference, Bombay, 22-6-1946.
Demand for Better Service Conditions.

The sixth session of the Bombay Shop Assistants' Conference was held at Bombay on 22-6-1946. Inaugrating the conference Mrs. Hansa Mehta, President of the All-India Women's Conference, appealed to the shop employees to strive for better conditions of service which were the fundamental right of every human being.

Resolutions adopted by the Conference put forward the following demands on behalf of shop employees:- (1) Rs. 65 minimum wage, medical aid, old age insurance, Provident Fund and other provisions should be incorporated in the Shop-Assistants' Act; and (2) introduction of an Act regulating the conditions and hours of work for the domestic servants, private motor-drivers, and 'bidi' workers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 25-6-1946).

29

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Revival of Cottage Industries in Hyderabad State: Report of the State's Commerce and Industries Department.

The following information relating to a number of cottage industries in the Hyderabad State is taken from a note based on the latest administration report of the Commerce and Industries Department of the Government of Hyderabad published recently in the Hyderabad Information.

Handloom Weaving.- Handloom weaving occupies a place in the economy of Hyderabad which is second only to that of agriculture. This industry provides employment to about 450,000 persons in the State, and clothes 30 per cent of its population. Even before the outbreak of the war, the Department had organized District Demonstration Parties with the object of demonstrating to weavers better implements and methods of production. When the war broke out, the Department sanctioned a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 400,000 with a view to promoting the war effort and rendering help to handloom weavers. 17 production centres were organized, mostly in areas affected by famine and drought. This scheme provided employment to 10,000 persons. The Government of India alone purchased goods worth about Rs. 800,000 up to the end of September 1944 and goods worth another Rs. 400,000 were supplied for local consumption. When orders from the Government of India ceased a reorganization of the depots was effected to increase their productive capacity in order to relieve pressure on the mill-made cloth market. In this connection it is pointed out that it has been decided to launch a scheme of home industries for poor women at a cost of Rs. 500,000.

Woollen Blanket Weaving.- A few years ago the Government sanctioned a scheme for the supply of blankets for the army to the Government of India, and a sum of nearly 100,000 rupees was sanctioned. Two spinning and weaving centres in the districts and one milling centre at the Village Industries Training Centre, Hyderabad, were established. Their activities have covered 40 villages in the Mahbubnagar district. Nearly 50,000 blankets, costing more than Rs. 200,000 have been made at these centres. In 1944-45, 51,000 blankets costing Rs. 250,000 were made.

Carpet Industry.- As a result of assistance provided by the State more than 200 workers have received training in the manufacture of fine quality carpets. In the course of a decade the number of looms increased from 70 to 400. World War II has hit the industry hard. However, carpets worth Rs. 100,000 were sold in India.

Tanning.- The State has also done much to assist the tanning industry. A model tannery was first opened in 1941-42 and since then a few more model tanneries have been opened in rural areas. An Export Tanning Unit trains workers in organised tanneries to enable them to bring their products to the level of those considered suitable for export. The Dyeing and Finishing Unit demonstrates the work of dyeing and finishing. The Unit has proved a success, and a large number of men have been trained in the work of dyeing and finishing.

Paper Industry.- The hand-made paper industry is carried on at six places in the State, and it gives employment to about 2,500 people. A seventh factory has just been started at Gangavati in the Raichur District. The one great difficulty that the industry has to face is the acute scarcity of pulp. Experiments are now being conducted for the manufacture of cheap pulp from indigenous raw materials, like paddy straw and sabai grass.

Metal Work.- There are a number of villages in the interior of the State where metal articles are made by the villager at home. When the import of these articles from abroad ceased, the opportunity to revive the industry came and it was availed of. There is an inspector who has been touring these villages for the last thirty months instructing artisans how to improve the process of manufacture, and some success has already been attained.

Vocational Training and Guidance.- The Village Industries Training Centre, which was started about 15 years ago, has contributed much to the revival of small industries in the State. It trains skilled artisans and has introduced improved appliances. It supplies raw materials and technical advice. It conducts experiments. In the last two years, 72 students were trained at the Centre.

Marketing.- To help in the marketing of the products of cottage industries the Government has opened a Cottage Industries Sales Depot. An instance of the work done by the Sales Depot is provided by the phenomenal rise of the Bidri Ware Industry. In 1939-40 the annual output of the industry was Rs. 5,000; in 1944-45 it was Rs. 60,000 in spite of the fact that the price of zinc had shot up eight times.

The Department also maintains a drawing branch to enable smaller industries to get their plans prepared. It has an Industrial Inspector and a foreman and the necessary tools to help the small industrialist in the setting up of his machines and in other directions.

(Hyderabad Information, May, 1946).

Rural Assistants for Co-operative Work:
Bombay Government's Move.

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the creation of 38 posts of Rural Assistants who will be trained for work in co-operative societies. The services of these trained rural assistants would be given free of cost for the first three years to the new co-operative societies and the Government would recover progressively part of the cost over the next three years from the societies concerned.

(Bombay Information, 8-5-1946).

Progress of Co-operative Movement in Sind.

In a note contributed to the March 1946 issue of the "Indian Farming", the Marketing Officer of Sind Province has reviewed the progress of the cooperative movement in Sind during recent years. The following is a summary.

