

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

September,
Industrial and Labour Developments in September, 1946.

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

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

Indian Workers' Delegation to I.L.O. Conferences: Enquiry to ascertain most Representative workers' Organisation.

Mr. S.C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), who was recently deputed by the Government of India to make an enquiry "in order to ascertain as to which of the two organisations, viz., The All-India Trade Union Congress (A.I.T.U.C.) or the Indian Federation of Labour (I.F.L.) is the more representative of workers" in India, is understood to have submitted an interim Report to the Government of India. His main finding is reported to be that the All-India Trade Union Congress "is increasingly becoming more representative from almost every point of view and the Indian Federation of Labour is gradually losing".

Genesis of Inquiry.- The inquiry was instituted because the I.L.O. requires member Governments to nominate non-Government delegates and advisers "chosen in agreement with the industrial organisations, if such organisations exist, which are most representative of employers or working people, as the case may be, in their respective countries". Upto 1929 the All-India Trade Union Congress was recognized by the Government as the most representative organisation of the working people in India. In 1930, another central organisation named the National Federation of Labour came into existence and it was recognized by the Government of India until its amalgamation with the A.I.T.U.C. in 1940. The Indian Federation of Labour came into existence in November 1942. Before the I.L.O. Conference at Philadelphia, the Government tried to bring about an amicable settlement between the two organisations. The attempt, however, failed. The Government had no machinery to examine the claims of the two organisations and, therefore, decided that Indian workers should be represented in turn alternately by the A.I.T.U.C. and I.F.L. and that the first turn should be given to the I.F.L. When the question of nomination of the delegation to the I.L.O. Conference at Montreal in September 1946 came up for consideration, the Government again made efforts to secure an amicable settlement between the two organisations and when these efforts also failed, decided to institute the present inquiry.

Mr. Joshi's Interim Report: A.I.T.U.C. More Representative than I.F.L.- Mr. Joshi dealt with the two organisations in the light of the material supplied to him by the A.I.T.U.C. and the I.F.L. and their affiliated unions and also the information obtained by personal inspections made by him and other officers of the Industrial Relations Machinery. He applied different tests and is understood to have come to the conclusions tabulated below:-

STRENGTH OF THE AITUC AND THE IFL

	<u>AITUC</u>	<u>IFL</u>
A. MEMBERSHIP		
Membership claimed by the Central Organisations.	(Unions. 427 (Individuals. 483,227)	193 450,489
Membership as ascertained from the information supplied by affiliated unions,	(Unions. 326 (Individuals. 696,555)	134 513,807
Percentage of Unions which furnished information.	78.7	69.4
variation in Membership.	plus 44 p.c. minus 45 p.c.	
B. REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER		
Claimed by the Central Organisation.	-	
(a) Province	8	6
(b) Industry	9	4
Ascertained as stated above:		
(a) Province	10	4
(b) Industry	12	1 Mining

The following is stated to be Mr. Joshi's main conclusion: "Between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour, the former claims a larger number of affiliated unions, with a larger membership and a larger representative character, both province-wise and industry-wise, and evokes a response from a larger percentage of its affiliated Unions, a response which reveals an increase in membership by as much as 44 per cent, and increases substantially the representative character in both the directions.

"The average paid membership confirms the same finding and the subscription basis lends additional support to it.

"The All-India Trade Union Congress, therefore, passes all the different tests in a better light than the Indian Federation of Labour".

I.F.L.'s Protest.- Challenging the conclusion reached by Mr. Joshi, Miss Maniben Kara, President of the Indian Federation of Labour, has maintained that the enquiry was neither full nor fair. In making the report, the membership claimed and subscriptions shown by the various unions were taken into account without any effort whatever to ascertain whether the claims as to membership and subscription were genuine. The All-India Trade Union Congress, in its annual report of June 1945, claimed a membership of 451,915. Yet only 78.7 per cent of the unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress, which sent the information required for the Report in June 1946, claimed a membership of 696,555! Such a large increase of membership, within less than 12 months, Miss Kara

urges was sufficient to raise suspicion, but these figures have been accepted in the report without enquiry. That these figures are artificially inflated is proved, according to her, by the July issue of the official organ of the All-India Trade Union Congress, "The Trade Union Record", which on page 126 claims that the total membership of all the unions affiliated to it was 502,890 on 1-7-1946, i.e. one month after the Government enquiry.

Another point which Miss Kara claims in favour of the Indian Federation of Labour is that Mr. Joshi's enquiry was confined to unions having a membership of 1,000 or more. This favoured the All-India Trade Union Congress, 28 per cent (130,791) of whose membership is claimed by unions having less than a thousand members each. In the case of the Indian Federation of Labour, such membership is only 6 per cent (34,255). This, a large part of the All-India Trade Union Congress membership was accepted without even a formal scrutiny.

(Trade Union Record, September, 1946;
The Vanguard, dated 12-9-1946).

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Delhi:

Amendment to Delhi Factories Rules, 1937 .

Reference was made at page 9 of the report of this Office for April 1946, to the draft of certain rules which the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, proposed to substitute for rules 89 to 100 of the Delhi Factories Rules, 1937. The draft ~~is~~ has now been approved and the rules have been gazetted.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A; dated 7-9-1946, pages 311-312).

Provinces:

Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules 1945:
Scope to be Extended to Additional Industries
in Bombay, Sind and U.P.

The Governments of Bombay, Sind and the United Provinces have gazetted this month certain draft amendments to their Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945, which are proposed to be made in exercise of the powers conferred under the Industrial Statistic Act, 1942.

Statistics in prescribed forms are to be collected for a number of new industries which have been added to the schedule appended to the Rules (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for November, 1945). These include footwear and leather manufactures, rubber manufactures, enamelware, brick manufactures, sawmilling, tobacco products, printing, cotton ginning and pressing, silk manufactures and railway workshops.

The appropriate gazette reference are given below:-

- Bombay: The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 9-9-1946, part IV-A, pages 104-904.
- Sind: The Sind Government Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 7-9-1946, Part I, pages 1187-1188.
- U.P.: The Government Gazette of the United Provinces, dated 14-9-1946, Part I-A, pages 317-364.

Assam:

Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1946.

The Assam Government introduced in the Provincial Legislative Assembly on 10-9-1946, the Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1946. The provisions of the Bill are to apply, in the first instance to the municipalities in Assam but the Government may, by notification, extend their application to any other area within the Province.

The Bill provides for the compulsory closing of all shops for one and a half days in each week with pay to shop assistants for these days; an eight-hour day and a forty-four hour week for shop employees; regular periods of rest; one and a half month's notice or one and a half month's salary in lieu of notice in case the services of a shop assistant are terminated; twelve days' casual leave and fifteen days' privilege ^{leave} on full pay per year to shop assistants; sick leave on full pay for the first month and on half pay for the second and third months; leave with pay to shop assistants on public holidays; and benefits of provident fund and compensation for accidents while on duty.

(The Assam Gazette, dated 25-9-1946,
Part V, pages 12-17).

Bengal:

Bengal Industrial Employment (Standing Orders)
Rules 1946: Draft.

The Government of Bengal has gazetted this month the draft of certain rules it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, referred to at pages 4-5 of the report of this Office for August ~~August~~ April, 1946. The Rules prescribe the various forms in which employers have to submit the particulars and the draft standing orders required under the Act, and the form in which an employee or trade union may submit its objections.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 12-10-1946.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary,
dated 13-9-1946, Part I, pages i-iv).

Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules, 1946: Draft.

The Government of Bengal has gazetted the draft of certain rules, to be called the Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules, 1946, which it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 45 of the Factories Act, 1934. The Rules define the persons deemed to be persons holding positions of supervision or management or persons employed in a confidential position, under section 45 of the Act. They further prescribe the conditions on which workers engaged on urgent repairs ^{and} continuous processes, engine and boiler attendants, maintenance workers and workers in Rice and flour mills, and tea and sugar factories shall be exempted from specified provisions relating to the hours of work of adults in the Factories Act.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 29-8-1946,
Part I, pages 1275-1280).

Bihar :

Bihar Maternity Benefit Rules, 1946: Draft.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted this month the draft of the Rules, it proposes to make under the Bihar Maternity Benefit Act, 1945 (vide page 2 of this Office Report for May, 1945). The rules set out the particulars of the muster roll employers are required to maintain, prescribe the duties and powers of inspectors, and prescribe the method of payment of claims, etc.

Creches.- The Rules further stipulate that the room set apart in the factory premises as a creche for the children of women employed in the factory, shall comply with the following conditions:- (i) the room shall be situated at an accessible place in the factory; (ii) for each child there shall be a floor space of not less than 12 square feet and breathing space of not less than one hundred and fifty cubic feet; (iii) the room shall be free from damp and excessive heat and shall be adequately lighted and ventilated; (iv) the room shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and shall be provided with lavatory and washing facilities. It shall be lime-washed at least once in every twelve months; (v) cradles and suitable ~~rest~~ cots shall be provided for the use of each child to be accommodated and the same maintained in a good condition. The children in such a room shall remain in charge of a female attendant trained in nursery work and suitable arrangements shall be made for the care of and attention of the children. The use of the room shall be restricted to the children, their attendants and the women to whom such children belong. A trained woman health visitor shall be employed, either by the employer himself or in combination with other employers, for looking after the ~~well~~ welfare of the women concerned.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 18-10-1946.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated 25-9-1946,
Part II, pages 834-835).

Provisions of Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Act, 1946
Extended to certain Excluded Areas.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 92 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Governor of Bihar has extended the scope of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 (XX of 1946) and the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 (XXII of 1946), (vide pages 4-5 and 6-7 of the report of this Office for April 1946), to the Chota Nagpur Division and the Santal Parganas District in Bihar.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated
4-9-1946, page 788).

Bombay :

Bombay Industrial Relations Bill, 1946 :
Unions agreeing to Arbitration before
resort to Strike to be given special
Privileges.

Reference was made at pages 5-8 of the report of this Office for June 1946, to a number of changes the Government of Bombay proposed to make in the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. The Bombay Government has now brought forward an entirely new Bill to take the place of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938; in view of its much wider scope the new Bill is entitled the Bombay Industrial Relations Bill.

Fresh Provisions of Bill. - The new Bill through it retains most of the provisions of the Old Act ^{but} ~~into~~ ^{on} ~~the~~ ground in several directions:-

Representative, Qualified and Primary Unions. - The Bill seeks to achieve the Bombay Government's declared object of facilitating the organisation of labour by creating a list of approved unions, introducing a category of primary unions, removing for the purpose of registration the condition relating to recognition by the employer, bringing down the minimum membership for a representative union from 25 to 15 per cent and reducing the qualifying period from six to three months. An approved union is invested with substantial privileges but is also required to undertake a corresponding set of obligations in the interests of the stability of industry and the progress of sound trade unionism. Even a small beginning in this direction in the shape of a primary union having as members 15 per cent of the employees in a single undertaking is given a place and a function in the new scheme. The range of activities of a registered union is enlarged by enabling it to act as a representative of employees on behalf of non-members who may choose such a union for the purpose of representing them in any proceedings.

It is further provided that in any local area the Registrar of Trade Unions shall not register under the proposed Act more than one union in respect of the same industry.

Approved Unions: Provisions for Compulsory Arbitration. - Provision is made in the Bill for the maintenance of a list of approved unions, and all registered unions that satisfy among others certain conditions regarding the regularity of meetings of the executive committee, Government audit of their accounts, and the avoidance of resort to strikes so long as means of settlement and conciliation are available under the ^{proposed} Act will be placed on the list. The ~~rules~~ rules of an approved union must among other things provide that (a) every industrial dispute in which a settlement is not reached by conciliation shall be offered to be submitted to arbitration, and that arbitration under the proposed Act shall not be refused by it in any dispute; and (b) no strike shall be sanctioned or ~~resorted~~ resorted to by it unless all the methods provided by or under the proposed Act for the settlement of an industrial dispute have been exhausted and the majority of its members vote by ballot in favour of such strike. Approved unions will derive substantial advantages including the right of inspecting any place where their members work, collecting union dues on the employer's premises and legal aid at Government expense in important proceedings before the Labour Court and the Industrial Court.

Labour Courts.— The provisions in the Bill relating to Labour Courts are an innovation so far as India is concerned. An analysis of strikes and lock-outs occurring over a series of years, the statement attached to the Bill points out, has revealed the fact that a large proportion of stoppages arises out of disputes involving no substantial issues. Delay in the redress of grievances of workers with regard to these matters and one-sided exercise of discretion in dealing with them creates a large volume of bitterness and discontent which lead to frequent disturbances of the peace of the industry and cause serious loss of production and workers' earnings. The conciliation procedure in the Act of 1938 has not been found to be quite suitable for dealing with disputes of this character, both because of the length of time which the proceedings take and the lack of finality at the end of the proceedings. To remedy this Labour Courts will ~~be~~ be instituted under the new Act, to ensure impartial and relatively quick decisions in references regarding illegal changes, illegal strikes and lock-outs and the complaints that either side may bring up. In this connection the Bill ~~proves~~ provides that within six weeks from the date on which it is applied to an industry every employer therein shall submit for approval to the Commissioner of Labour draft standing orders regulating the relations between him and his employees with regard to a number of specified industrial matters. A number of new clauses have also been inserted to prescribe the manner in which standing orders or a number of industrial matters affecting working conditions shall be modified.

Statutory Maximum Limit to Duration of Conciliation Proceedings.— The maximum duration of conciliation proceedings has been very much curtailed. The Bill provides that the provincial Government shall by general ~~order~~ ~~limit~~ or special order fix a time limit for the completion of each stage of the conciliation proceedings, and that the total period fixed for the completion of all stages of a conciliation proceeding shall not exceed one month from the date on which the dispute is entered by the Conciliator. The provincial Government may, however extend the said period of one month by a further period of a fortnight at a time but not exceeding in any case two months in the aggregate.

Joint Committees.— Provision is made for setting up joint committees of representatives of employers and employees in various occupations and ~~continuous touch~~ undertakings in an industry. This is a device for establishing direct and continuous touch between the representatives of employers and workers and for securing speedy consideration and disposal of the difficulties which arise from day to day in employer and employee relations.

Industrial Court: Court of Enquiry.— The clause relating to references of disputes to the Industrial Court, at the instance of Government is re-drafted to give it a wider field for the exercise of discretion. Such a course it is pointed out has been rendered necessary by the frequent calls on Government, during recent years, from employers as well as employees, for compulsory adjudication of disputes.

Provision is also made to enable Government to set up a Court of Enquiry when this procedure is considered appropriate in a particular situation or dispute in an industry.

Record of Industrial Conditions.— The Bill empowers the Provincial Government to maintain a record of conditions, usages and conventions relating to labour in each undertaking. This information will prove helpful to the authorities under the Bill in settling disputes and determining whether a certain change was illegal or not.

Labour Officers.— Finally under the Bill the powers and duties of the Labour Officer are expanded so as to enable him to function more efficiently. Government is empowered to appoint a Labour Officer for the province and Assistant Labour Officers for local areas and it shall be the duty of a Labour Officer to (a) watch the interests of employees and promote harmonious relations between employers and employees; (b) investigate the grievances of employees and represent to employers such grievances and make recommendations to them for their redress; and (c) report to the provincial Government the existence of any industrial dispute of which no notice of change has been given, together with the names of the parties thereto.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 6-9-1946, Part V, pages 161-210).

Bombay Industrial Relations Bill, 1946:
Debate in Bombay Legislative
Assembly.

Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Bombay, moved the first reading of the Bombay Industrial Relations Bill, 1946, in the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 26-9-1946.