Agricultural Credit Societies to be reorganised on Limited Liability basis.- As Sind is mainly an agricultural province agricultural cooperative credit societies form the backbone of the cooperative movement and number roughly about 870. Due to world depression since 1929, the affairs of the agricultural societies had been on the decline, resulting in frozen debts. Steps were however taken to liquidate the debts and revive the societies, and the official policy has been one of concentration and consolidation of the movement, rather than expansion. As a rule no new agricultural societies are being registered unless circumstances warranted otherwise. In January 1943, the Government, with a view to affording greater relief to the agricultural masses of the province, appointed a Board called the Cooperative Rehabilitation Board and on its recommendations, two Enquiry Officers were appointed to make a thorough enquiry into the financial position of agricultural societies in Sind. Owing to the peculiar conditions of Sind existing agricultural societies on unlimited liability basis, the writer maintains, have not proved suitable due mainly to (a) absence of compact villages, (b) difficulty in securing local secretaries on account of general illiteracy and (c) fear of enforcement of unlimited liability principle, etc. It was therefore, been decided to amalgamate these and bring them at central places for better management, effective supervision and to form taluka agricultural banks on limited liability basis.

Zemindari Cooperative Banks.- These are separate institutions called Zemindari Cooperative Banks, to look after the interest of the bigger landholders. There are six such banks in the province at present, all working on a satisfactory basis. The central bank for the entire province is the Sind Provincial Cooperative Bank Ltd., and it has framed rules for advancing loans to individuals for current agricultural operations against the security of standing crops and pledge of agricultural produce.

Wartime expansion of Consumers' Cooperation.- The wartime shortages of food with the consequent hoarding, high prices, profiteering and black marketing have given an impetus to the spread of consumers' cooperation. There are at present 11 cooperative consumers' stores at Karachi, six in the Hyderabad district exclusive of the Hyderabad District Cooperative Purchase and Sale Society. These stores are mainly intended to cater to the needs of their community or a particular class of members, but their bye-laws are wide enough to provide purchase facilities to others as well.

A Central Cooperative Consumers' Stores at Karachi has also been registered recently with a share capital of about Rs. 100,000. All the consumers' stores in the city of Karachi and individual persons are eligible for membership. The Central Store purchases all the necessities of life on a wholesale basis and supplies the same to the members for retail selling.

The Hyderabad District Purchase and Sale Society was established with the sole object of purchasing and selling wholesale agricultural products, food stuffs and other necessities of life at cooperative, and to distribute the same amongst the members and other consumers in order to suppress or to bring down black markets trading in such articles. After the introduction of rationing in Hyderabad city, this society in agreement with the government, now acts as an agent for distributing rationed

articles . In order to finance such huge undertakings, the Society had to raise the authorized share capital from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 500,000 out of which a total sum of Rs. 450,000 stands subscribed.

During the year ending 30-5-1944, the Society made a net profit of Rs. 45,289 and declared dividend at 7 1/2 per cent. The total turnover of the Society during the year was Rs. 15,778,278.

Milk Supply Society.— A milk supply cooperative society, the first of its kind in Sind, has also been recently started at Karachi with a share capital of Rs. 100,000. The Society has made a good start and at present owns about 100 cows yielding roughly about 1200 lbs. of milk per day.

(Indian Farming, March, 1946).

First Ex-Servicemen's Cooperative Workshops begin functioning in Madras.

The first Co-operative Workshop in Madras organised by the Directorate of Resettlement began functioning on 5-6-1946. The Strathie Engineering Co-operative Workshops, Madras, as the workshop is known, will take up the manufacture of machinery and capital goods required by the other ex-servicemen's co-operative workshops, and will be located at Avadi as soon as the military authorities place suitable buildings at the disposal of the Society. It will provide work for about 500 ex-servicemen.

The Reid Co-operative Timber Works Limited, Thiruvottiyur, which will employ about 250 ex-servicemen also started in June with a membership of 224 and a share capital of Rs. 61,000. Twelve acres of land in ~~Thiruvottiyur~~ Thiruvottiyur village have been purchased by the Society and it will take up the manufacture of all wooden requirements for building constructions such as doors, windows, door-frames, window-frames, etc., and household furniture.

A third society registered early in June as the Rahm Farming Society has commenced work with 11 members and a share capital of Rs. 12,000. The Society will undertake the raising of vegetables and the rearing of pigs, poultry and other livestock and provide employment for about 50 ex-servicemen.

(The Bindu, dated 8-6-1946).

Nutrition.

"Milk Colonies" to be established in Bombay:
Government's Scheme to double Milk Supply.

The Government of Bombay proposes to establish several modern well-equipped "milk colonies"—groups of farms with a Central Dairy—sufficient to double Bombay's present milk supply. A start has already been made by acquiring 1,200 acres of land near Bombay. The cost of the first model dairy farm for 1,000 buffaloes is at Rs. 4 million and it would produce 10,000 pounds of milk per day.

According to Mr. Bhareddy, Deputy Milk Commissioner, it is possible to develop dairy farming around Bombay on up-to-date and economic lines in a period of five to seven years, under certain conditions. He advocates the development of milk colonies which will have 20 to 30 farms each, with a central dairy, where cattle can be profitably bred and reared and cheap milk can be produced. Each colony can accommodate about 10,000 milch cattle. Encouragement should be given to existing owners, as smaller farms can be organised on co-operative lines. The farms can be constructed by Government or private parties.

(The Hindu, 6-6-1946).

Free Milk for Expectant Mothers and Children in
Scarcity Areas: Bombay Government's Scheme.

A scheme for the free supply of milk to expectant mothers and children in the scarcity areas of the Province has been sanctioned by the Government of Bombay. Under the scheme an expectant mother, will get half a seer and a child under ten quarter seer of milk a day. The milk supplied would be partly whole milk and partly skimmed.

The scheme will cost the Government 10 million rupees.

(Bombay Information, 22-6-1946).

Housing.

Report of Industrial Housing Sub-Committee.

The report of the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee of the Standing Labour Committee was published on 25-5-1946.

The recommendations made in ^{the} final report now published do not differ materially from those made in the draft report of the Committee summarised at pages 42-44 of the report of this Office for March 1946, with regard to the Minimum Housing Standards and the Housing Fund.

No Agreement as to Basis of Rent.- On the question of the basis on which rent may be charged, however, the report now published reveals that the Committee could not arrive at any agreed decision. Two ~~different~~ views were put forward as to the basis on which rents should be charged. On the one hand some of the members were of the opinion that there should be fixed rent for the accommodation provided. They suggested that houses should be classified into three grades A, B and C—and rents charged according to each grade on the basis of Rs. 2 per 100 sq. ft. of the floor space in the living rooms in the lowest grades, the other grades being assessed by percentage increase on the basic rate. On the other hand the members representing labour were of the opinion that rents should be charged at a percentage of the workers' wages using a sliding scale ranging from 2 per cent of the wages in the case of workers earning below Rs. 20 per month to 10 per cent of the wages in the case of workers earning more than Rs. 50 per month. The Committee, therefore, has been unable to arrive at any agreed decision as to the basis on which workers can be required to pay rent.

Of the other new suggestions now made in the final report one is that the responsibility for industrial housing in rural areas should be laid down as a statutory responsibility on the employer, the employer being asked to provide living accommodation to the prescribed standard for the labour he employs in his factory within a period of 10 years. The other is that the Government of India should take immediate steps to set up a Technical Committee representing all outside as well as Government interests to ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly examine the question of reducing the present high costs of construction and to examine such other ancillary questions as the rationalisation of the brick industry.

(Summarised from the report of the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee of the Standing Labour Committee).

EDUCATION.

Travancore Primary Education Act: Inauguration in Selected Areas.

The government of Travancore introduced its free primary education scheme (vide page 53 of the report of This office for October 1945), as a first step, in the taluks of Thovala and Agastheeswaram and the city of Trivandrum when the primary schools reopened on 3-6-1946.

It has been decided that the duration of the primary course should be extended from four years to five and that in the compulsory areas all the children between the ages of five and 10 should be brought under the Compulsory Primary Education Act. The primary school syllabus has been revised and built round children's activities and expression work. In order to enable the teachers successfully to handle the revised syllabus as many as 4,000 trained teachers have been given an intensive refresher course and posted in class I. The minimum pay of the primary school teachers has been raised to Rs. 25 plus a ~~admiral~~ war allowance of Rs. 12 per mensem. An additional allowance of Rs. 5 has been granted to the headmasters of these schools.

Important corporate managements such as the London Mission Society, ~~Maritan~~ ~~sevak~~ ~~Sangh~~, the Kerala Hindu Mission and Salvation Army and many individual managements have handed over their schools to departmental management. Government has taken over these schools and absorbed the teachers in them into Government service.

138 schools are functioning in Thovala and Agastheeswaram taluks and 67 schools in Trivandrum City.

(The Hindu, 16-6-1946).

Compulsory Primary Education within Ten Years:
Bombay Prime Minister's Speech at Education
Conference.

At a conference of educationists held in Poona in mid June, the Prime Minister, of Bombay, Mr. B.G. Kher, declared that it was the aim of the Bombay Government to introduce compulsory primary education throughout the Province in 10 to 12 years.

At present only 1,600,000 out of a total of 3,100,000 children of school going age are able to derive the benefit of education and when the Government's programme of compulsory education is in full swing, an additional 1,500,000 children will attend primary schools.

Proceedings of conference.- In addition to the programme of compulsory education, the Conference discussed such other important questions as basic and adult education, the supply of teachers, including women teachers, and control of primary education. As regards the former, the conference suggested that the compulsory programme should not be extended from area to area but that a start should be made with places with a population of 1,000 and over and then extended to smaller places. It was also agreed at the conference that the elementary education course should

be a simplified one and should extend over four years. School going children should be brought under compulsion in four stages of 6-8, 8-9, 9-10 and 10-11.

It was further decided at the conference to form a Central Provincial Advisory Board of Education representative of all the boards in the province to advise the Government in matters of education, and to meet annually.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1948,
The Hindustan Times, 25-6-1948).

THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

Average Earnings of Factory Workers in British India during 1944: 11.7 per cent increase over 1943 figures: 1941 Inter-Provincial Differences. Great

a x Rise in Average Earnings per Worker in Perennial Factories.— The average earnings of worker in perennial factories in British India during 1944 as estimated from returns under the Payment of Wages Act, was approximately Rs. 586.5. This figure represents an increase of Rs. 299 or 104 per cent as compared with the average earnings in 1939 and of Rs. 51.5 or 11.7 per cent over the corresponding figure of 1943. It may be stated in this connection that the Payment of Wages Act applies to all workers whose monthly wages are up to Rs. 200. Total wages include dearness and other allowances paid in cash but not concessions in kind, such as provision of foodstuffs at cheap prices, housing accommodation, etc.