Labour Minister's Speech.— Moving the Bill, Mr. Nanda, summed up the underlying principle of the Bill as "Peace with Justice". Clarifying first what the Bill did not stand for, he emphasized that the Bill was not intended to suppress strikes. There would be certain restraints on strikes but these restraints were but the counter part of the rights and privileges conferred by the Bill—rights and privileges which minimise the need for strikes. Secondly, it was not the intention of the Bill to fetter the Labour movement. The controls and regulations were not intended merely to put restraints on labour organisations but to ensure their smooth working and enable labour to play its role effectively. Thirdly, the Bill in no way enabled workers to interfere in the working of industry or its growth although it placed certain controls over the arbitrary power of employers. What the Bill intended to do was to bring industrial relations within the pale of democracy. The essence of democracy was rule made by the consent of the people. In his experience of 25 years of labour matters Mr. Nanda had found democracy was very weak in the sphere of industrial relations. A kind of chaos prevailed. He had bitter experience of employers who behaved as they liked in an attempt to get too much of good things to themselves. He had equally sorry experience of misdirected workers taking up irresponsible attitudes. The result had been a crop of strikes causing a good deal of inconvenience and suffering to the general community. What was intended to be done was to replace this state of affairs with some arrangements consistent with the requirements of democracy.

The specific provisions of the Bill aimed at securing peace with justice. They aimed at preventing the employers from making encroachments on the rights and privileges of employees by the arbitrary exercise of their rights of ownership and powers of control. The employees were raised to a footing of equality in settling terms of employment. The differences between employers and employees were subjected to impartial

examination by having public opinion brought to bear on industrial relations. The bargaining powers and solidarity of the workers were increased. The Bill proposed achieving these objects by promoting agreed settlements. Failing that machinery was provided for obtaining impartial awards. Labour Courts had been provided to deal with disputes in day-to-day working and provision had been made for the intervention of the Industrial Court either by submission of disputes by the parties or by reference by the Government. The main objective was to eliminate delay. Provision had also been made to create dependable records to help the Courts to come to just conclusions.

Lastly, the pattern of the Bill was to depart from the system of penalties and rely on the advantages accruing from conformity to the provisions of law.

Move to Postpone Consideration of Bill defeated.- On the same day the Assembly negatived a motion moved by Mr. C.P. Bramble to have the consideration of the Bill adjourned to the next session. His main ground was that the Bill had been brought forward in a hurry and that it should be modified in the light of recommendations for an all-India policy which might be made by the Conference Labour Ministers due to meet at Delhi, in October.

Labour Leader's Attack on Bill. In the course of the debate on 27 and 28-9-1946, Mr. S.A. Dange (Bombay Textile Unions) vehemently opposed the provisions of the Bill as being undemocratic, anti-working class class and designed to suppress the right of workers to strike. He was particularly critical of the provision relating to compulsory arbitration and stated that it was unparalleled in its nature and found no place in the labour laws of either England or America. While the provision regarding compulsory arbitration made strikes impossible, other provisions of the Bill recognised the existence of the right but made its exercise very difficult. The right to strike was an invaluable weapon because as long as the employers controlled the means of production and had all powers, the right to strike was the only power in the hand of the workers.

Another vicious feature of the Bill according to Mr. Dange was section 73 which ~~empowers~~ empowered the Government to refer dispute to arbitration on the ground that a serious outbreak or disorder or breach of peace was likely to ~~arise~~ occur or serious or prolonged hardship was likely to be caused or the industry was likely to be seriously affected or prospect of employment curtailed or the dispute was likely to be settled by other means or that Government thought it necessary in public interest to do so. He questioned how public interest could be something separate from the workers who constituted the majority of the public.

Mr. Dange next condemned the multiplicity of agencies for settlement such as the Labour Officer, the Conciliator, the Board of Conciliation, the Labour Court and the Industrial Court provided under the Bill. Instead of these agencies the best and the healthiest thing to do from the point of view of the development of Trade Unionism was to leave the organised strength of the workers to deal with the entrenched power of the owners. In particular he urged that the intervention of the Labour Officer between the workers and the various agencies provided in the Bill was inconsistent with the existence of healthy and free trade unions. Secondly, he ~~urged~~ ^{urged} that the field of discretion of the conciliator should be limited. Thirdly he ~~urged~~ ^{urged} that the various agencies must be statutorily obliged to settle issues ~~which~~ within a specified time. He also urged that the personnel ~~of~~ of conciliation courts should not be merely of jurists but of men who knew the industry.

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The Bombay Legislative Assembly had not concluded consideration of the Bill on 30-9-1946.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 28 and 30-9-1946).

C.P. & Berar:

Central Provinces and Berar Industrial Disputes
Settlement Bill, 1946.

Reference was made at page 4 of the report of this office for June 1946, to the proposal of the C.P. & Berar Government to provide adequate machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes in the Province. The Government has published this month the text of the Bill which is now proposed to be enacted. The Bill is entitled "The Central Provinces and Berar Industrial Disputes Settlement Bill, 1946". The Preliminary section of the Bill, is containing the title and definitions, is to come into force at once; and the provincial Government may by notification bring the remaining sections or any of them into force in such area or industry and on such date as may be specified in the notification.

Provisions of the Bill: Recognised Unions.- For the purpose of the Bill only one union is to be registered as a 'recognised' union in any local area for any industry. No union is to be registered as a recognised union, unless, :- (i) the membership of the union is open to all the employees irrespective of caste, creed or colour; (ii) the membership of union has for the whole of the period of six months next preceding the date of application under this section a membership of not less than between fifteen and twenty per cent accordingly as the provincial Government may prescribe for that local area of the employees employed in the industry in that area; and (iii) the constitution of the union requires among other things, that the union shall not sanction a strike as long as conciliation and arbitration are available and shall not declare a strike until a ballot is taken and the majority of the members of the union vote in favour of the strike. Under the Bill a recognised union shall be provided with facilities by the employers in regard to the presentation of grievances of its members in accordance with the procedure prescribed. The Bill provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Trade Unions for the registration of unions.

Appointment of Conciliators.- The appointment of a Chief Conciliator and of Conciliators has been provided for in the Bill. There is also a provision for the constitution of Provincial and District Industrial Courts, the decisions of which, subject to certain provisions for appeal and revision, shall be binding on both employers and employees and will not be questioned in any civil or criminal courts. The Bill also provides for the compulsory framing by an employer of standing orders concerning the relations between himself and his employees in regard to all industrial matters detailed under a separate schedule. The Labour Commissioner has been empowered to settle the terms of standing orders in consultation with the recognised unions. The standing orders thus settled shall not be liable to be altered for a period of six months from the date on which they come into operation except on a review by the Court having jurisdiction.

Finally, the Bill reserves to the provincial Government the power, in certain circumstances, of referring any industrial dispute to the Provincial Industrial Court for arbitration. It also provides for the imposition of penalties on employers and employees who declare illegal lock-outs or illegal strikes.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 4-9-1946, pages 223-240).

Central Provinces and Berar Shops and Establishments
Bill, 1946.

The Government of Central Provinces and Berar gazetted on 4-9-1946, the text of a Bill it proposes to enact to regulate the holidays, payment of wages for overtime work and leave of persons employed in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating-houses, theatres, and other establishments. The Bill is termed the Central Provinces and Berar Shops and Establishments Bill, 1946, and is to come into force in the first instance only within the limits of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raipur, Amraoti and Akola municipalities. The Government may, however, by notification, direct that all or any of the provisions of ~~this~~ the Bill shall come into force in any other area on such date as may be specified in such notification.

Hours of Work, Weekly Holidays, etc.— The Bill provides for persons employed in shops an 8 hour day within a spread over of 12 hours with provision for a maximum of 124 hours of overtime work in a calendar year; and a weekly holiday with pay. For workers in commercial establishments it prescribes a maximum of 208 hours work in any one month and 10 hours on any one day; a maximum limit to overtime work at 120 hours per calendar year; a daily spread over limit of 12 hours; and one paid holiday a week. For persons employed in eating houses, restaurants, theatres etc. it prescribes an 8 hour day within a spread over limit of 12 hours, and one paid holiday per week.

Annual Holidays.— The Bill also seeks to make provision for the grant of annual holidays with pay for a period of ten days and provides for notice of dismissal to employees. The period of annual holidays proposed is in conformity with the Central Government's measure for factory workers.

Children and Young Persons.— In any establishment coming under the Bill, the employment of children below twelve years of age is prohibited. Young persons, viz., persons above twelve but below seventeen years of age, shall not be allowed to work between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.; nor can they work for more than 7 hours in a day or 36 hours in a week.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 4-9-1946, pages 241-249).

Draft Rules under Section 43 of Factories Act,
1934.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has gazetted this month the draft of certain rules which it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 43 of the Factories Act, 1934. The Rules define persons deemed to hold positions of supervision or management or to be employed in a confidential capacity under section 43 of the Factories Act. They also prescribed the conditions under which persons exempted from the hours of work provisions of the Factories Act under section 45, shall be so exempted.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 30-11-1946.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, dated
20-9-1946, Part III, pages 310-312).

Madras :

Progress of Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication
(Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946.

The Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946, to which reference was made at pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for August, 1946, was passed by the Madras Legislative Assembly on 9-9-1946. The Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, embodies two important changes made by the Select Committee. First, being a temporary measure the Bill is to remain in force only for ~~the~~ six months and not for one year as originally proposed. Secondly, ~~the Committee felt that this being a temporary measure the~~ a new proviso has also been added to the effect that the power of the provincial Government to prohibit strikes or lock-outs in connection with a trade dispute shall not apply to "a strike which is not illegal under Section 16 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929", and that any strike or trade dispute in furtherance of which any such strike is threatened or has taken place may be referred by the provincial Government for adjudication and on such reference to adjudication, the Government may issue an order prohibiting the strike in connection with the said dispute.

Right of Trade Union to ask for Adjudication: Amendment Rejected.
Earlier the House rejected the following amendment regarding adjudication proceedings moved by Mr. P. Venkateswaralu, M.L.A.:—"where a trade dispute has arisen between an employer and a trade union, if the trade union by a vote of a majority of its members applies to the Provincial Government for adjudication, the Provincial Government shall by a general or special order applying generally or to any specified area, make provision—(a) for appointing an Adjudication Board consisting of three members, one appointed by each party to the dispute and a third person acceptable to both the parties; (b) for prohibiting a lock-out in connection with a Trade Dispute; (c) for enforcing for a period of three months all the decisions of the Adjudication Board; (d) for completing the adjudication proceedings within a fortnight from the date of application for adjudication; provided that (1) in the case of an application made by a trade union not having at least ~~is~~ 15 per cent of the workers employed in the industry (in the case of ~~non-factory~~ non-factory labour) and 20 per cent (in the case of factory labour) as members of the union or when any other trade union

having more members than the one applying for adjudication, objects to the appointment of an adjudicator, the Government shall proceed to appoint an adjudication Board under Clause (a) only on a majority vote of the workers concerned in the trade dispute".

The Bill was ~~by~~ passed by the Madras Legislative ~~xxx~~ Council on 12-9-1946.

(The Hindu, 10, and 13-9-1946).

Proposal to extend Payment of Wage, Act to Plantation Labour.

A draft notification dated 3-9-1946, issued by the Government of Madras announces that the Government proposes to extend the provision of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to all classes of persons employed in plantations.

The proposal is to be taken into consideration on or after 15-12-1946.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 17-9-1946, Part I, page 630).

Draft Rules under Factories Act, 1934: Exemption from Provisions relating to Hours of Work.

The Government of Madras has published this month the draft of certain rules which it proposes to make under section 43 of the Factories Act, 1934. The rules define the categories of persons deemed to hold positions of supervision and management or to be employed in a confidential capacity under section 43 of the Factories Act. They further prescribe the conditions under which persons exempted from the provisions of the Factories Act relating to hours of work under section 43 shall be so exempted.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 17-9-1946, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages 168-174).

U.P.:

United Provinces Trade Disputes Bill, 1946:
Not to be Proceeded With.

It is understood that in view of the Government of India's Ordinance recently promulgated incorporating emergency powers of the Defence of India Act, the United Provinces Government has decided to drop the United Provinces Trades Disputes Bill which was referred to a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly (vide page 4 of the report of this Office for August, 1946).

It is proposed to replace the Bill by a piece of comprehensive labour legislation, preliminary data for which is now being collected.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1946).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Co-ordination of Labour Legislation Proposed:
Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers.

Following a suggestion made by Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Labour and Industries, Madras, that the Central Government may ask the provincial Governments to send up their bills relating to labour to it and that at an early conference of Labour Ministers these bills may be discussed with a view to achieving co-ordination and, if possible, introducing legislation applicable to the whole of India, it is now learnt that a conference ~~by~~ of Provincial Labour Ministers has been convened by Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, Interim Government, at Delhi on 19-10-1946. Replying to Mr. V.V. Giripandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, has stressed the need for uniform labour legislation throughout India and the desirability of holding an all-India conference of all provincial Labour Ministers to achieve this end.

Trade Disputes and Health Insurance Legislation to be discussed.- Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member in the new Interim Government, is understood to have ~~improved~~ informed Mr. Giri that the Government of India intended to draw up a programme of work for the next three years in regard to the improvement of labour conditions and that details of the legislative and administrative measures which that programme would involve were being worked out at present. There ~~should~~ would be a discussion among all the provincial Labour Ministers on the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill introduced in the Central Legislature (vide page 9 of the report of this Office for April 1946), as the Government of India desired full co-ordination on an important legislation of that type between the Central and provincial Governments.

~~reads~~ The Conference will also be used to secure a general exchange of ideas on the proposed Health Insurance ~~xxxx~~ Bill, which is likely to be introduced at the next session of the Central Legislature. In this connection it is reported that Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, is considering the desirability of appointing a commission to examine the causes of industrial unrest and to recommend to the Government such short-term measures as may be implemented within the next 12 months.

(The Hindu, 14-9-1946;
The Statesman, 17-9-1946).

Illegal Strikes and Lockouts to be prevented:
Bihar Government Communiqué.

In an official communiqué, issued early in September, the Government of Bihar has emphasised that it will not hesitate if the situation so required to enforce the existing law to prevent illegal strikes and lockouts. The communiqué was issued following a number of lightning strikes in industrial establishments in the Province.

Declaring that neither the Government nor the public can have any sympathy with strikes or lockouts undertaken without recourse to lawful methods provided for the settlement of trade disputes, the communiqué urges that the country is passing through critical times as regards supplies of essential commodities such as food and cloth. Public interest demands that trade disputes of all kinds should be amicably settled and strikes and lockouts avoided as best as possible. The Government, therefore, according to the statement, cannot but take a serious view of all illegal strikes and lockouts particularly in essential undertakings such as those engaged in the production of food, clothing or electricity. Similar also is the case of strikes involving interruptions of conservancy and sanitation services which constitute a menace to public health.

('Dawn', dated 11-9-1946).

Labour officers complete Training in U.K.
in resettlement work.

Eighteen Indian labour officers from the provincial and Central Governments (vide page 7 of the report of this Office for February, 1946), who had been training under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour in resettlement and rehabilitation work, completed during September 1946 a six months' course in grades unionism, with emphasis on machinery for collective bargaining and joint negotiation between employers and workers.

(The Times of India, 10-9-1946).

Women's Work.Employment of Women in War undertakings in India.

An article on the "Employment of Women in War undertakings" appearing in the August 1946 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette describes the part played by women in war undertakings in India and their conditions of work. The following is a summary of the article.

50,000 Women engaged in War Work.- During the war years (1939-45) nearly 20,000 women were employed in 57 of the war undertakings in India, mainly in Ordnance, Ammunition, Salvage, Provision and Mechanical Depots, Military Farms and workshops. Another 10,000 women were employed in Military Engineering Section and Tailoring Works under contractors. At the height of employment women workers formed 50 per cent of the total labour force in the depots thrown open to their employment. The social background in each province had considerable influence on the number of women employed in war work; Bombay led with 13,000 women workers and Madras and C.P. employed 5,000 and 2,000 respectively.