The average daily number of workers subject to the Payment of Wages Act in the different industries during 1944 was: Textiles 1,016,000; Engineering 266,000; Ordnance factories 169,000; Minerals and Metals 95,000; Wood, Stone and Glass 88,000; Chemicals and Dyes 86,000; Paper and Printing 65,000; Miscellaneous 59,000; Skins and Hides 34,000; and Hints 8,000.

Position as between Different Industries.— The following table gives the average earnings of factory workers in the different industry groups in British India during 1944 and, for the sake of comparison, during 1939 and 1943.

Industry	Average annual earnings in rupees.			Increase in 1944 over—		Percentage increase in 1944 over—	
	1944	1943	1939	1943	1939	1943	1939
Textiles.....	655.6	571.5	293.5	62.1	340.1	10.9	115.1
Engineering....	588.8	529.0	263.5	60.8	326.3	11.5	86.5
Minerals & Metals.....	573.5	502.1	457.2	71.4	116.3	14.2	23.8
Chemicals & Dyes.....	484.6	398.0	244.8	86.6	239.8	21.8	97.1
Paper & Printing..	474.1	414.0	332.7	60.1	141.4	14.5	42.6
Wood, Stone & Glass.....	366.4	303.1	194.2	65.3	174.2	21.5	87.7
Skins & Hides..	532.1	411.0	285.8	121.1	244.3	29.5	83.1
Ordnance Factories.....	546.8	527.4	361.9	19.4	184.9	3.7	51.0
Hints.....	685.2	574.4	397.4	20.8	297.8	3.6	89.2
Miscellaneous..	513.8	392.0	281.2	121.8	232.6	31.1	81.4

As can be seen from the above figures during 1944 the highest wages were recorded in Hints followed by those in Textiles and Engineering, and the lowest in Wood, Stone & Glass. As compared with 1939, the biggest increase in wages during 1944 took place in Textiles while increase over

those in 1943 was insignificant. The second big increase in 1944 over the 1939 figure was recorded in Chemicals and Dyes followed by that in Mints; Wood, Stone and Glass; Engineering and Skins and Hides. But as compared with 1943, only Skins and Hides; Wood, Stone and Glass and Chemicals and Dyes show appreciable increases in wages in 1944.

Inter-Provincial Differences in Earnings of Factory Workers.- The available data also show clearly that though workers' earnings vary as between different industries in the provinces are greater. Thus, the average annual earnings of workers in the Textiles group in 1944 was as high as Rs. 917.1 in Bombay and as low as Rs. 298.0 in Bihar and Rs. 366.0 in Madras. The position with regard to the other industries is given below:-

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Industry.	Province where the average annual earning per worker during 1944-	
	was highest	was lowest.
Engineering.....	Bombay Rs. 826.7	Madras Rs. 315.4
Minerals and Metals..	Assam Rs. 833.3	Orissa Rs. 140.0
Chemicals and Dyes...	Bombay Rs. 632.3	Orissa Rs. 167.3
Paper and Printing...	H.W.P.Rs. 617.2	Sind Rs. 181.8
Wood, Stone & Glass...	Sind Rs. 642.7	Orissa Rs. 210.9
Skins & Hides.....	Bengal Rs. 712.8	Madras Rs. 184.0
Ordnance Factories...	Bengal Rs. 713.3	Madras Rs. 369.4
Mints	Bengal Rs. 729.4	Punjab Rs. 565.8
Miscellaneous.....	Bombay Rs. 791.0	Madras Rs. 315.0

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1946).

Increased Wages for Indore Textile Workers: Conciliator's Recommendations.

It is understood that the Indore State Government has under the provisions of the Indore Trades Disputes Act, granted a ten per cent increase in basic wages of textile millworkers, with effect from 4-1-1946, the date from which the daily hours of work in mills were reduced from ten to nine.

The increase is based on the recommendation of the Conciliator appointed by the State Government to inquire into workers' demand for increased wages to compensate them for loss in net earnings due to reduction in working hours.

(The Times of India, 6-3-1946).

Food.

Development of Food Industries: Government of India to undertake survey.

In order to capitalise the industrialisation achieved during the war and to extend it for the better utilisation of food resources the Central Food Department is undertaking a survey of food industries with a view to preparing plans for their development on an all-India basis.

All Provincial Governments and local administrations have been requested to assist in the survey by providing information, in answer to the questionnaire issued, in respect of each of several industries. The questionnaire has also been issued directly to factories. It aims at eliciting information, particularly to train production in six new directions.

Planning panels to be set up.- As soon as factual information is available, five planning panels are to be set appointed for different groups of allied food industries. The industries covered include edible oils, butter, milk products, cheese, breakfast foods, biscuits, food-yeast, sugar and sugar products, and dextrose, canned meat and meat by-products, canned foods other than fruits, vitamins, etc.

The possibilities of conserving food supplies are being explored with reference to mass production at costs which should command wider markets. Attention is also being directed for canning typical Indian foods with a view to meeting the demand from Indian communities abroad.

(The Hindu, 10-6-1946).

Indian Food Mission to Argentina to expedite supplies.

It is understood that a special Food Mission headed by a non-official member of the Central Assembly and sponsored by the Government of India will be leaving for Argentina shortly.

The mission will be responsible for arranging urgently the clearance of food supplies already purchased and for negotiating further supplies.

It is believed that the mission will be led by Dewan Chamanlal, a Congress member of the Central Legislature.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-6-1946).

American Unofficial Food Mission in India.

An American Famine Mission, sponsored by the Indian Famine Emergency Committee in the United States, arrived in India on 14-5-1946. It consists of five members headed by Prof. Theodore W. Schultz, Chairman of the Department of Economics of the University of Chicago.

It is understood that though the mission is without any official Government status, its report and recommendations will carry great weight with American opinion and can be expected to influence State Department relief policy in the coming months. The mission will confer with officials of the Food Department in New Delhi before examining on the spot conditions and prospects in provinces where the situation is most critical.

In an interview to the press Dr. Schultz said that the mission's report would reach the Combined Food Board when it presented the case to the American public, and added that if the situation was as serious as was now assumed the mission would have an audience with Mr. Truman.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1946).

41

Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Working of Resettlement Service during ^{March} 1946.

The working up to the end of January, 1946 of the machinery set up by the Government of India for the resettlement of demobilised personnel was reviewed at page 52 of the report of this Office for April 1946. The following table gives details of work done by Employment Exchanges and Recruitment and Employment Offices during February 1946 :-

	No. of applicants on re- gistra- at the end of Jan. 1946.	New Registra- tions during Feb. 1946.	No. placed in employ- ment	No. found work or regist- ration lapsed	No. on register at the end of Feb. 1946	No. of vacan- cies out- stand- ing.
Employment Exchanges (41).	29,593	19,427	2,990	2,210	42,820	28,307
Recruiting and Employment Offices (114).	24,397	11,334	2,721	..	32,065	..

Information regarding vacancies outstanding is awaited.

Employment Exchanges.- Sub-Regional employment exchanges were opened at Chittagong, Darjeeling and Rawalpindi during March, 1946, bringing the total number of employment exchanges so far opened to 41.

Trade Testing and Resettlement of War Disabled.- Upto the 31-3-1946, 19,268 ex-servicemen had been interviewed by trade testing officers and 7,655 recommended for further training. The number of ex-servicemen posted to training centres was 1,939. Sanction has been accorded for the opening of a Combined Basic and Special Training Centre near Poona. This centre is expected to train 500 disabled persons. Another centre for 500 disabled persons is shortly to be opened at Cocanada. Arrangements are also being made to start some more centres of this type.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May 1946).

42

Financial Aid for Education of Ex-Soldiers.

Reference was made at page 54 of our May 1945 report to the scheme for further education in India of ex-service personnel, sponsored by the Government of India. The Government of Bombay has decided to implement the scheme in Bombay. The total cost involved will be shared equally with the Central Government.

The scheme is to take effect, as far as possible, from the ensuing academic year and all ex-servicemen recommended by Further Education Selection Board as far as practicable will be given admission in Government institutions.

(The Times of India, 17-5-1946).

700,000 Demobilised upto 31-5-1946.

The total number of men and women released from the Services up to 31-5-1946 was 701,203, representing about 82.5 per cent of the "target" of 850,000 releases by 31-7-1946.

Of the figures for May, 106,169 were accounted for by the Indian Army, 766 by the Royal Indian Navy and 1,999 by the Royal Indian Air Force. The Army figure includes 100,820 Indian ranks released through demobilization centres, a reduction in strength of 6,345 from other causes and 828 officers demobilized.

The total decrease in the strength of the Royal Indian Navy amounted to 18,900 including 492 WRINS.

During May, 176 members of the WACI returned to civil life, and 549 Indian Army units and eight Indian States Forces units were disbanded. The RIAP released 21 officers, 1,386 airmen and 592 enrolled followers.

(The Statesman, 30-6-1946).

Railwaymen's Dispute: Strike Called Off.

A temporary settlement has now been reached in the dispute between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation meeting at Delhi on 20-6-1946 unanimously decided to withdraw the strike notice served on the railway Administrations on 1-6-1946 (vide pages xxxixxxx 55-58 of the report of this Office for May 1946).

The main developments relating to the dispute during June 1946 are reviewed below.

Strike Illegal: Sir E. Benthall's Press Conferences.- In an official statement released to the press on 1-6-1946 and at a Press Conference on the same day addressed by the War Transport Member, Sir Edward Benthall, the Government tried to justify the stand taken by the Railway Board. At the Press Conference, the War Transport Member calling attention to the ruling that when any or all matters in a trade dispute had been referred to adjudication, no person employed in any undertaking should remain on strike, declared that the strike may be illegal. ~~Three~~ Three matters in dispute in question had already been referred to adjudication by Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha. The official statement alleged that the Federation was afraid of an impartial enquiry and maintained that (a) the new interim demands put forward by the Federation (vide pages 5-9 of the report of this office for May 1946) would cost about Rs. 330 million recurring and Rs. 95 million non-recurring; (b) if these demands were to be granted, they would completely upset Government's finances, as what was given to them must *pari passu* be given to other Government servants, and whatever was given to Central Government servants would naturally reflect upon what provincial Governments must pay their servants also; (c) Government clearly could not anticipate the work of the Pay Commission and were unwilling to make any ad hoc decision of a permanent nature in the case of railwaymen; and (d) the Government was prepared however to consider giving some ad interim ~~some~~ relief after the matter had been examined by an adjudicator. The official statement further maintained that the present evidence was that the railwaymen were comparatively well paid, particularly after taking into account such amenities as railway passes, medical attention, housing, etc.