Supply and Demand for Women Workers.- Women have been employed in war undertakings mainly on unskilled jobs like grass cutting, cleaning yards, water carrying, carrying head loads, stencilling of boxes, preservation of machine parts, packing of camp equipment, repairing and laundering of kit material, salvaging of goods, etc. Only a small percentage of women have been employed in skilled jobs like tailoring and carpentering.

Women workers who entered the war undertakings generally came from the unregulated industries, personal services and agriculture. Among the factors which helped the flow of women into war undertakings were the dearness allowance, regularity of wage payment, better service conditions, regular hours of work, weekly rest and supply of rations and other articles at controlled prices; the absence of men from home on military service and high prices of foodstuffs necessitating supplementary income to the family; the cheapness of women labour because of the lower rates of wages paid to them for the same work turned out as by men; shortage of male labour; and the higher efficiency of women in certain jobs demanding dexterity. The demand for women workers reached its peak early in 1945, but with the cessation of hostilities, women not being required for work under contractors or at production and handling depots are gradually discharged.

Wage Rates.- Most of the women workers were on time-rates and only those working in Return Stores or military farms were on piece rates. They were all paid monthly. The 'nerrick' wage rates for women were 6, 8 and 10 annas for C, B and A grades with the strength in each grade fixed at certain percentage. 80 per cent of the women workers in each depot were C grade. The wage rates for men on similar grades were 8, 10 and 12 annas per day. There was no higher grade for women on skilled work. To circumvent this rigidity those employed in skilled work or those in charge of technical work were graded as clerical hands and paid that scale.

Women in Hazardous Operations.- In spite of the wartime demand for labour the Hazardous Operation regulation restricting the employment of women in hazardous operations had, in general, not been violated; but women did run some risk when employed for handling ammunition boxes and acid jars. Three depots employing women and children at stencilling work supplied milk against lead poisoning.

Absence of Maternity Benefit.- Most of the war undertakings did not come under the scope of the Factories Act, and the provision in them of maternity benefits to their women workers was optional, not obligatory. The women workers, therefore, lost continuity of service and ran the risk of losing their jobs at the time of maternity. Three depots with a predominant proportion of women workers had arranged for leave without pay during maternity. Four depots had gone further and were making some cash payments out of the Welfare Fund, either directly to the worker or as a fixed contribution annually to the local hospital, or the maternity centres receiving cases of women workers of their depots. The grant of maternity leave and benefit to female employees of the Defence Services has since been taken up with the War Department and is being considered.

Welfare Measures.- Though there was no uniform policy some voluntary measures were adopted by different depots for the welfare of women workers under the stress of wartime demand for their services. These included separate working sheds for women workers, tables and chairs for women workers in the Preservation and Tailoring Sections of a few depots, separate supervisory women staff for women workers, separate tiffin sheds, a separate window or counter at the canteen and teaboys to go round where women work, and a separate ayah or nurse in the dispensary to attend on women patients.

The need for women Welfare Supervisors has also come to be recognized. The Kirkee Ordnance Depot employing about 2,000 women workers has been sanctioned a Lady Welfare Supervisor. A general rule to that effect is awaiting final orders. Depots employing a large number of women provide for women representatives on Welfare Committees. A few depots have gone a step further and have set up a Women Sub-committee of the Welfare Committee, which is quite popular, since women could discuss more freely when not in the presence of men. Women have evinced keen interest in the disbursement of Welfare Fund and in the readiness to vote down unnecessary expenditure. Women found neither time nor energy for recreation between their depot work and household duties. But they did enjoy the music broadcast during lunch hour.

Housing and Transport.- Women working along with their men-folk, secured priority claim for housing accommodation at the depot camps. The single women were, however, at a disadvantage. But Welfare Officers paid special consideration to them. A considerable number of women, however, were drawn from neighbouring villages and their problem was not accommodation but conveyance to and fro. Their low wages did not allow them to utilise transport even if available, and they had generally to trudge 5 to 8 miles a day to get to and return from their places of work as the conveyance allowance sanctioned for the Extra-temporary Establishment did not benefit these women workers, as it was meant only for persons earning rupee one and more per day.

Cases of fines and disciplinary action on women workers, the article concludes, were generally few. Women workers, as a rule, keep out of political activities or labour groups. There were only two instances of unrest among the women labourers throughout the war period.

Wages.Wages of Railway Employees, 1944-45: Annual Report on Working of Payment of Wages Act, in Railways.

According to the annual report of the Conciliation Officer and Supervisor of Railway Labour, on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in Indian Railways, for the year 1944-1945, the total amount of wages paid to Railway employees earning less than Rs. 200, per month rose from Rs. 377,265,540 in 1943-1944 to Rs. 384,954,753 in 1944-1945.

Number of Workers and Delays in Payments.- The number of railwaymen protected by the Payment of Wages Act increased to 1,243,100, (including nearly 100,000 workers employed by contractors) during 1944-45, from 969,174 employees in the previous year.

During the year under review, 3,694 cases of delay in payment of wages were discovered as against 6,005 during the previous year. Most of the cases of delay related to the payment of increments, overtime, leave salary, officiating allowance, etc.

Inspection.- 6,158 Railway establishments including 160 Contractors' establishments were inspected during the year, as compared with 7,741 and 180, respectively, in the previous year.

Fines Imposed and Refunded.- ~~xxxxxx~~ There were 251 cases in which requirements of the law had been overlooked in imposing fines as against 183 in the previous year. All such fines were refunded on the advice of the Conciliation Officer, Railways. The number of cases of fines increased by 2,438 and the total amount by Rs. 3,184 in comparison with the figures for the preceding year.

A few cases in which employees had been put off-duty as a measure of punishment, even though they were actually present, came to light on the O. and T. Railway. The Railway Administration was advised to refund the amounts deducted from the wages of such employees and to issue specific instructions to stop this illegal practice. A number of cases of deductions from wages, in which the provisions of the law had not been complied with, were taken up with the Railway Administrations and the amounts refunded to the employees. Also, although the amount for deductions for damage or loss rose to Rs. 107,111 from Rs. 89,766 in the previous year, the number of cases of deductions decreased to 29,198 from 30,307 in 1943-44.

The report concludes that the registers ~~are~~ of wages, fines and deductions are now better maintained by the Railway Administrations, though there is still scope for improvements. The inspection of contractors' establishments, the Report observes, was handicapped by the absence of statutory rules requiring contractors to maintain registers of wages, fines, and deductions. Most of the irregularities were rectified, resulting in benefit to the labour employed.

Industrial Disputes.

Strike in South Indian Railway, 25-8-1946 to 22-9-1946:
Right of Enquiry before Dismissal Conceded.

More than 20,000 workers of the South Indian Railway went on strike, on 25-8-1946, in pursuance of a strike notice served on the Railway Administration by the South Indian Railway Labour Union and the South Indian Railway Station Masters' Association. The workers' main complaints as outlined by Mr. S. A. Dange, Vice President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, were, (i) the South Indian Railway withdrew the right of inquiry before dismissal which the workers had secured and which the workers still continue to have on the G.I.P. Railway; (ii) the administration went back on the rule and understanding that promotion should be governed strictly by seniority and made promotion dependent on the discretion of the officials; (iii) the administration suddenly withdrew its assurance that the menial staff would not be transferred to distant places; and (iv) the administration dismissed without inquiry seven workers who were Union officials and refused to take them back.

The strike was fairly widespread and led to a considerable restriction of passenger and goods traffic. On 25-8-1946 the number of men who were on strike was 22,600 and in spite of the gradual return of some workers, the number of strikers on 6-9-1946 was as large as 16,875 or 35 per cent of the total staff.

Following assurances given by Mr. Asaf Ali, Minister in charge of Railways in the Interim Government, the Joint Strike Committee of the South Indian Railway Labour Union and the Station Masters' Association meeting at Tanjore, on 22-9-1946, decided to call off the strike forthwith.

Right of Enquiry before Dismissal Conceded.- It is now learnt that the Railway Board has restored the benefit of enquiry to workers before departmental action is taken against them. It has been decided that in every case where a railway ~~workers~~ worker is dismissed by competent authority, a departmental enquiry is obligatory and the railway worker concerned will have the right of being heard in person with such defence witnesses as he may choose.

(~~the~~ Peoples' Age, 15-9-1946;
The Hindu, 25-8-1946 and 23-9-1946).

Welfare.

U.P. Government's Labour Welfare Programme.

Four Regional Labour Divisions to be set up: More Labour Welfare Centres.- It is reported that a comprehensive province-wide labour welfare scheme has been put into operation by the Government of United Provinces. For administrative purposes, the province has been divided into four Regional Labour Divisions with headquarters at Cawnpore, Agra, Meerut and Benares. These will be under the charge of Regional Labour Officers. Four conciliation officers, who have been receiving training at Cawnpore, will take charge of these four divisions as Regional Labour Officers. Being the nerve-centre of labour activities in the province, Cawnpore will have, in addition, a wholetime Conciliation Officer. With a view to expanding labour welfare activities, the Government has also recently sanctioned the opening of three more "A" class welfare centres (one each at Moradabad, Benares and Meerut) during the current financial year at a cost not exceeding Rs. 73,600.

Model Houses.- In the field of housing, two model villages, having model houses and with modern water-supply system and lighting arrangements and other amenities, are to be built up for the benefit of the workers at a cost of Rs. 5 million each, about ten miles from Cawnpore. The sites for these villages have already been approved by the Government.

Another aspect of the labour welfare scheme is the construction of ~~several~~ several thousands of quarters for Cawnpore's workers. The Government and the mill-owners of Cawnpore will share the cost of this scheme.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-9-1946).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Indian Standards Institution to be set up.

Reference was made at pages 21-22 of the report of this Office for December 1945, to the Government of India's Scheme for setting up a National Standards Organisation. The Government of India has now finally decided to set up this organisation.

The proposed Indian Standards Institution will be located at Delhi and will be non-official, although supported by the Government of India. The membership will be open to all interested in its objects.

Management and Finance.- The Institution will be managed by a General Council consisting of the Hon'ble Member of the new Central Government in charge of Industries and Supplies (President), and 64 representatives from the Central Government Departments, provinces, States, research institutions, chambers of commerce and others. It will be financed by Government grants and contributions from industry, the provinces, the States and interested public bodies, subscriptions from members and ~~specifications~~ by sale of Indian Standards and specifications. The Government of India has decided initially to make annual grants for a period of five years.

It is learnt that the Institution will be divided into five sections, namely, engineering, building, chemicals, textiles and food and agricultural products, each to be controlled by a divisional council. The actual preparation of standards will be done by small committees of experts representing various interests such as producers, consumers and technical experts.

(The Statesman, 11-9-1946;
The Gazette of India, dated 7-9-1946,
Part I, pages 1347-1348).

Sugar Production in India: Government of India accepts Plans for Expansion.

Decline in Production during 1945-46.- The supply position in India in 1945-46 with regard to white sugar according to information available is that the supply position of white sugar in India in 1945-46 was more difficult than in the two preceding years. The production during the season 1945-46 amounted to 948,000 tons as compared to 971,000 tons in 1944-45 and 1,270,000 tons in 1943-44. Causes for the low production are reported to be, a decrease in the all-India area under ~~sugarcane~~ sugarcane from 4.25 million acres to 3.84, the main fall being registered in the most important producing area of U.P.; lack of winter rains in U.P., Bihar and the Punjab, and the high prices of gur (unrefined sugar) in most areas. As against this, however, there has been a progressive decline in the ~~sugarcane~~ sugar requirements of the Defence Services from 99,000 tons in 1943-44, 76,000 tons in 1944-45 to 35,000 tons in 1945-46. A similar fall is registered in the exports to neighbouring countries, the present figure being 14,500 tons as against 18,600 tons last year.

No reliable estimate is available regarding the sugar prospects for the ensuing season. Indications however are that sugar production will increase a little in 1946-47.

Government accepts Expansion Plans.- Two major recommendations of the Sugar Panel appointed by the Government of India (vide pages 16-17 of the report of this Office for February 1946) relating to an increase in the target of sugar production and the establishment of additional units and their location to meet the increased ~~target~~ target, are reported to have been accepted by the Central Government.

GOVERNMENT

70 per cent Increase in Output.- As against the present normal production capacity of the existing units of 1,084,000 tons, the target for increased production is likely to be 1,850,000 tons. This includes exports, but the exportable quota will have to be determined later with due regard to the external markets to be reached. The gap between the present production and the new target is likely to be bridged by an expansion of the existing factories, installation of new ones, the development of sugarcane and the provision of better facilities for factories to secure cane.

Size and Location of New Plants.- It is likely that existing factories with a crushing capacity of below 250 tons per day will not be allowed to expand nor will existing factories be permitted to crush more than 800 tons per day, but factories having a crushing capacity between 200 and 800 tons will be allowed to expand to their maximum capacity. As regards the installation of new factories, 20 units are reported to have been allocated as follows: Bengal, Bombay, Madras and the Punjab, three units each; and Assam, Bihar, N.W.F.P., Orissa and Sind and the States of Baroda, Hyderabad and Travancore one unit each. Each unit will have a crushing capacity of 800 to 1,000 tons a day, but smaller units to suit special conditions may be allowed under the recommendation of provincial or State Governments. The allocation of 25 additional factories to cover a capacity of 250,000 tons is to be made later.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-9-1946;
The Statesman, dated 24-9-1946).

All-India Oilseeds Conference, New Delhi,
26 to 28-9-1946: Full Control Recommended.

Representatives of all provincial Governments and Administrations and leading Indian States and ~~formulate basic plans for the distribution of certain edible oilseeds, oils and oilcake and to discuss the imports expected this year.~~ ~~of the Agriculture, Commerce, Food, Industries and Supplies and Finance Departments of the Government of India met at New Delhi on 26, 27 and 28-9-1946 to formulate basic plans for the distribution of certain edible oilseeds, oils and oilcake and to discuss the imports expected this year.~~ The Conference was opened by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Agriculture and Food in the Interim Government, and attended among others by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, Mr. C.H. Bhabha, Member for Commerce and Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Communications.

Dr. Prasad's Opening Address.- Inaugurating the Conference Dr. Prasad pointed out that controls over the production, prices and movement of edible oilseeds had not been introduced simultaneously or uniformly by all administrations and the unfortunate result had been that there was very wide disparity in prices and some parts of the country were suffering ~~xxx~~ from acute shortage of edible oils and oilcakes. This had happened even when there was practically a complete stoppage of all exports, except in case of small quantities of linseed, sesame and groundnut. Oil was an essential ingredient in the Indian diet supplying the much needed protein and the ^{annual} per capita consumption of oil in India during recent years, estimated at about 8 lbs, ~~is~~ was already infinitely less than the minimum required for health. Another associated problem was ^{The storage of cattle feed and} anything that caused deterioration of cattle was bound to react unfavourably on India's agricultural production. The desirability of exporting oilseeds as had been done in the prewar period had also to be considered. The main problems that needed to be considered, as listed by Dr. Prasad, were the desirability of retaining controls; methods by which controls, if they were retained, could be made more effective so as to ensure a fair and equitable distribution at fair prices of oilseeds and oilcakes; steps to be taken to ensure parity of prices between oilseeds and cereals; measures to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of oilseeds and oilcake as between different provinces; and the diversion of oilcake for use as cattle feed.

Conference recommends Full Control.- The Conference finally decided by a majority in favour of a system of full control over oilseeds, oil and oilcake. Subject to a satisfactory solution to the question of exports from India and the prices to be charged for such exports, the Conference considered (a) that control over oilseeds, oils and oilcakes was still necessary and (b) that regulation of inter-provincial movement and allocation of quotas by the Centre and regulation of prices in exporting as well as importing areas were essential features of such control. Accordingly, it recommended that in respect of movements within the country (a) the Governments of the exporting Provinces and States should do everything possible, by resorting to requisitioning where necessary and feasible, to see that accepted quotas were moved at controlled prices and (b) the Governments of the importing Provinces and States should accept responsibility for receiving the quotas and distributing them at parity prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 19,27,28 and 30-9-1946).