At a later press conference held on 4-6-1946, the War Transport Member, revealed that the Railway Board had offered to refer all the points, excepting the question of retrenchment, in dispute between it and the employees, to adjudication. As regards retrenchment Sir Edward emphasised that retrenchment, was not a subject for adjudication as it was merely a question of whether work was or was not available. Official statements, however, ~~emphasised~~ emphasised the success of the Government's policy in finding alternative employment for surplus personnel, out of over 900,000 men employed on the railways on V-J Day, only 27,175 had been rendered surplus and of these 20,168 had either been re-employed or had been absorbed in other posts without a break in service. The number of staff actually discharged and not yet reemployed up to the end of April 1946 was only 7,007, of whom over 4,000 ~~was~~ were men employed by the railways on behalf of other Government departments.

Recommendations of Standing Finance Committee for Railways: Interim Relief of Rs. 90 Million.- The financial implications of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation's demands and the possible methods of averting the threatened strike were examined by the Standing Finance Committee for railways of the Indian Legislative which met at New Delhi from 10-6-1946 to 14-6-1946. After considering a memorandum placed before them by the Financial Commissioner of railways, and hearing in person the

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Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation the Committee made the following recommendations.

As regards retrenchment the Committee accepted the view that the possibility of retrenchment is not a trade dispute under the Trade Disputes Act and the Federation cannot in law ask for the matter being referred to adjudication. But to allay the fears of the railwaymen and to enable the public to appreciate the position, it recommended the appointment of a small high power Committee with non-officials charged not merely with the responsibility of ascertaining the ~~maximum~~ extent of staff surplus to requirements but also of suggesting practical methods of absorbing them.

The Federation's demands for relief and revision of pay-scales as put forward in the strike notice, the Committee held to be in excess of what was necessary to neutralize the effect of the rise in the cost of living. The Committee was of opinion that the present finances of the Indian Railways were incapable of meeting the additional recurring expenditure, estimated at about ~~xxxx~~ Rs. 700 million a year, which the acceptance of the Federation's demands would involve. It preferred to postpone consideration of this question till it had had time to consider the recommendations of the Adjudicator and of the Pay Commission on the respective questions referred to ~~it~~ and till all possibilities of economy had been explored. It, however, appreciated the All-India Railwaymen's Federation's point of view that the recommendations of the Pay Commission may not be available at an early date and recommended that if possible the Commission should be requested to take up the question of railway scales of pay first and to submit ~~an~~ its recommendations on this question within six months. It further suggested that their recommendations as accepted by Government should be made retrospective ~~xxx~~ from January 1, 1947.

With regard to temporary relief till such time as action is taken on the recommendations of the Adjudicator and the Pay Commission, the Committee rejected the railwaymen's claim for the grant of a war bonus in view of the repercussions in other departments of Government. But the Committee recommended a measure of relief amounting to 50 million rupees annually, the relief to be given in accordance with details to be settled in consultation with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and to take retrospective effect from 1-7-1945. This relief will involve in the year 1946-47 an additional expenditure of about Rs. 90 million which will completely wipe out the estimated surplus, leaving no contribution to the Betterment Fund or to the General Revenues or the Railway Reserve.

In a Press note issued on 17-6-1946, the Government of India announced its acceptance of all the above recommendations of the Committee.

Meeting of General Council of All-India Railwaymen's Federation, New-Delhi, 18 to 20-6-1946: STRIKE CALLED OFF.— Following the report of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and its acceptance by the Government of India, the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at New Delhi on 18-6-1946 and after a three days' session adopted ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ unanimously on 20-6-1946 a resolution calling upon all affiliated unions to withdraw the strike notice and advise railway workers to desist in the proposed stoppage of work with effect from midnight of 27-6-1946. The Council, further, resolved to review the situation as soon as the award of the Adjudicator was published.

Terms of Agreement.— Earlier in the day an agreement was reached between the Railway Board and the Committee of Action of the Federation on a number of issues and according to the resolution adopted by the General Council, the terms are:— (1) The Government agrees to appoint a Committee charged inter alia with the duty to suggest practicable methods to absorb surplus staff after publication of the adjudicator's verdict on the hours of work, leave rules, etc., and until then to pursue its

policy of finding alternative employment. The Railway Board agrees to suspend retrenchment of those in service on 15-9-1945 until the report of the Adjudicator is considered. The consideration of the 15-point programme of the Federation ~~etc~~ will be included in the terms of reference to a high power Committee.

(2) The Pay Commission will be requested by the Government to expedite its recommendations on the question of wages and allowances by giving priority over other subjects and produce an advance report within six months, if possible. The recommendations as accepted by the Council will be enforced from 1-1-1947.

(3) The Board has agreed to discuss with the Federation the data and evidence on which the Board's memorandum to the Pay Commission will be based.

(4) The interim relief offered to be granted after consultation with the Federation.

The General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has ^{appointed} three sub-committees, one to carry on negotiations with the Railway Board over the distribution of the grant of Rs. 90 million offered by the Board as immediate relief and the other two to represent the railwaymen's case before the adjudicator and the Pay Commission. By another resolution the Council has ~~also~~ urged enforcement of the conditions of service agreed to by the Railway Board for employees on railways owned by the government of India and introduction of them on State and company managed railways within or outside British India.

(The Statesman, 2, 6, 15 and 21-6-1946;
The Hindu, 19 and 21-6-1946).

Central Government to subsidise "Group Employment" Schemes.

It is understood that the Government of India has asked provincial Governments to furnish details of schemes undertaken to provide employment to demobilised personnel and discharged war workers, together with an estimate of the expenditure involved.

The attention of the provincial Governments has been invited to a scheme forwarded to them in 1945 (called the Group Employment Scheme) designed to provide employment on public works for persons demobilized from the army and discharged from war works and offering financial assistance to the extent of 50 per cent of any loss incurred by provincial Governments on group employment undertaken under the scheme.