Problems of Indian Mica Industry: Mica Conference,
New Delhi, 6-9-1946.

Proposals for the better marketing of Indian mica by grading and fixing the prices of different categories and for reducing the tariffs imposed by the USA on manufactured mica from India were discussed at an informal exploratory conference, with representatives of the mica trade, convened by the Government of India at New Delhi on 6-9-1946. The conference was opened by Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Member in Charge of Works, Mines and Power, Interim Government, and attended by non-officials and representatives of provincial Governments.

Mr. Bose's Opening Address: Need for Uniform Policy.- Addressing the Conference, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose pointed out that mica was at present being exported mainly as a raw material and urged that ~~mineral~~ mica manufacture should be developed in India to an infinitely greater extent than

it was today. Steps should be taken to examine the possibilities of starting manufacturing concerns in different parts of the country at an early date and encouraging and developing the manufacturing concerns that existed. Stressing the need for a coordinated and systematic development of mica in India on uniform lines, Mr. Bose felt that it might be difficult for the provinces to cope with the problems of export policy and international trade, which would arise in connection with mica exports. The Centre, therefore, should co-ordinate policy throughout India and ensure that the mineral wealth of the country was conserved and utilized to the fullest advantage.

Problems of Mica Industry: Conference proceedings : Surplus Mica Stocks in U.K.- The Conference was informed that as a result of discussions held in London, an agreement had been reached between the Government of India and the U.K. mica trade on arrangements for the disposal of stocks of mica accumulated by the U.K. Government during the war. It had been recognized by all parties concerned that the basic principle underlying the arrangement should be that of gradual marketing ~~should be that~~ of these stocks over a period of years in relation to current sales and without undue interference with current production in India. A reserve of certain categories of mica would be frozen until further notice and the remainder would be disposed of at a ~~rate~~ rate not exceeding 15 per cent of the sales in the U.K. and Continental markets, including direct sales by India to the Continent.

Marketing and standardisation.- The other subjects discussed by the Conference included the setting up of an Advisory Committee to deal with problems connected with the production of mica, particularly in view of the invention and manufacture of synthetic substitutes and discovery of deposits in other countries; the creation of a Mica Marketing Control Board consisting mainly of trade members to deal with the control of export trade in mica and to fix standards and minimum prices; the establishment of standard grades for mica; and proposals for the reduction of U.S. tariff rates on Indian manufactured mica.

The Conference was generally ⁱⁿ favour of establishing an advisory Committee for mica for regular consultations between the industry and Central and provincial Governments, and urged the Government of India to negotiate with the U.S.A. for the reduction of her tariff rates on Indian mica.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-9-1946).

Par value of the Rupee: Views invited by
Government of India.

A press note issued towards the end of September announces that the Government of India has been requested by the International Monetary Fund, in accordance with the Fund agreement, to communicate the par value of the rupee based on the rates of exchange prevailing on 28-10-1945. The communication has to be made by 12-10-1946.

The press note ~~states~~ points out that under the Fund agreement, the par value communicated by a member, on the basis indicated above, will be the par value of that member's currency, unless within 90 days after the request the member notifies the Fund that it regards the par value as unsatisfactory or the Fund notifies the member that in its opinion the par value cannot be maintained. The period within which the Government of India and the Fund can exercise this right is up to 12-12-1946.

The Government of India is anxious to ascertain as representative an opinion as possible on this matter and has, therefore, invited Chambers of Commerce, Bankers' Associations and other interested bodies or persons to send their views in writing to the Government of India before 31-10-1946.

(The Statesman, 27-9-1946).

Madras to Compile Rural Cost of Living Index.

A press Note issued by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) says that at present cost of living index numbers are compiled for Madras City and eight mofussil district headquarter centres. These index numbers however, do not always represent correctly the movement of prices in rural centres. Index numbers of rural prices are, therefore, now compiled to represent the movement of prices relevant to villagers in rural areas. For this purpose, the Province is divided into 9 zones as in the case of mofussil urban index numbers and one or two villages have been selected as characteristic of each zone.

System of Approximate Weightages.- In order to prevent violent fluctuations in the index due to fluctuations in the prices of comparatively unimportant commodities, a system of ~~of~~ approximate weightages has been adopted. The average of the prices for the twelve months from July 1935 to June 1936 has been taken as base (100). The items included in the index are divided into four main groups—food, lighting, clothing and miscellaneous.

The Press Note also gives the following rural price index numbers for the month of July 1946, in each of the 9 zones: Vizagapatam, 369 and 333; West Godavari, 311; Bellary, 340; South Acrot, 303 and 298; Trichinopoly, 350; Madura, 312 and 281; Coimbatore, 288; Malabar, 355; and Chingleput, 337 and 324.

(The Hindu, 14-9-1946).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of Bombay Maternity Benefit Act in
Delhi, 1945.

The report of the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act in Delhi province during 1945, shows that the number of factories subject to the Act increased from 17 to 19 by the end of the year. The number of women employed increased from ~~22~~ 320 to 397.

Number of Cases and Amount of Benefit.- In 1945, 26 women were paid maternity benefit for actual births as compared with 11 in the previous year. The total ~~was~~ amount paid was Rs. 715 as against Rs. 350 in 1944. The average claim paid per woman was Rs. 27-7-0 as against Rs. 31-15-0 in the preceding year.

No prosecution was instituted under the Act in 1945.

(Indian Labour Gazette, August, 1946).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

All-India Board of Technical Studies in Applied Art inaugurated:
Delhi, 30-8-1946.

The first session of the All-India Board of Technical Studies in Applied Art was inaugurated at New Delhi on 30-8-1946 by Mr. Henry Bourne, Chairman of the Board. The Board is part of the All-India Council of Technical Education which has set up six All-India Boards, dealing with Engineering, Architecture, Commercial Studies, Chemical Engineering, Textile Technology, and Applied Art (vide page 22 of the report of this Office for May, 1946). The whole structure is a part of the Education Department of the Government of India.

Functions of the Board.- The functions of the Board are first to ascertain the present educational facilities available, together with the fullest information of the syllabuses, the standards reached, coupled with the qualifications of the teachers; secondly, to study the practical as opposed to the academic value of the students at the close of the study; thirdly, where it arises, to obtain the views of the employees and other interested parties on the standards required from a student; fourthly, to ascertain the conduct and standards of existing examinations; and fifthly, to study the methods used abroad, ~~whereas necessary the proposed~~
~~visions;~~

The session closed with the election of experts for the various sub-committees for different sections like fine art, commercial art and textile designs, etc. These sub-committees are expected to submit their reports in about six months' time.

(The National Call, 1-9-1946).

MIGRATION.

18th Session of East African Indian National Congress, Mombasa, 6 to 8-9-1946: Protest against Immigration Bills.

The 18th session of the East African Indian National Congress was held at Mombasa from 6 to 8-9-1946 under the presidency of Mr. Shivabhai Amin. The session was attended by thousands of Indians and prominent African leaders as also by the Indian delegation led by Raja Sir Maharaj Singh (vide page 29 of the report of this Office for August, 1946).

Presidential Address: Protest against Racial Discrimination.- In his presidential address, Mr. Amin emphasized his opposition to the reservation of the Kenya highlands for white people only and condemned the policy of white settlers which kept large portions of land resources unused and put the entire Indian community at their mercy in the matter of food supply. He objected to racial discrimination in the civil and military services and protested against Government's step-motherly treatment of Indians' educational and medical needs. He urged equal opportunity to Indians for military ~~xx~~ training. Regarding the inferior status imposed on Indians, the President urged that unless a position of equality and honour ~~was~~ now asserted and secured, India should approach ~~and~~ Britain for a condominium in Kenya, and warned Britain against destroying the existing feeling of goodwill towards the Labour Government by "appeasing the insatiable greed of the European settlers".

Resolutions: Withdrawal of Immigration Bill and Appointment of Indian High Commissioner.- Among the resolutions adopted by the Congress was one resolving to oppose the proposed Immigration Restriction Bill (vide page 33 of the report of this Office for April 1946) and to request the people and the Government of India to lend support to obtain the Bill's withdrawal; another protesting against inadequate representation for Indians on the Legislative and Executive bodies and urging the Kenya Government to give equality of representation with Europeans on the above bodies failing which the Congress was to invoke assistance of the Government of India to secure these; and a third requesting the Government of India to appoint a High Commissioner for East Africa as early as possible.

By other resolutions, the Congress demanded that India should have a seat on the Trusteeship Council of the UNO to secure political and general advancement of all non-European inhabitants, especially the indigenous people, and supported the demand of the Africans for increased representation on the legislative and executive councils in East Africa.

(The Statesman, 14-9-1946;
The Bombay Chronicle, 18-9-1946).

Indian Delegation to East Africa returns
to India.

The Indian Delegation to East Africa (vide pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for August, 1946) returned to India on 23-9-1946. In East Africa the Delegation interviewed the members of the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and numerous official and non-official Europeans.

Giving an account of ^{the} Indian community in those countries, Sir Maharaj Singh the leader of the delegation, said that Indians had made considerable progress in many directions during the past 20 years. Their standard of living and education had improved, and it was universally recognised that Indian skill, enterprise and courage had largely contributed to the material development of the East African countries. Referring to the East African Immigration Bills (vide page 33 of the report of this Office for April, 1946) Sir Maharaj Singh observed that no section of Indian opinion there supported the provisions of the Bills as they stand. All sections realised that for all practical purposes, not only would they prevent the future immigration of all but a few Indians into East Africa, but also they were seriously damaging to Indians normally residing in those countries. Even some non-official Europeans had objections to some of the clauses of the Bills. Concluding, he stated that though the Bills were non-racial in form, their effect would be more prejudicial to Indian than to European ~~immigration~~ immigrants.

(The Statesman, 14-9-1946;
The Times of India, 26-9-1946).

East African Immigration Bill: Indian Chamber's
Protest.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber in a communication, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, regarding the proposed Immigration Bill in East Africa (vide page 33 of the report of this office for April 1946), ~~xxx~~ urges that it is the duty of the Government of India to take all possible steps to protest the East African Indian from such a discriminatory and humiliating piece of legislation. The Chamber points out that the proposed legislation will seriously hinder the normal employment policy, followed by Indian concerns in East Africa for years past. Further, the Bill has a provision for restricting free movement of the residents from one territory to another, which is an ill-advised provision, inasmuch as freedom of movement of human resources as between various territories is quite essential to meet fluctuations in the economic activities of these territories.

(The Times of India, 14-9-1946).

Indian Representation in Ceylon Legislature.

Seven Indians could be returned to Ceylon's first House of Representatives of 95 elected members under the new constitution from 89 electoral districts that have been delimited by a three-man delimitation commission, (for a summary of the the new constitutional reforms see pages 24-35 of our report for October, 1945).

As a result of the commission's decisions, Sinhalese would be able to return 68 members, Ceylon Tamils 13, and the Muslims 4. Of the Indian population, mainly Tamil, of whom a vast majority of estate labourers are found largely in Central, and Western Provinces, the commission says : "There is a possibility that the rights of the Indian population with regard to franchise may be reviewed in the near future, but for our purpose we must take the franchise as it stands regulated by the Ceylon (State Council elections) Order in Council, 1931."

(The Statesman, 14-9-1946).

AGRICULTURE.

District Rural Development Boards in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay has decided to reconstitute the present District Rural Development Boards in the province on the following lines.

Constitution.- The District Board will consist of (1) District or Divisional Officers of the various departments concerned with rural development activities, to be nominated by Government; (2) Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Legislative Council, who are residents of the district and represent rural constituencies; (3) President of the District Local Board; (4) Chairman of the District Co-operative Central Bank and where there is no such bank, a representative of the co-operative movement in the district, to be nominated by Government; and (5) Other non-officials to be nominated by Government. The Collector of the District will be the ex-officio Chairman of the Board. There will be two secretaries one of whom will be an official nominated by the Government in consultation with the Collector. The Vice-Chairman and the other secretary of the Board will be non-officials, also nominated by the Government. The period of the Board will normally be one year.

Functions.- The functions and duties of the District Rural Development Board would be to: (a) assist and advise all officers, engaged on or connected with schemes of rural development approved by Government, in carrying out those schemes; (b) supervise the work of taluka development associations; (c) formulate schemes for the improvement of rural areas for submission to Government through the appropriate channel; and (d) act generally as a focus for all rural development activities.

(Bombay Information, 24-8-1946).

Fertiliser Factory in Bihar: Progress of Scheme.

The proposed Rs. 105 million project for establishing a fertiliser factory at Sindhri, in Bihar, (vide page 31 of the report of this Office for January, 1946), to produce 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate per year, is now well under way. The supply of specialist plants, such as boilers, gas compressors, gas plant, turbo-alternators, etc., has been ordered from abroad at a cost of nearly Rs. 30 million. Certain other categories of heavy plant must also be imported owing to lack of facilities for manufacture of the plant in India.

A good deal of other items can be fabricated in India and the Government of India has decided that as much as possible of such requirements should be manufactured and supplied indigenously. These items cover a wide range of plant and machinery, such as, structural steel, cranes, tanks, steel water mains and certain classes of electrical equipment, etc.

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Page 38-39 with a Bombay

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Pay Scales of Government Employees: Debate in Bombay Legislative Council, 16-9-1946.

The Bombay Legislative Council debated, on 16-9-1946, a resolution moved by Mr. R.R. Bhakhale, M.L.C., requesting the Bombay Government to appoint a Committee "(a) to examine in the light of postwar requirements and with due regard to social security the existing terms and conditions of service (such as those relating, inter alia, to recruitment, salaries and wages, grades and cadres, allowances and other remunerations, leave, pension, provident fund and gratuity) for the superior, subordinate and inferior services and establishments, permanent and temporary, which are wholly under the control of and responsible to the Bombay Government with particular reference to: (1) the structure of the pay scales and standards of remuneration with the object of achieving rationalisation, simplification and uniformity to the fullest possible degree; (2) the extent to which the present leave terms should be altered and simplified; and (3) the conditions of retirement and the extent to which the existing regulations in regard to pensions and contributory provident funds require simplification and adjustment".

"(b) To consider the question of retrenchment and of absorbing the retrenched personnel, if any, in other suitable employment".

"(c) To examine the machinery for negotiating and settling questions relating to conditions of service which may arise out of any difference which between Government and their employees". *And*

"(d) To consider the principles on which the remuneration of industrial workers and daily rated employees of Government should be based".

Moving the resolution, Mr. Bhakhale said conditions had changed since grades of salaries were fixed last, and the cost of living had gone up abnormally owing to the war and inflation. Strikes had become the order of the day. Unless Government took prompt and effective measures to check economic tendencies, the situation might go out of control. Mr. Bhakhale added that a similar committee had been appointed in the United Provinces.

Government Reply: Interim Relief Promised.— Replying to the debate Mr. V.L. Mehta, Finance Minister, Bombay, stated that the Government of Bombay proposed to give some type of interim relief to all its employees, including inferior and subordinate services, and orders for this would shortly be issued. He further revealed that a special ~~senior~~ senior Officer had been appointed to collect exhaustive information with regard to the terms and conditions of service of all the Bombay Government's superior and inferior grade staff on the lines followed by the Pay Commission of the Central Government. Further, a conference of representatives of the Central Government, provincial Governments and members of the Pay Commission, was scheduled to meet in New Delhi in the second week of October to chalk out the general attitude of provincial and Central Governments in matters of pay scales and other service conditions of their employees.

As regards the other points raised by the resolution moved by Mr. Bhakhale, the Minister stated that the Government was introducing in the Legislative Assembly, a Bill to regulate industrial relations and that x

would meet the requirements of trade disputes. The Government of Bombay also hoped that there would not be any need for large-scale retrenchment in the Province. There was a large field to make up in the sphere of nation-building activities, industrial, ~~agricultural~~ agricultural and economic development in general.

(The Times of India, 17-9-1946;
The Bombay Chronicle 13-9-1946).

Teachers to get More Pay in Bombay and Punjab.

A press note issued by the Government of Bombay, on 16-9-1946, says that in addition to the ~~xxx~~ revised pay scales recently announced by Government for primary teachers, (vide page 40 of the report of this Office of ~~xxx~~ August, 1946), the Bombay Government has decided that the temporary additional pay of Rs. 5 to Government servants drawing pay below Rs. 40 and Rs. 10 to those drawing pay of Rs. 40 and above (vide page 44 of this report) will also be admissible to primary school teachers. Also the increased scales of pay sanctioned last month (vide page 40 of the report of this office for August 1946) have been further liberalised.

Punjab Teachers' Pay Scale Increased.- The Punjab Government has sanctioned this month the following increase in scales of pay of the vernacular and classical language teachers: The present grade of junior vernacular teachers is Rs. 30-1-40/2-60/3-75. The new grade proposed is Rs. 40-2-60, pause for two years, 3-90 pause for three years, 4-110. Senior vernacular and classical language teachers' present grade is ~~Rxx~~ Rs. 40-1¹/₂-55-2-75-3-90. The proposed grade for them is Rs. 50-3-80 pause for two years 4-100 pause for three years 5-125.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 18-9-1946;
"Dawn", dated, 18-9-1946).

Interim Relief for Government Servants: C.P. Government
appoints Committee of Enquiry.

Pending examination of the general question of the adequacy of the existing scales of pay of Government servants, the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has appointed a Committee of Enquiry to investigate what quantum of interim relief should be given to Government servants, ~~particularly~~ particularly of the low paid classes and with effect from what date. Mr. S.K. Banerji, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to Government, General Administration Department, is chairman of the Committee.

Terms of Reference.- The terms of reference to the Committee will be—(1) what should be the extent of interim relief; (2) should the relief be on a graduated scale, based on pay, or should it be at a flat rate; and (3) from what date it should take effect.

Scope.- The Committee's investigations are to apply to all Government servants in the subordinate, ministerial and menial services, including—(a) industrial piece-workers and industrial salaried employees in the Government Press; (b) temporary employees whose pay is fixed with reference to current market rates; and (c) menials paid from contingencies.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, dated 20-9-1946,
Part I, page 616).

Higher Rates of Pay for Conservancy Workers of
Local Bodies in Madras.

The Government of Madras has decided to implement the recommendations of a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet to which the demands of the conservancy workers of municipalities and panchayat boards in the districts for higher rate of pay and allowance had been referred.

The Sub-Committee has decided to allow 25 per cent increase in the basic pay of the workers. The Committee also recommended the provision of Provident Fund arrangements for all the conservancy workers in all the municipalities—(1) at the rate of Re. 1 per head in first and second class municipalities and (2) at the rate of Rs. 0-8-0 in other municipalities.

The new rates are applicable to workers of all municipalities inclusive of panchayat boards, excluding the Corporation of Madras. In this connection, it is stated that the government is considering the ways and means for ~~sugg~~ augmenting the revenues of the local bodies for the purpose of meeting the extra expenditure incurred on this account.

(Madras Government Press Communiqué,
No. 38, dated 28-8-1946).

Strike Wave in Rangoon: Police and Postmen go on Strike.

Rangoon passed through a wave of strikes in September, the most important among these being ~~strikers~~ by the Rangoon Police and Postal workers.

Police Strike.— On 6-9-1946, 2500 constables and Sub-Inspectors of the Rangoon police went on strike and the strike soon spread to 16 out of the 38 districts in Burma.

Increased Cost of Living Allowances: Government Concession.— On 11-9-1946, the Government of Burma announced an increase in the cost of living allowances which would cost the Government an additional £ 3 million every year. A mass ~~of~~ meeting of the police strikers held on 12-9-1946, however, voiced dissatisfaction with the cost of living allowances announced by the Government, as these represented a 50 per cent increase only over the original allowances whereas they had demanded a 200 per cent increase. (Vide page 39 of the report of this office for August 1946 for more details).

Postal Employees Strike: General Strike Threat.— Demanding better pay and allowances, 1,000 Rangoon postmen and postal clerks struck work on 16-9-1946 while employees of the Government Printing Press began a sitdown strike.

The new concessions announced by Government also failed to give satisfaction to the lower grade Government servants and employees of public utilities and on 23-9-1946, 20,000 employees of Government Offices, ports, railways and telegraphs joined the ranks of the strikers.

New Burma Government to endeavour to settle Strikes.— Meanwhile a new Government, representative of the main political parties in the country, has been set up in Burma, and addressing a procession of 20,000 Government and police strikers at Rangoon on 29-9-1946, Major-General Aung San, Defence Member in the new Burma Government, stated that the new people's

Government would promptly endeavour to settle the strikes and solve the country's pressing problems.

(The Statesman, 9, 14, 18, 25 and 30-9-1946).

(Note):- The Strike has since been called off. → Following an agreement with the ~~Interim~~ Government in Burma, policemen and employees in the Government offices decided to call off their strike on 2-10-1946. The Government has agreed to grant an immediate increase in allowances as interim relief, to give the strikers full pay and allowances for the strike period, and not to victimise striking workers.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-10-1946).

Interim Relief to Madras Government Servants.

Pending the final recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (vide page 41 of the report of this Office for August, 1946), the Government of Madras has announced, the following concessions as interim relief to low-paid Government servants, with effect from 1-8-1946:- All Government servants, with the exception of those paid from contingencies, will be eligible for an addition to pay at a flat rate of (a) Rs. 3 per mensem if they are in receipt of pay of Rs. 40 or less; (b) Rs. 4 per mensem if they are in receipt of a pay exceeding Rs. 40 and equal to or less than Rs. 196 per mensem. Government servants in receipt of pay between Rs. 196 and Rs. 200 per mensem will receive such an addition as will bring their pay up to Rs. 200 per mensem. The Government has also decided that village ~~officers~~ officers and village menials should have their pay raised by Rs. 3 per mensem irrespective of the class of village establishment to which they belong.

(The Hindu, dated 10-9-1946).

Madras Cabinet Committee on Salary Revision: Terms of Reference Expanded.

The terms of reference to the Madras Cabinet Committee on revision of salaries, [vide page 41 of the report of this Office for August, 1946], have been expanded, and now include the following:-

(a) the pay conditions of the various Government servants under the Madras Government's rule making powers; (b) the pay conditions of the servants of municipal councils and Local Boards; (c) the pay conditions of the teachers in aided schools; (d) the subsidies paid by the Government to aided rural medical practitioners; and (e) the conditions of service of Government, Municipal and Local Board servants other than conditions relating to pay, e.g., conditions relating to leave, provident fund, pensions and housing.

(The Hindu, dated 5-9-1946).

Interim Relief to Low-paid Government Employees
in Bombay.

Pending a general revision of pay-scales, the Government of Bombay has sanctioned interim relief to its low-paid employees in the form of ~~the~~ temporary additional pay at Rs. 5 per mensem for those on grade pay below Rs. 40 and Rs. 10 per mensem for those on grade pay between Rs. 40 and Rs. 250. The concession has effect from 1-8-1946.

(The Times of India, 17-9-1946).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Madras Scheme to Develop Cottage Industries.

On 4-9-1946, Mr. T. Prakasam, the Madras Prime Minister, announced in the Madras Legislative Assembly that the Government had under consideration a scheme for the development of cottage industries in the Province. The scheme has been prepared by the Deputy Director of Industries (Cottage) Madras, and aims at making villages self-sufficient in respect of ~~many~~ several of the needs of the residents of the respective areas.

The Industries Department has selected in all 150 cottage industries, including carpentry, smithy, handloom weaving, pottery, hand-made paper-making, palm jaggery manufacture, etc. For the present, it is understood, the scheme will derive its finances from an allotment of Rs. 10 million, set apart for village uplift and rural reconstruction purposes, and will be ~~be~~ implemented without prejudice to the existing small-scale cottage industries.

Entire Province to be Covered.- Under the scheme, the entire Province will be divided into several firkas, each containing villages ranging from 15 to 50. To begin with, Government has decided to select 25 such firkas covering the four linguistic areas of the Presidency. In the selected firkas, three to six types of cottage industries (a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6) will be developed. In the firkas selected, workshops will be erected by Government to suit the industries that are to be developed there. The firkas will be selected in relation to the availability of raw materials and the aptitude of the people of the locality. An adequate number of men will be trained in the various workshops. After training they will be sent to the village units with a view to enabling the villagers to get the benefit of their training. The workshops will be manned by staff sent by the Industries Department.

District Industrial Advisers and Demonstration Parties.- Every district, according to the scheme, will have one District Industrial Adviser. At present for every two districts, one Industrial Adviser is appointed. Under the District Industrial Adviser, there will be an Assistant Industrial Engineer. 150 cottage industries demonstration parties will be organised by Government under the scheme, and these parties will be distributed evenly among the various firkas.

(The Hindu, dated 6-9-1946).

Co-operative Education in Bombay: Government's Plans.

Reference was made at page 37 of the report of this Office for May, 1946, to a Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to consider ways and means of providing co-operative education in the province.

The Committee, in its report to the Government recommends, among other things that the existing arrangements for separate training by the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute and the Co-operative Department should be replaced by a scheme planned as a whole and functioning under the aegis of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute. The staff of the Co-operative Department as well as of the non-official institutions should be trained at the centres to be set up under the scheme. The Committee also recommends the establishment of a Co-operative Training College and regional schools in the three ~~ix~~ linguistic divisions of the Province.

The Government has accepted in principle the recommendation of the Committee regarding the arrangements for training of the staff of the Co-operative Department as well as of the Co-operative institutions and has decided that the Co-operative Training College at Poona should start from 1-6-1947. As regards the district and regional training centres, Government has directed that part of these schemes should be given effect to during the current financial year, if the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute is able to do so. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been requested to submit to Government separately detailed proposals for giving effect to the remaining recommendations of the Committee.

(The Times of India, 24-9-1946).

Co-operatives among Railway Workers: Bombay Conference Demands.

A conference of representatives of Railway Co-operative Societies and banks, held early in September at Bombay under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Mehra, Secretary of the N.W. Railway Employees Co-operative Credit Society, requested the Government of India to appoint a special registrar and to enact special legislation applicable to railway co-operative societies and banks in India.

The Conference, in a resolution, pointed out that the aggregate membership of railway co-operatives in India was about 300,000, or about a third of the total number of railway employees in this country. As such the conference thought they constituted a unit large enough to warrant a special Act and a separate registrar. Moreover, railway employees had their own peculiar economic needs, which in many respects were distinct from those of agriculturists, artisans, rural and urban workers. The Railway Board was also asked by the meeting to exempt railway co-operatives from being charged commission by railway management. The meeting pointed out that railway co-operative credit societies and banks were organisations exclusively managed for the benefit of railwaymen, and the profits accruing therefrom were being utilised for welfare work.

(The Times of India, 5-9-1946).

Annual Meeting of Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., 27-9-1946: President's Address.

Addressing the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., at Bombay, on 27-9-1946, Mr. Kaji, President of the Society, referred to the various aspects of the Bombay Government rural reconstruction schemes, and hoped that the agriculturists' pressing claim for marketing, through an efficient marketing organization, would not be overlooked.

Need to Strengthen Provincial Marketing Society.- Mr. Kaji was of opinion, that the Provincial Marketing Society should be, if possible, ~~as~~ almost a pure federation of all the sale societies and purchase and sale unions in the Province. He further suggested the establishment of branches of the Provincial Organisation at important centres and for important commodities. These branches could be useful in facilitating grading, standardisation and processing, so that they could play a very important part in the development of the co-operative sale of agricultural produce in the Province. On the supply side, also, much better service could be rendered by the Provincial Marketing Society through its branches than otherwise. Besides, a large marketing staff was attached to the Co-operative Department from the Chief Marketing Officer to the Marketing ~~inspectors~~ Inspectors. He felt, that for the proper development of co-operative marketing, this whole staff of Marketing Officers should be attached or linked up to the Provincial Marketing Society, so that with the help of these district and taluka Officers, the work of standardisation, grading, processing, storing, ~~the~~ transport and propaganda might become easier and more efficient than was the case now.

Credit and Marketing.- Stressing the need for a closer link between credit and marketing, Mr. Kaji said that co-operative banks, village, district or provincial, should give loans to their members on conditions, that a certain percentage, if not the whole, of the members' produce should be sold through a co-operative marketing society. Representatives of marketing organisations should be elected on their directorates or managing committees. He urged that marketing, associated with the supply of agricultural ~~requirements~~ requisites, must be the principal object to which credit had to be attached, for all credit supplied but the ways and means to enable the agriculturist to buy and to maintain himself before he sold his produce.

(The Times of India, 28-9-1946).

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Mixture of Calcium with Wheat Flour:
Nutrition Advisory Committee's Suggestion.

The Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association is reported to have unanimously agreed that the Indian diets, which are largely composed of cereals, are generally deficient in calcium and vitamins. The committee has, therefore, suggested that the staple cereals ~~should~~ should be fortified with mineral salts. Wheat or wheat ~~products~~ flour should be fortified with calcium. The salt recommended is calcium carbonate which should be used in proportion to one part for 640 parts of flour.

The addition of calcium carbonate, the committee recommends, should be made compulsory in large mills where 'atta' is produced. In ration areas, the proper amount of calcium carbonate should be separately given to the consumers along with their ration of wheat grain. The addition of this quantity of calcium carbonate will not, in the opinion of the committee, make the flour in any way injurious or unwholesome but will definitely add to its nutritive value.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-9-1946).

Housing.

Central Government's subsidised Housing Schemes: Madras Committee's Proposal for Increased Subsidy.

Reference was made at page 48 of our report for April, 1946, to the Central Government's schemes for constructing 2 million houses throughout the country for industrial and other workers. It is understood that a committee constituted by the Madras Government to make recommendations in regard to the scheme has suggested a target of 100,000 houses for the Madras Presidency. As each house satisfying in the specifications laid down by the Housing Committee of the Standing Labour Sub-Committee (vide pages 42-44 of the report of this Office for March, 1946) would cost at least Rs. 4,000 (nearly three times the original estimate), the committee is reported to have recommended that the Central Government should be requested to raise its maximum subsidy from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500.

The committee also expressed the view that whenever organisations like City Improvement Trust Boards and such other public bodies came forward to undertake the house-building programme, loans free of interest should be advanced. Only in the matter of steel, the committee felt, standardising of parts for mass production would be useful as other housing materials like timber, bricks etc., were available in local markets.

The recommendations of the committee, it is reported, might form part of agenda of the next session of the tripartite labour conference of the Government of India.

(The Hindu, dated 22-9-1946).

Modern Quarters for Servicemen: War Department's Plans.

More modern quarters and better living conditions for Indian personnel and officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Army and the Royal Indian Air Force in peace are proposed in a report, issued by a special inter-Services committee set up by the War Department. At the outset, the committee undertook an extensive tour of India to obtain views, special regard being paid to Indian opinion down to the lowest ranks. The committee's report is based on two main considerations. The first is to ensure that there will not in future be discrepancies in accommodation between the Services. The other is the provision of conditions which will approximate to a "home" atmosphere as opposed to uninteresting and dreary lines. To avoid delay, the committee has submitted its report in sections in order of priority. Recommendations on the future type of medical inspection rooms, unit schools, health centres, children's schools, women's institutes in married lines, parade grounds and playing fields are yet to come.