It is emphasized that the object of the new schemes, should be to provide opportunities of employment which will enable ex-servicemen to maintain a decent standard of living. The aim should not be to provide doles or even convenient means of earning an easy livelihood with light work. The Central Government further stresses the advisability of having ready a sufficient number of schemes of post-war development which are likely to employ large numbers of ex-servicemen and discharged war workers and which can be put into operation at short notice.

"Group Employment" Experiments.- The U.P. Government with the concurrence of the Government of India has undertaken to experiment with the group employment scheme with 8 units of 1,000 each for a period of six months in the first instance. With a view to test the possibilities of the group employment scheme the ~~Government~~ Government of India is ~~arranging~~

contemplating an experiment with it on its own works for a period of six months and it is estimated that the possible loss per head per day will not exceed 4 annas.

Transport Advisory Committee's recommendation.- The Government has further accepted a recommendation the Transport Advisory Committee made last year that in provinces where there is no comprehensive scheme ready to be put into operation at short notice, the provincial Governments should set up immediately a skeleton organisation necessary to bring into existence at once a co-operative labour contract society of not less than 1,000 members for which work should be earmarked, giving suitable and continuous employment for not less than six months.

The Government will afford the same financial assistance for these schemes as is offered with regard to the group employment scheme subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the scheme is approved generally by the Central Government;
- (b) that the loss on account of employment of demobilized personnel and discharged war workers does not exceed 4 annas per head per day. Such loss will be shared ~~and~~ equally between the Centre and the province.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-6-1946).

Post-War Reconstruction.

Bombay Ministry's Plan's for Rural Reconstruction: Government Statement.

In a statement released to the press in the third week of June, Bombay's New Congress Ministry outlines the main objectives of its reconstruction plan for developing the Province. As can be seen from the following summary of the statement, the Ministry's approach to the problem differs in some important respects from that underlying the Fifteen Year Plan of Rural Development prepared by the previous Administration (vide pages 48-51 of the report of this office for August, 1944).

The preparation of a comprehensive reconstruction plan aiming at developing the province as a whole and benefiting all sections of the people in the shortest possible space of time has been engaging the attention of the Ministry ever since it assumed office. The various schemes formulated in the previous regime are also being carefully examined and such of them as accord with the new policy and fit into the framework of the new plan will find acceptance with such modifications and alterations as may be necessary.

Main Features of the New Plan.- The cardinal principle of the Ministry's plan is the earliest possible satisfaction of the basic needs of the people in respect of drinking water, food, fuel, clothing, housing, medical relief and education; the promotion of increased agricultural and of large-scale and cottage industrial production; and the more equitable distribution of the national income.

The Ministry's New Plan while not differentiating between the various parts of the Province or between the many sections of the population will nevertheless make special provision for backward areas and areas liable to periodic scarcity or stricken with endemic diseases and for the uplift of the backward classes and aboriginal tribes and their rapid integration with the rest of the community.

Rural Development; Village to be Focal Point of Plan.- The village will be the focal point of the plan and rural development will be pressed forward vigorously so as to provide the villagers with all the necessaries and, as soon as practicable thereafter, also with all the amenities of an enlightened and cultured social life. Top priority will be given to schemes for providing an adequate supply of drinking water all the year round to all villages and for increasing the food-supply from all sources by an intensive and extensive campaign of all-round agricultural development, scientific exploitation of fisheries, and the extension of sheep farming, poultry farming, etc.

The construction of open wells and bores, tanks and other major and minor irrigation works, reclamation bunds, and village approach roads will figure prominently in the programme of works.

The useful employment of the enforced leisure of the rural population during the non-agricultural seasons will be ensured by the active encouragement of cottage industries and secondary occupations. A long term programme for the development and extension of communications and electrical power generation and distribution is also being framed.

Plans for Urban Areas-Priority for Housing.- In urban areas, the reconstruction plan will for the present aim at the early relief of the acute housing shortage and the provision of an efficient system of water supply

and general sanitation, including the dust-proofing of streets and squares. Measures for ensuring a high level of employment of all able-bodied persons, housing of industrial workers and the just settlement of industrial disputes will also be taken in hand.

Nationalisation of Key Industries.- To redress the gross inequalities between the status and incomes of the various classes the Government has decided on the control and, if necessary, the ownership and management by the State or Local Bodies wherever possible, of key industries and all public utilities. The activities of individuals who make little or no contribution to national production, yet get a share in the national wealth out of all proportion to their effort will also be strictly controlled. Apart from the enactment of suitable legislation to secure this object, co-operative endeavour in all fields of production and distribution will be strongly fostered and encouraged.

Social Reforms.- The plan also envisages far-reaching measures of social reform such as improvement of the status of women and of the so-called depressed classes, promotion of communal harmony, education in the proper use of leisure, prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor and narcotic drugs except for medicinal purposes, suppression of prostitution and the white slave traffic and the prevention as far as practicable of professional begging and rehabilitation of beggars and destitute persons as useful members of society.

Emphasis on Local Initiative and Self-Help.- As the over-all objective of the Plan is the stimulation of local initiative, enterprise and leadership it is laid down that whenever it is necessary to afford government assistance to meet a local need or to make a subsidy, that assistance or subsidy will be regulated according to the co-operation and voluntary effort of the local people and local authorities.