Standard Block to Hold 160 Men.- A standard block to hold 160 men is, in the committee's view, the most suitable accommodation, for unmarried personnel. The unit of a standard block or barrack is a 40-men block or 'brick'. The main components of a 40-men block are four barrack rooms, a quiet room and verandahs. The recommendation to accommodate ten men in each barrack room was made after consideration of the latest views on the subject. It is recommended that each room should be 41 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. Each man should be provided with a steel almirah, a steel cup-board, a steel folding chair and a bed (the charpoy, it was learnt, is universally disliked). Water-borne sanitation and hot and cold water would be provided in barracks. An ablution room would have facilities for washing and drying small items of clothing. It is proposed to have fans and central heating in all living rooms in the barracks and electric lights throughout. Equipment would include one full-size mirror surmounted with an electric clock near the exit and an automatic cold drinking water installation. Modern lay-out and apparatus have been recommended for kitchens. Provision has been made for the preparation of vegetarian and non-vegetarian diets. Dining rooms would have tables, fans, electric lights, central heating and deep verandahs.

The committee's recommendations in respect of single officer's and nursing officers' quarters make little change in existing standards. The committee however strongly recommends that in each block of nursing officers quarters there should be air-conditioned rooms for the use of those coming off night duty.

Family Life.- As regards married quarters, three main rooms are recommended. These would be a combined dining and sitting room, a parents' bed room and a children's bed room. Two types of quarters are recommended, one for the higher grade of personnel and the other for the medium and lower grades. The only difference is that the dining and sitting room for the latter type would be slightly smaller because there is less furniture. The committee's recommendations are based on the view that the object of married quarters is to enable men to live with their families. The housing of the family should be the basis of calculation rather than a man's seniority, which is the present system. The main items of furniture recommended for married quarters are built-in cupboards, dining tables, chairs, book cases, table lamps, ceiling fans, beds, cookers, ice boxes and floor coverings. Water-borne sanitation again is recommended for all quarters.

Amenities.- The committee has recommended the provision of unit amenity blocks. Facilities which are recommended for these blocks are a recreation room, games room, canteen, grocery, bar, library, reading room, barber's shop, facilities for showing 16-millimetre films, and a mineral water factory. Throughout, modern furniture and equipment and restful colour schemes are recommended.

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

Annual Report of Employers' Association of Northern
India for the Year 1945.

The following information about the conditions of work of labourers employed in factories controlled by member concerns of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, is taken from the 9th ~~Annual~~ Annual Report of the Association for the period 1-1-1945 to 31-12-1945, presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Cawnpore on 12-9-1945.

Number of Workers.- The number of workers employed in member concerns of the Association, during the period, fell from 85,144 during the previous year, to 80,055 in 1945, in Cawnpore, and from 22,622 to 21,877 in the other centres; the total thus decreasing from 107,766 to 101,932. The drop in the figures of labour employed was due to retrenchment after the conclusion of the war and affected particularly the leather industry.

Complaints.- The total number of complaints (labour) received during 1945 was 786 as against 728 during the previous 11 months period; the number of complaints thus showed an increase of 7.96 per cent. The reports states that labour continued freely to take advantage of the conciliation machinery set up in 1938 by the provincial Government under the Labour Commissioner, and that the majority of complaints continued to be received direct by the government Labour Office from workers; but a higher percentage of complaints was received from labour Unions, as compared with the previous year. Although no unions are recognised by the Association, Union representatives continued to appear on behalf of workers in conciliation proceedings in their personal capacity.

The total number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner was 587 as against 357 in the previous 11-month period. The findings in 85.18 per cent of these cases were ~~in~~ in favour of the Association, in 15.12 per cent against, and in 1.53 per cent neutral. In 0.17 per cent of the cases decisions were pending at the close of the year.

~~Placement Record~~

Labour Bureau: Placement Record.- The number of men registered in the Association's Labour Bureau during 1945 was 10,680 as against 15,663 for the previous year (11-month period), and the number for whom employment was found 7579 as against 9,258, the relative percentages of men found employment to those registered for the two years under comparison being ~~88~~ 70.96 and 67.75. The report points out that attention had again to be drawn to the fact that all Cawnpore Members of the Association were not filling in their requirements of labour from the Labour Bureau.

During the year the activities of the Government Labour Exchange were considerably extended particularly in regard to technical personnel. An advisory committee was also established on which the Secretary represents the Association.

99.7 per cent of the workers registered for employment at the Labour Bureau were from the United Provinces as against 99.48 for the previous year.

The percentage of literates among the workers registered, decreased by 4.95 from 29.68 in 1944 to 24.75 in 1945; the reason for this drop, that report states, is that most of the men registered were from amongst Scheduled Castes who are employed in the leather industry. The test of literacy applied, however, is a very low one, being upto 3rd Class vernacular standard.

Strikes.- The year under review showed an increase in the number of strikes both in Cawnpore and outstations. The number of workers involved in strike in member concerns rose from 1,845 in the previous 11-month period to 29,128 in 1945 (8,256 in Cawnpore and 20,892 in outstations). The number of working days lost was 105,781 (18,284 in Cawnpore and 87,497 in outstations), and the amount lost in wages was Rs. 116,569 (Rs. 25,744 in Cawnpore and Rs. 92,825 in outstations). The corresponding figures for the period ~~in 1944~~ 1-2-1944 to 31-12-1944 were only 21,835 working days and Rs. 21,866. The report adds that the number of strikes in Cawnpore during the year was 42 and of these ten occurred in the month of August; they concerned oil mills.

The main demands in connection with strikes during the year were, as during last year, for higher basic wages, increase in War dear food ~~allowance~~ Allowance and for gratuity and Victory Bonus.

^{highest} War Dear Food Allowance, Gratuity and Supply of Food Grains.- The ~~highest~~ weighted cost of living index figures recorded during the period under review were for the general cost of living index 320 in September, 1945 (base, August 1939=100) and for the subsidiary cost of living index, 272 in April 1945; the corresponding ~~lowest~~ lowest figures being 294 (May) and 264 (May) respectively. The War Dear Food Allowance ~~is linked to the cost of living index~~ ~~of Cawnpore and outstations~~ ~~members who are supplying foodgrains at concessional rates in accordance with the cost of living index prices, the scales are linked to the subsidiary index and in all other cases they have been linked to the general cost of living index figures;~~ paid by the majority of the Association's members is linked to the cost of living index. In the case of Cawnpore members and those outstation members who are supplying foodgrains at concessional rates in accordance with the Association's prices, the scales are linked to the subsidiary index and in all other cases they have been linked to the general cost of living index figures. The ~~pay level up to which~~ War Dear Food Allowance was paid was Rs. 150 a month in the cotton, Woollen, leather and jute industries and tanneries. In the first three, the scale of allowance corresponding to a cost of living index above 200 was a minimum of 6 1/2 annas per day plus 1.4 pies per day per point of increase beyond 200 upto 350; while in the last two the minimum payable was 5 annas a day and 1 pie per point of increase beyond 200 upto 350, per worker per day.

Members in the cotton, woollen, leather and jute industries in Cawnpore declared a gratuity of Re. 0-4-0 in the rupee on the basic wages, and the majority of the remaining members a gratuity ranging from Re. 0-2-0 in the rupee to Re. 0-4-0 in the rupee on basic wages.

The supply of grains at concessional rates through mills grain shops continued throughout the year and in Cawnpore 101 mill grain shops operated under the Industrial scheme. Supplies with the exception of sugar, salt and pulses (Dals) continued to be drawn from Government. The total bulk cost to members of grains purchased during the year was Rs. 18,723,518

as against Rs. 14,573,526/- for the previous 11 months.

Supply of Quinine.- The Association continued to purchase supplies of Quinine from Government during the year under review and was able to assist members to meet their demands.

Legal Aid to Workers in House Rent Cases.- The Association continued during the year to take up cases in regard to increase in house rents and attempts at ejection of workers by land-lords. During the year under review 138 cases were registered with the Association. Of the 53 cases referred to Court, 39 had been decided by the end of the year; of these 34 were in favour of workers, and 5 against; 14 cases were pending at the end of the year.

General Situation.- As a whole labour remained steadily at work, free use continued to be made by workers of the conciliation machinery established by Government; and Government also in connection with strikes used the powers under Defence of India Rules, 81-A, in connection with adjudication proceedings. The report regrets, however, that although Government took prompt steps in ordering adjudication proceedings, the provision in the Defence of India Rules against those inciting or taking part in illegal strikes had not been enforced. Workers' Unions, on the whole, continued to support the war effort and, till the cessation of hostilities, persuaded the workers to adopt constitutional methods for putting forward their grievances. The main unions operating in Cawnpore during the year were the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, Oil Mills Workers' Union, the Cawnpore Tannery and Leather Workers' Union (all affiliated to the Trade Union Congress) and the National Mill Mazdoor Union and the Cawnpore Leather Workers' Union (affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour).

(Summarised from a copy of the report sent by the Employers' Association of Northern India to this Office, 19-9-1946).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Orissa during 1944-45.

Number of Unions.- One trade union, viz., the Sambalpur Colliery Workers' Union, was registered during the year under review, bringing the total number of 'registered' trade unions in Orissa to 4.

Membership.- The total membership of the four unions at the end of the year under review was 1494 as against 653 for three unions in 1943-44. The new union had 500 members ~~including 24 female members~~ including 24 female members, while the Cuttack Press Workers' Union showed a slight decrease in membership.

Finance.- During the year the total income of the unions, exclusive of an opening balance of about Rs. 381, was about Rs. 1,541 and total expenditure amounted to roughly Rs. 1615. One of the unions ~~spent~~ had no closing balance and the other three together had closing balance of about Rs. 607.

(Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Union Act, for the year 1944-45, Superintendent, Orissa Government Press, Cuttack, 1946).

All-India Federation of Ordnance Establishments.

At a recent meeting of the All-India Ordnance Workers' Conference at Agra, it was decided to form an All-India Federation of Ordnance Establishments. The Ordnance workers propose to send a deputation to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, head of the Interim Government, to represent to him ~~their~~ their case against retrenchment.

(The Statesman, 28-9-1946).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Orissa to go Dry by 1948.

On 13-9-1946 the Orissa Assembly passed a non-official resolution recommending to the Government to take immediate steps for bringing into force the Prohibition Act of 1937, so as to introduce prohibition in the entire Orissa Province. Speaking on the resolution, Mr. Hare Krishna Mehtab, the Premier, assured that prohibition would be in full swing in the whole Province by 1948. Steps would be taken by the end of October 1946 in the direction and the Government contemplated to take more drastic steps than provided in the Prohibition Act of 1937 by making the contravention of the prohibition law a cognizable offence.

(The Hindu, dated 16-9-1946).

Youths to be Conscripted for Social Work:
U.P. Government's Social Service Scheme.

United Provinces

The United Provinces Government will introduce from next year a scheme for employing the youth of the Province for social services. The substance of the scheme is that every young man, who has finished his secondary education, will have to render one year's free social service to the community. The cadets will receive a general cultural and intellectual education in a camp or camps situated in the rural areas and will have to undergo an intensive course of physical training. After this preliminary physical and mental reconditioning, they will have to carry out projects of manual work, including agricultural labour, and take up the work of liquidating adult illiteracy. They will work under the actual conditions in which the Indian labourer works and in accordance with well-planned programmes. In the end, a certificate of having completed the course will be given.

The Scheme proposes to debar those who do not offer themselves for recruitment from all privileges accruing from their secondary education diploma. They will, for example not be eligible for service under Government or any institution recognised by the Government or for admission to any technical or training institution recognised by the Government. Such students may also be debarred from getting admission into Universities.

(The Hindu, dated 14-9-1946).

Removal of Social Disabilities of Harijans:
Bombay Government Bill.

On 25-9-1946, the Bombay Legislative Assembly passed the first reading of Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Bill, 1946, for the removal of certain social disabilities of Harijans (Depressed Classes).

Introducing the Bill, Mr. Tapsee, Minister for Fisheries and Backward Classes, pointed out, that it was not a new one. A Bill on similar lines had been introduced during the regime of the last Congress Ministry. It had been referred to a Select Committee and the Committee had also reported on the Bill. By then, however, the Congress Ministry resigned. The present Bill was based on the old Bill as it emerged from the Select Committee with certain alterations.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, attached to the Bill, states that the Government has already taken executive action to allow Harijans equal rights of enjoyment of public amenities, of access to public roads and institutions and of using public conveyances. The Object of this Bill is to penalise anyone preventing any Harijan from exercising those rights on the ground that he is a Harijan. The Bill also provides that customs or usages imposing civil disabilities under which the Harijans were at present suffering shall in no circumstances be recognised by courts or by any local authority.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-9-1946;
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part V,
dated 15-9-1946, pages 216-218).

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Assam's 5-Year Plan for Public Health: Drive against
Malaria and Tuberculosis launched.

Press Note

According to an Assam Government/issued in the second week of September, the Public Health Department of the Province has already taken up for implementation the following schemes as part of its five year development plans:- (1) anti-malaria scheme, (2) provincial anti-T.B. organization and (3) provision of a Public Health Engineer and staff.

Anti-malaria Scheme.- Under the anti-malaria scheme it is proposed to expand the present malaria section into a headquarters unit with four malaria units and to that end an Assistant Director of Public Health (Malarology) and five Assistant Malarologists will be immediately recruited. The Malaria Section will co-ordinate all anti-malaria measures and projects in the Province and also take up new areas for intensive anti-malaria ~~measures and projects in the Province and also take up~~ work.

Anti-Tuberculosis Scheme.- Under the Anti-Tuberculosis Scheme, it is proposed to have at least one T.B. Clinic for each sub-division where such diagnosis can be carried out. To begin with, one clinic will be opened at each district headquarters. To organise the work and to supervise the clinic and also to co-ordinate the work throughout the Province, a Provincial Tuberculosis Officer will shortly be appointed. There will also be a Mobile X-ray unit fitted up in a Motor Van, which will visit each clinic for specified periods.

Public Health Engineer Scheme.- Under the Public Health Engineer Scheme, an experienced Public Health Engineer, will be appointed shortly. He will advise in matters of water supplies, sanitary engineering, drainage, permanent anti-malaria works and allied subjects.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-9-1946).

Provincial Health Ministers to meet at Delhi in
October, 1946.

A conference of the Health Ministers from all provinces is to be held at New Delhi, on 10-10-1946, and subsequent days under the presidency of Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, Health Member in the Interim Government. It is understood that problems relating to improvement of sanitation in the rural areas all over the country on the lines of the Bhole Committee's recommendations, and questions relating to public health administration in the districts will be considered at the conference. At present there is stated to be considerable unevenness in the standards of health administration as between one province and another, Bihar and Bengal being particularly backward in this respect.

Another subject, which is likely to come up for discussion, is the accuracy of vital statistics. The latest preliminary report on health conditions in India in 1945, issued by the Public Health Commissioner with the the Government of India, reveals that in certain provinces "fevers" claim between 50 and 75 per cent of the total mortality, while "all other causes" claim another 15 per cent. Another striking feature of the report is that the birth-rate, according to statistics supplied by the provinces, had dropped from 34 during the previous decade to 26 per thousand during 1943-44, while the death-rate had dropped to 24 per thousand during the same year. These figures show such marked variations from those of previous years that the provincial Ministers may be requested to overhaul their machinery for the collection of vital statistics in their respective areas. It is stated that during the Bengal famine, a great many districts were so far behind with their vital statistical work that frequently for months no reports came from district headquarters. In one or two provinces the collection of vital statistics is admitted to be largely a matter of guess work.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-9-1946;
The Hindu, dated 22-9-1946).

EDUCATION.

Basic Education to be introduced in Central Provinces.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has decided to introduce basic education in the Province at an early date and for this purpose will select one good Indian middle school in each 'tahsil' and take it over under Government management during 1946. The programme for retraining of teachers in basic education has been drawn up and the selection of schools, the posting of suitable teachers and equipping schools with craft materials will commence in the current year. Eighty-two schools will come under the scheme throughout the Province, involving an expenditure of Rs. 180,400 for the current financial year.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 3-9-1946).

Post-War Educational Schemes of Indian States.

The following is a summary of some of the postwar educational schemes that have been drawn up by a number of Indian States.

Hyderabad.- Hyderabad has a 14-year plan costing Rs. 500 million. (For details, see page 56 of this Office report for February, 1946).

Cochin.- Cochin's plan envisages free, compulsory primary education for all boys and girls between the ages of six and eleven and the establishment of a technological institute for mechanical, electrical and civil engineering.

Patiala.- Patiala is to introduce compulsory education for children between six and ten years of age in the State gradually. It is also proposed to establish a teachers' training school and a school for the deaf and blind.

Jodhpur.- ~~Bhopal~~ Jodhpur has five five-year plans implementation of which will bring education in the State up to the standards laid down in the Sargent Report.

Bhopal.- Bhopal has a 25-year plan of educational development, with special emphasis on agriculture and industry.

Bahawalpur.- 160 primary schools for boys and 47 for girls throughout the State will be opened in Bahawalpur.

Bundi, Palitana, (Western India), Kapurthala, Rajkot, Patna and Radhanpur have also drawn up similar schemes.

Mysore.- The Mysore Government's schemes so far have been drawn up on the principle that every village or groups of villages maidan areas (i.e. plains) having a population of more than 500 should have one school - the basis for Malnad areas (i.e. uplands) being 300. During 1946-47, 400 new primary schools are to be opened. The Government had sanctioned in 1941-42, a four-year scheme for opening 1,000 primary schools, which was completed within three years. It is now proposed to provide schools for villages having a population of more than 500 in maidan areas and more than 200 in Malnad areas. (The Statesman, 17-9-1946; The Times of India, 12-9-1946).

THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

Ahmedabad Textile Workers to get Dearness Allowance
till March 1947: Bombay Industrial Court Award .

The Bombay Industrial Court passed orders, on 13-9-1946, for the continuation of dearness allowance to textile workers in Ahmedabad on the same scale for a further seven months from 8-8-1946. Either party can apply for revision or continuation in March 1947.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that the Court had given an award in August 1945, fixing the scale of dearness allowance at 76 per cent, (vide page 35 of the report of this Office for September, 1945). This award terminated on 8-8-1946. The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, applied to the Court for revision of the above fixing scale and asked for full neutralization of the rise in the cost of living. The Mill-owners' Association ~~exists~~ in Ahmedabad contested the application, pleading that the condition of the industry did not warrant the revision, since profits of the industry had decreased as compared to previous years.

(The Times of India, 14-9-1946).

Control Measures.

Bombay Essential Commodities and Cattle (Control)
Bill, 1946.

In view of the unsatisfactory supply position of certain essential commodities such as cattle-feed, charcoal and firewood, the Government of Bombay has brought forward a Bill to continue control on these commodities and cattle on the expiry of control on these commodities from 30-9-1946.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, the Central Government proposes to enact legislation which will continue such of the existing control orders as relate to food-stuffs, cotton and woollen textiles, paper, petroleum and other commodities. In respect of such items as cattle-feed, charcoal and firewood, however, control by the provincial Government as hitherto is still essential as the supply position of these articles is still unsatisfactory. The Bill has been framed for the purpose of continuing control on the production, supply and distribution of cattle and essential commodities such as charcoal, drugs, firewood, milk and ready-made clothing of all kinds.

The Bill was passed by the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 17-9-1946, ~~by the~~ and by the Bombay Legislative Council on 18-9-1946 and is to come into force on 1-10-1946. The operation of the Bill is limited to two years.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
14-9-1946, Part V, pages 219-224;
The Times of India, 18-9-1946).

Relaxation of Controls.

Imports of Capital Goods from Non-Sterling Area:
Control Relaxed.

A communiqué, issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, in the second week of September, announces that it has been decided to allow importation of capital goods and machinery from hard currency countries if it is proved that the prices in United Kingdom for a comparable plant of equal performance are appreciably higher and/or the period of delivery is longer.

According to the communiqué, representations have recently been received by the Government of India that machinery manufacturers in the United Kingdom quote considerably higher prices and longer periods of delivery for capital goods as compared with the terms offered by manufacturers in hard currency countries. With a view to assisting industrialists, it has been decided that the responsibility for ascertaining non-availability of capital goods in the sterling area should, henceforth, be assumed by Government.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-9-1946).

Factories (Control of Production) Order, 1942,
Cancelled.

The Government of India has withdrawn the Factories (Control of Production) Order 1942 (vide page 57 of the report of this Office for December 1942), according to a notification in the gazette of India, dated 7-9-1946. This order was promulgated as a war measure on 4-12-1942, giving statutory powers to ~~the~~ Government to exercise control over factories engaged in the production of fabrication of metal or in any engineering work.

(The No. 984, The gazette of India, dated 7-9-1946, Part I, page 1346).

Three Ordinances to continue War-time Controls:
Many Minor Controls Relaxed.

A number of emergency measures made during the war period which were due to expire on 1-10-1946, either because they had only been made for the duration of the war and six months thereafter, or because they encroached upon the legislative or executive authority of provinces, and, therefore, would to the extent of that encroachment, cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the war-time Proclamation of Emergency, were given a new lease of life by three Ordinances promulgated by the Governor-General on 25-9-1946. The new Ordinances, however, make no mention of a variety of war-time controls on trade and industry which, therefore, lapse automatically. Among the controls that have now been lifted are dealings in bullion, fixation of minimum prices of Government securities, prohibition of advances against specific commodities (except foodstuffs), prohibition of certain lines of business on stock exchanges, prohibition of the sale of coins and notes below their face value and of the acquisition of coins in excess of one's requirements, and control of trade in new motor vehicles.

Control over Essential Articles.- Of the three new Ordinances, the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance, 1946, empowers the Government of India to continue to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in foodstuffs (including edible oilseeds and oils), cotton and woollen textiles, paper (including newsprint), petroleum and petroleum products, spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles, coal, iron, steel and mica.

Control over Requisitioned Land.- The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Ordinance, 1946, does not authorise Government to command fresh land and buildings but only empowers it to continue to hold what has been requisitioned already or to acquire such property altogether. Power is, of course, given to derequisition. This Ordinance, it is explained, is intended not so much to continue requisitioning as to meet cases in which huge and costly structures have been erected during the war on sites requisitioned, especially in Assam and Bengal, for the purpose of building aerodromes, etc.

Continuance of Emergency Provisions: D.I.R. 81-A on Strikes and Lockouts to Stay.- The third Ordinance, viz., the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946, seeks to prolong the life of the Defence of India ~~Rules~~ Act of 1939, and the rules made thereunder. A number of modifications and deletions have however been made. The following are among the provisions of the old Defence of India Rules which it has been decided to continue through this Ordinance. First, shipping and aircraft, which is under Central control even in peace time. Secondly, essential supplies and work under which head there are three sub-divisions, namely, the regulation of electrical energy and of accommodation in the Chief Commissioner's ~~own~~ provinces, avoidance of strikes and lock-outs, and control of import and export. Thirdly, control of transport with a view to ensuring priority for foodstuffs, etc. Fourthly, financial provisions. Fifthly, control of trading with the enemy and of enemy firms.

Under the heading "Financial Provisions", it has been decided to retain the control of the use, disposal of, or dealings in, gold or silver imported into India; restrictions on the export of money and gold; provisions relating to foreign exchange; restrictions on the purchase and export of securities; and control of capital issues. Most of the provisions under this heading are calculated to help exchange control, which it is necessary to continue because certain currencies are still difficult and have to be conserved. As the result of India's assent to the International Monetary Control Regulations, she has to carry out certain obligations which can ~~the~~ be done only by exchange control. Legislation to place exchange control on a sound footing will shortly be undertaken, and these rules are, meanwhile, intended to serve that object.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 25-9-1946, pages 711-748 ;
The Times of India, 28-9-1946).

Import Control Relaxed.

By two successive notifications the Government of India has removed a number of articles from import restrictions and relaxed the control on a number of others.

By the first, dated 12-9-1946, the Government of India has allowed all persons to import a number of goods from any country whatsoever. These include potatoes, gum, arabic, copra, coconuts, fish products, cashewnuts, canned and bottled provisions, tallow, saccharine, matches, hemp manufactures, dyeing and tanning substances excluding wattle extract, hops, cinchona bark, plumbago and graphite and metallic ores other than anti-mony ore, ~~antimony ore~~ ochres and other pigment ores.

The second notification, issued on 17-9-1946, enables a number of articles to be imported free of licence from sterling area countries. Among the articles thus decontrolled are iron and steel articles including machine screws, wire rope, wire nails and bolts and nuts of certain specifications, precision and measuring tools, diesel engines, motors and generators, pneumatic plants, dyes derived from coal tar, China clay, plumbago, raw silk and silk yarn, cotton sewing thread, woollen cloth and carpets, motor spirit, kerosene, various kinds of machines, ships including steamers, launches and boats and industrial diamonds.

(~~The~~ No. 19-I.T.C./46, The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 12-9-1946, pages 693-694; No. 20-I.T.C/46, The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 17-9-1946, pages 705-707).

Textile Industry.

Handloom Cotton Cloth Prices to be Controlled in Madras.

In view of the unreasonably high prices prevailing in the province for handloom woven cotton cloth, the Government of Madras has decided to introduce, in respect of such cloth, a simple scheme of price control. Under the scheme there will be no inter-reference with the wages paid to the actual weavers and the real object is to check profiteering by middlemen. With this end in view the Government has decided that there should be no sales of handloom cloth from one wholesaler to another and that every wholesale dealer should sell direct to a retail dealer. Producers of handloom cloth will be allowed a margin of 15 per cent over the actual cost of production while the dealer's margin of profit will be 4 per cent to the wholesaler and 10 per cent to the retailer on the producers' ~~margin~~ ~~margin~~ price. To help the consumers and to facilitate the administration of the control, the marking of prices by means of price labels will be insisted on. ~~Provision~~ Provision has been made for an addition of 5 per cent margin for retailers in respect of articles like Tapestries, Cretonnes, Brocades, etc., which cannot be sold quickly.

To give effect to this scheme, the Government of Madras has promulgated the Madras Handloom Cotton (Price Control) Order, 1946.

(The Hindu, 11-9-1946).

Textile Mission to U.K. to Secure Capital Equipment.

A Textile Industrialists' Mission, sponsored by the Interim Government, is shortly leaving India on an one month's tour of the United Kingdom. The delegation will be led by Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersay, Chairman of the Textile Control Board, and will include Sir Fred Stones, Honorary Textile Adviser to the Government of India. The delegation will investigate the possibilities of procuring textile machinery for India. In addition to this the delegation will also investigate the possibility of obtaining machinery for the manufacture of textile equipment in India in the future.

In this connection, it is pointed out that all through the years of war, the Indian textile industry had to work to capacity without any new machinery or even replacements being available. Soon after the war ended, the textile industry placed, a considerable amount of orders for textile equipment in the United Kingdom. Some of this machinery has begun to arrive in the country. Other consignments are on the way.

(The ~~Hindustan~~ Hindu, dated 25-9-1946).

Food.

Food situation in India Critical: Food Minister's Review.

In a talk broadcast from the All-India Radio, Delhi, on 23-9-1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Minister in the Interim Government, warned the country that with the failure of crops within the country, short allocations from abroad, a heavy shortfall in the arrival of these allocations, difficulties of transport in Siam and Java, and non-materialization of expected imports from Argentina, India was faced with a grave situation within the next two or three months. The following is a summary of his broadcast talk.

Main Causes of Scarcity: 8 Million Tons Deficit.- Even before the war, India, to meet her requirements, imported over a million tons, sometimes two million tons, of foodstuffs, principally rice, mainly from Burma. This year, India had the misfortune of a major failure of both the 'kharif' and 'rabi' crops, due to drought, causing an estimated loss of rice and millets in southern and Central India of 3 million tons and of 'rabi' crops in Northern India of 4 million tons.

There were only three ways of facing this calamity. The first was to increase production of crops which could be grown between the major harvests, the second was to secure assistance from abroad and the third was to distribute the incidence of shortage as evenly and equitably as possible.

As regards the first, Dr. Prasad said that encouragement was given both by Central and provincial Governments to grow short-term crops; subsidies were granted to cultivators and concessions were given in the form of revenue remissions, water supply and free manure. It was, however, not expected that these subsidiary crops could really break the edge of the scarcity except to a very limited extent in local areas.

Shortfall in Promised Imports.- In the efforts to secure adequate imports of grain from abroad, India had had a series of disappointments. At the time of the visit of the Indian Delegation to Washington (vide pages 59-60 of this Office report for February, 1946), the world's wheat demands were 20 million tons against supplies of 12 million tons and the demands for rice for the second quarter only were two million tons against supplies of 528,000 tons. It had, therefore, never been possible for India to get a quota from abroad sufficient to meet her demands; nor had it been possible for her to get firm allocations of wheat or wheat substitutes, such as maize. The International Emergency Food Council had had to proceed month by month programming such supplies as became available. Of rice India was allocated for the second quarter of the year 146,000 tons against a demand for 500,000 tons, and for the second half of the year the allocation was 270,000 tons against a demand for 700,000 tons. Against the minimum import demand of 4,000,000 tons, India had till now received only 1,250,000 tons, of which only 175,000 tons were rice. The recent seamen's strike in the United States of America, had been another major development, meaning a short-fall in October arrivals of nearly 100,000 tons, if not more. Also India's purchases from Argentina of maize and other grain were still being held up for want of export licences and the short-fall in arrivals against previous calculations in October would be no less than 60,000 tons. The three ships carrying about 24,000 tons of wheat which had recently been diverted to India by UNRRA, would have

been a great help if they had arrived in time, but the seamen's strike would affect the loading of these ships also. Again, supplies of rice from Brazil had been delayed.

Supplies from Far East.- The supply position in the far East had also deteriorated. India had been allotted 207,500 tons by the International Emergency Food Council from Burma and Siam for the second half of this year. It is now estimated that India was not likely to get more than 157,000 tons out of this allocation. The short-fall from Siam was due largely to internal ~~difficulties~~ difficulties and lack of sufficient facilities of transport some of which India had tried to meet. The prospects from Burma were a little better than estimated a few months ago, but as the supplies from Siam, Burma and Indo-China were ~~nationally~~ treated as a pool by the International Emergency Food Council, the excess supply from Burma would not all come to India. As regards supplies of rice from Indonesia (vide page 62 of this Office report for August, 1946), Dr. Prasad stated that due to certain difficulties supplies from that source so far had been inconsiderable and might not be very appreciable in the critical months ahead.

Provinces' Efforts Praised.- The fact that under these circumstances a wholesale breakdown had so far been avoided had been due largely to the efforts made by the people and by the Provincial and State Governments to secure their own internal surplus and to economize their internal consumption. In this connection Dr. Prasad paid special tribute to the efforts of the Governments of the United Provinces, Madras and Bombay.

Present Critical Position: Further Cut in Cereal Ration Feared.- The position on 1-9-1946 was that the overall stocks held by the deficit provinces and States represented about six weeks' reserve. Since then the stock position had deteriorated further owing to the factors mentioned above and the next two or three months were likely to be critical. The Food Minister emphasised that India will have to depend mainly on her own efforts to prevent a breakdown and warned that it might become necessary to impose a further reduction in the ration of cereals, particularly of rice. Appealing to the producers and traders to bring forward their stocks he guaranteed the former a fair price and indicated to the latter that Government would not permit any further rise in cereal prices. The critical period was short, the current crop which would be available by the end of the year was expected to be normal and according to the Food Minister "the over-all picture, although ~~gloomy~~ gloomy was not altogether dark".

(The Hindustan Times, 24-9-1946).

Indo-Argentine Trade Agreement: India to get Food for Jute.

As a result of the efforts of the Indian Food Mission to Argentine, led by Diwan Chaman Lall (vide page 39 of the report of this Office for June 1946), an Indo-Argentine Trade Agreement was signed at Buenos Aires towards the end of September.