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen.- As regards the resettlement of ex-servicemen, while the Government does not propose to treat them differently from the rest of the population, it recognizes that their training, disciplined habits, and wider experience can be utilised in the best interests of the ex-servicemen themselves as well as of the general community in the execution of many of the development schemes contemplated in the Plan. All suitable ex-servicemen, therefore, will be considered in making the appointments.

Minister's Explanation of Nationalisation Policy.- Elucidating the policy with regard to the nationalising of key industries at a Press conference in Bombay on 18-6-1946 the Minister for Reconstruction, Mr. L.M. Patil stated that the profits of large-scale industries and public utility concerns were not monopolised by a few individuals but utilised for the general welfare of the people of the province as a whole. The basic idea explained was that the Government had not yet decided what particular industries should be nationalised or controlled, but, generally speaking, all public utility concerns, hydro-electric schemes, motor transport and large-scale industries, such as sugar, steel and textile industries, come within the scope of being considered for nationalisation or State control in one form or another. The basic idea he explained was to see that the profits of large-scale industries and public utility concerns were not monopolised by a few individuals but utilised for the general welfare of the people of the province as a whole.

(The Times of India, 19-6-1946;
The Bombay Information, 22-6-1946).

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Ports (Technical) Committee's Report.

The Ports (Technical) Committee appointed by the Government of India, (vide page 76 of this office report for January 1946) has completed its deliberations and submitted a report to the Government.

In its report the Committee is understood to have recommended inter alia, (a) the construction of a major port between Karachi and Bombay at Sika, in the ~~Kutch~~ Gulf of Cutch, (b) the development of Bhatkal in Mysore State as a major port, (c) the improvement of Vizagapatam, as a sheltered deep-sea port which can accommodate vessels of at least up to 650 feet in length and with drafts of up to 30 feet, (d) completion of the first stage of the wet dock scheme for four berths at Madras within ten years, and the development of minor ports. The committee is emphatically of opinion that India's coast-line should be the direct concern of the Central Government.

All-India Port Policy.- The committee suggests the following broad conclusions which should govern the formulation of an all-embracing and progressive port policy for India:

(a) the economic indivisibility of British India and Indian States; (b) the increasing requirements of India's rapidly expanding agriculture and ~~industries~~ industries as also the desirability of dispersal of industries; (c) the routing of ports trade not to be influenced by customs policy; (d) the need for a long view in the siting of new ports and the development of existing ones; (e) the evolution of a sound policy of defence for the whole country; (f) the geographical position and importance of India in the Indian Ocean; and (g) the strategic importance of India in the development of world order in the Far East.

(The Times of India, 22-6-1946).

Post-War Development Plan for Assam: New Ministry's
Five-Year Plan.

Reference was made at page 61 of the report of this Office for March 1945 to the tentative five-year development plan drawn up by the Assam Government.

According to a statement recently made by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerji, Minister for Post-War Development, the Assam Government's five-year plan for post-war development of the province will cost nearly Rs. 420 million.

Emphasis on Revenue yielding Schemes and State Ownership of Industries.- One of the principal features of the plan would be emphasis on schemes calculated to increase provincial revenues and also to promote the economic welfare of the people. The Government also proposes to launch on a series of industrial undertakings either as fully State-owned concerns or as concerns in which the Government will take a controlling interest. These industrial schemes have received the general approval of the Government of India and the Government has taken in hand the working out of their details and is making arrangements for importation of the necessary machinery and appointing a number of high class technical and business experts.

A number of other schemes ~~intended~~ intended to cope with unemployment and to prepare the ground for implementation of the plan such as roads, buildings, and the training of technical personnel is

also to be given effect to side by side with the formulation of the five-year plan. These schemes are estimated to cost about Rs. 30 million and it is hoped that the execution of most of these will be possible by the end of 1947.

(The Statesman, 22-6-1946).

Madras Government's Move to Co-ordinate Post-War
Development Schemes.

A Development Board for Madras Presidency to co-ordinate all post-war development schemes has been constituted with the permanent Chief Secretary as its Chairman; Secretaries to Government as well as the heads of the several departments concerned will be its members.

It is understood that the Board will start functioning from July, and among other matters deal with developmental schemes relating to education, public health, industries, irrigation, and agriculture.

(The Hindu, 12-6-1946).

Government of India sets up Air Transport
Licensing Board.

Reference was made at pages 74-75 of the report of this Office for January 1946, to the Government of India's proposal to evolve a uniform system for the licencing of air transport throughout India and to certain draft rules framed by it in this connection. In January 1946 the Indian Aircraft Rules (1937) were amended so that no air transport service shall be established or shall operate in British India after 1-11-1946 except under the authority of and in accordance with a licence issued for the purpose. The amended rules also provided for the establishment of an Air Transport Licensing Board to be charged with the duty of examining applications for licences to operate air transport services and of issuing, amending, suspending or revoking licences.

In accordance with the amended rules an Air Transport Licensing Board, has now been set up by the Government of India. The Board includes Mr. Justice Din Khusaid, Puisne Judge of Lahore High Court, Chairman: The Director-General of Civil Aviation in India, Deputy Chairman: Mr. M.K. Sen Gupta, Financial Adviser (Communications), Member. Two more members will be appointed to the Board, one with special knowledge of aviation or air transport and another in consultation with the Crown Representative.

(The Statesman, 12-6-1946).

List of the more important publications received in this
Office during June, 1945.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: Proceedings
of the 15th Annual Meeting, held in Calcutta on 18-4-1945.
All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, 28, Ferozshah
Road, New Delhi. 1945.