The basic terms are: Argentina promises export permits immediately for 140,000 tons of maize and 25,000 tons of wheat products already purchased by India; India undertakes to deliver to Argentina before the end of the year 30,000 tons of jute and a further 30,000 tons during the first six months of 1947; India also undertakes to facilitate Argentine purchases in India of rubber truck tyres and anti-locust insecticides. ~~Diwan Chaman~~ A clause of the agreement provides that every facility shall be given to each other by both countries in regard to purchases made in future on a value-for-value basis and both will facilitate each other's commerce.

Diwan Chaman Lall, soon after his arrival in Buenos Aires, obtained export permits for the 144,000 tons of foodstuffs which are already on their way to India. The agreement completes the transaction by making nearly 500,000 tons of foodstuffs available for the people of India.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1946).

Central Government Subsidy for Well Construction.

It is learnt that the Government of India has sent a communication to all provincial Governments, outlining a scheme for sinking of wells on a large scale and assuring them financial aid up to 50 per cent of the total cost.

The Government of India has already promised Rs. 12,500,000 to the Madras Government for having successfully organized a scheme by which 100,000 wells would be sunk during this year. The Punjab Government has decided to sink 15,000 wells with Persian wheels and would receive a subsidy from the Central Government. It is understood that the Central Government has asked the Bombay Government to sink 50,000 wells every year and if this scheme is accepted the Government would grant a subsidy on the same basis.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-9-1946).

6

"Dinner Packets" from U.S.: Madras Government's Order.

The Government of Madras has decided to order for the U.S.A. "dinner packets" at a cost of Rs. 200,000, in order to alleviate the critical food position in the province. These will contain four ounces of rice besides dehydrated vegetables, and spices. These, when cooked, will ~~weight~~ weigh 16 ounces. This will be sufficient for two meals for a single person. It is expected that the consignments will be delivered in the months of October, November and December.

(The Times of India, 10-9-1946).

Encouragement for Fruit Preserves Industry.

To assist the development of the fruit preservation industry, the Central Government has made a special allotment of 2,800 tons of sugar. This will be placed at the disposal of the Fruit Development Adviser to the Government of India, who will make allotments to individual manufacturers, after inspecting their equipment and satisfying himself regarding the quality of their products.

In addition, 1,700 tons of sugar are allotted direct by the Food Department to certain important manufacturers of preserved fruit, whose production capacity during the war was utilized for meeting the requirements of the Defence Services.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-9-1946).

Demobilisation and Resettlement.

830,000 Demobilised from Services, upto 31-8-1946.

According to demobilisation figures issued by the General Headquarters (India), over 830,000 men and women have now been demobilised from the three services. Of the figures for July this year, 79,211 were accounted for by the Indian Army, 586 by the Royal Indian Navy and 4,604 by the Royal Indian Air Force. The Army figure includes 62,105 Indian ranks, 1,534 officers, 306 members of the W.A.C. (I), the demobilisation of 2,605 B.O.Rs. attached to the Indian Army and 12,661 civilians. The total decrease in the strength of the Royal Indian Navy up to the end of July amounts to 17,842, including 536 W.R.I.N.S. Since V.-J. Day and up to the end of July, 810,555 men and women were reduced from the Indian Army. Of these, 664 were W.A.C.(I) officers and 1,777 were auxiliaries. Net decrease of officers serving in the Indian Army in all theatres is now 12,364. A total of 779,202 Indian ranks have been demobilised, including 27,929 civilians. In July, 430 Indian Army units were disbanded and 2 Indian State forces units were returned to their States, making a total of 4,069 Indian Army units disbanded and 63 I.S.F. units returned to Indian States, now amounts to 52,309 and Nepalese returned to Nepal 9,178. The R.I.A.F., during July, released 19 officers, 1,148 airmen and 3,437 enrolled ~~followers~~ followers. Total releases from the R.I.A.F. are 144 officers, 7,829 Airmen and 4,980 enrolled followers.

July 31.
Total number of
enrolled
to Indian

(Indian Information, 15-9-1946).

Land Colonization Cooperatives for Ex-Servicemen.

34,000 Men to be settled on 535,000 Acres.- To promote the welfare of demobilized service personnel and improve the agricultural economy of India, land colonization societies are to be set up in various provinces. At present the Government are reclaiming areas of land on which colonies will be ^{established, to be worked by} ex-Servicemen on co-operative lines. It is estimated that for these schemes about 535,000 acres will be available on which approximately 34,000 men can be settled.

Working of Cooperatives.- The co-operative society and not the individual will own the land but the individual will have full occupancy rights in his holding so long as he cultivates it for a period exceeding three years. Should ~~the~~ he fail to do this he will automatically cease to ~~the~~ be a member and his holding will be allotted to a fresh member.

Membership of a society will be confined to ex-Servicemen who are members of the province in which the colony is situated. He must own ~~the~~ no other land and must have been employed in agriculture before the war as well as having attended an agricultural course while he was in the Services. He must be willing to settle on the land and to work on it as a member of a co-operative colonization society, and be prepared to pay Rs. 500/= for a capital share. If a settler is unable to pay all the money at once, he can purchase one Rs. 50-share and a loan will be sanctioned to cover the balance which will be paid back over a period of years at small interest.

Members of all the three Services will be given equal opportunities to take part in any provincial scheme for which they are qualified; and to help tenants pay the cost of settling on the land, special grants are being made by the Central and provincial Governments and the Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund.

(The Statesman, 1 and 16-9-1946).

Mobile Sections of Employment Exchanges to be Established.

To accelerate the rate of placing of 274,660 ex-Servicemen and discharged war workers, already on the live registers of employment exchanges, as also to meet further needs, the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment has decided to establish mobile sections of employment exchanges. These mobile sections will visit areas remote from exchanges and where it is felt that there are sufficient applicants and/or vacancies to justify such visits.

(The Statesman, 17-9-1946).

Proposals to Reorganise Resettlement Directorate.

The Staff Correspondent of the Hindustan Times reports that Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the Member for Labour, Interim Government, is contemplating a reorganisation of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. Some sections in the statistical branch in the Directorate are to be abolished. Now that a Labour Statistical Bureau has started functioning, it is being urged that the statistical sections of the Resettlement Directorate should be merged with ~~this~~ this Bureau.

M.L.A.s' Proposals.- In this connection, it is understood that some members of the Central Assembly propose to meet the Labour Member to urge him the desirability of curtailing the establishment of the Directorate. They are likely to suggest the following changes in each Directorate:-

(1) Technical traing and vocation training directorate: The department should only contain staff necessary to co-ordinate the provincial training schemes. The rest should be retrenched.

(2) Publicity Directorate: A great many of the Public Relations officers are superfluous as canvassing for jobs, which is their main work, can be done more efficiently by managers and assistant managers of employment exchanges. The publication of the "Resettlement News Bulletin" should be stopped.

(3) Employment Exchange Directorate: There should be a vigorous Indianization drive in the Directorate. A large number of Indians who were sent for training to the U.K. have returned and should be appointed on higher jobs and those loaned by the British Ministry of Labour relieved.

(4) Rehabilitation of Disabled Men: A Central Act should be passed laying down that every employer should employ a certain number of disabled men.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-9-1946).

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Resettlement of Demobilized Medical Personnel.

It is understood that plans for expediting the resettlement of demobbed medical and nursing personnel and providing facilities for their training and education have been formulated and that the headquarters resettlement staff is being expanded. All provincial and State medical bureaux have been asked to advise ex-servicemen and women who wish to start private practice regarding the most suitable locality in the province in which they can conveniently practise. Every effort will be made to get doctors to be attached as honorary surgeons to the local hospitals where they practise.

Special Courses of Training.- Special courses of training at the Madras Medical College have been started in medicine, public health, nursing etc. It is proposed to train about 2,000 persons—150 sanitary inspectors, 100 health visitors, 180 midwives, 450 laboratory assistants, 450 field assistants, 12 health officers and inspectors, 538 nurse pupils, ten radiologists, etc. Ex-servicemen and women will be exempted from payment of tuition and examination fees and preference will be given to them in the grant of stipends.

Released medical licentiates will be admitted to condensed M.B. courses at the Calcutta Medical College during the next four years. Ninety seats are proposed to be reserved for them for the next November session. This is in addition to 150 licentiates who will be admitted to the Lake Medical College, Calcutta, which is expected to start functioning next year.

Subsidised Dispensaries.- In the Punjab 60 subsidized dispensaries have been started in the rural areas. Half of them will have male doctors in charge and the other half women. The former will be given a subsistence allowance of Rs. 100 per month and the latter Rs. 125 per month.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-9-1946).

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Madras Schemes for Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen.

Forty-two schemes for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen personnel in the province are pending implementation by the Madras Government. The schemes envisage provision of housing accommodation, land reclamation, water and other facilities to each ex-serviceman at selected centres. The Government hopes to give effect to 20 of these schemes shortly.

The Government has laid ~~it~~ down that the expenditure to be incurred on behalf of each settler should not exceed rupees 1,900 out of which rupees 700 will be contributed by the Central Government.

('Dawn', dated 22-9-1946).

U.P. Land Colonization Scheme for Ex-Servicemen.

The Government of the United Provinces has sanctioned the Bharsar Estate Colonization Scheme under which a colony for ex-servicemen is proposed to be established in Garhwal.

The Estate has an area of 504 acres. The Government will acquire the land and grants will be made to the prospective settlers. Loans, not exceeding Rs. 500 per settler, will also be allowed for the purchase of agricultural implements. Each holding will be of five acres in area, of which four acres will be for cultivation and one for orchard.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-9-1946).

Punjab Co-operative Department's Plans for Resettlement of
EX-Servicemen.

An ambitious programme of resettlement of ex-military personnel on co-operative lines is envisaged by the Punjab Co-operative Department. About half a dozen resettlement schemes have been prepared by the Department and will be put into operation after they have been sanctioned by the Government.

Co-operatives/Goods Transport Societies.— The first of the Department's ~~present~~ post-war development schemes to be shortly put into operation is the formation of co-operative goods transport societies. Under the scheme five societies will be started in the Punjab, one in each division with an allotment of 40 permits each for transport trucks. The maximum membership of each society will be limited to 250, thus absorbing a total of 1,250 ex-military personnel.

(The Statesman, 8-9-1946).

Government of India Sanctions 'Group Employment'
Scheme.

It is learnt that the ~~Government~~ Governor-General-in-Council has sanctioned the group employment scheme, referred to at pages 45-46 of the report of this Office for June, 1946, as an experimental measure for a period of six months. He has also approved the establishment of a Directorate of Group Employment (for a period of eight months), two depots and two record offices (for a period of seven months).

To enable the Director to make preliminary arrangements and for the setting up of the depots and to meet wages, rations and transport charges in the initial stages, the Director has been authorized to draw an advance not exceeding Rs. 100,000 per depot from the treasury of the district in which the depot is located. Three per cent interest will have to be paid for these advances. The headquarters of the Directorate will be at Sambalpur and the depots and record offices will be located at such suitable places as are selected by the Director.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-9-1946).

10 Welfare officers Appointed in Bengal.

The Government of Bengal has appointed 10 Resettlement and Welfare Officers recruited from amongst ex-military and ex-Civil Pioneer Force Officers, generally of the rank of Captain and above, in order to assist District Officers in the work of general welfare and resettlement of demobilized soldiers and their families.

("Dawn", dated 27-9-1946).

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Post War Reconstruction.

India's Post-War Trade Policy: Economist's Report on
U.S. Trade Proposals.

The Trade and Tariff Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Economists appointed by the Government of India has, in its report, published in the second week of September, recommended a number of modifications in the United States Proposals for the Expansion of World Trade and Employment and has defined the position the Government of India should take in regard to the proposals. The Sub-committee on trade and tariff was appointed to consider and report on the American proposals following a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists at Simla on 12 and 13-8-1946.

~~Commercial Policy~~

Objectives of Indian Commercial Policy: Need for State Regulation.-The report lays down that an appropriate commercial policy for India, should (1) be shaped primarily with reference to India's own needs as a country on the eve of rapid economic development which is necessary for the raising of the standard of living of her people; and (2) also take account of wider considerations and be adapted to enable India to take her place in ~~the~~ the world economy on a co-operative basis with a view to assisting the constructive effort which is being made for economic harmony and all-sided progress. It urges that to the extent to which India succeeds in raising the standard of living of her people, she will be making her greatest contribution to the recovery of world trade and employment, and points out that the task of securing a rapid and substantial rise in India's national income necessarily involves the adoption of a programme of planned economic development. For this purpose, India must equip ~~herself~~ herself with all the necessary instruments of regulation, control and direction of trade and enterprise.

Participation in World Trade Conference Recommended.- The report is, however, emphatic that it will not be in India's long-term interest to miss the opportunity of placing her point of view before a world conference both on behalf of herself and in the interest of other countries similarly situated. Also, certain special features of India's present economic position reinforce the general conclusion in favour of such participation. As a creditor nation India is interested in the expansion of world trade on a non-discriminatory basis to facilitate the smooth recovery of her loans. Also multilateral trade will enable her to utilise her export surplus with one country to buy capital goods in another. Further the success of India's expansionist programme is itself dependent on the prevalence of a high level of employment and activity in the rest of the world.

Negative Approach of American Proposals: Need to develop Backward Countries.- Criticising the American proposals the report complains that the entire approach is of a negative rather than a positive character. The proposals lay down what countries should not do rather than what they should do to help each other. According to the report if the basic objective of promoting world trade is to be attained, the proposals must be recast in a positive mould, and must, inter alia, place an obligation on the more advanced countries to assist the development of backward areas. The advanced countries can render such assistance, partly by

providing the capital goods and other means of economic development needed by the backward areas, and partly by being prepared to carry out the necessary re-adaptation of their own economies.

Modifications Recommended.- The report suggests the following main modifications in the American proposals :-

(i) Full employment in major industrial countries alone would not be enough to bring about full prosperity of other nations. For this purpose, it is equally essential, the Report emphasises, that the purchasing power and standards of living of the peoples of primary producing areas should improve through, among other measures, the maintenance of their purchasing power.

(ii) On the question of tariffs, the Report rejects the principle enunciated in the Proposals that any country should be called upon ~~xxx~~ to agree to a substantial reduction of tariffs and to complete elimination of tariff preferences irrespective of its position. In the case of undeveloped countries, it is necessary to take into account certain special factors which make it impossible for them to agree to a substantial reduction of tariffs and tariff preferences. With regard to India in particular, the following considerations are relevant and must be borne in mind: (1) The protective duties in India are few in number and in every case are imposed after a judicious examination of the needs and requirements of the industries concerned. They are also subject to a review both in regard to their levels and duration. (2) The general level of the Indian tariff is also moderate and would not admit of a substantial reduction. (3) Revenue duties provide a substantial proportion of the tax revenues of the Central Government in India and cannot safely be reduced without unduly curtailing the resources available to Government for its functions. (4) While India is prepared to surrender some of the preferences now enjoyed by her, such surrender should be effected only on a mutually advantageous basis.

(iii) As regards quantitative trade restrictions, the Report while agreeing that such restrictions should be used as sparingly as possible, considers that suitable exceptions should be devised to permit their use for constructive purposes, viz., to expand production and employment with a view to increasing the purchasing power of the people.

Claim for seat for India on Executive of World Trade Organisation.- Finally, the report stresses India's economic potentialities and her place as the leading Asiatic Nation and claims for India a permanent seat on the Executive Board of the International Trade Organisation.

(The Statesman, 10-9-1946).

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Meeting of Trade Policy Committee, New Delhi,
19 and 20-9-1946: Commerce Minister outlines
India's New Trade Policy.

A meeting of the Trade Policy Committee convened by the Government of India to advise it on the U.S. Government's Proposals for the Expansion of World Trade and Employment, met at New Delhi on 19 and 20-9-1946. The meeting was presided over by Mr. C.H. Bhabha, Commerce Minister in the Interim Government, and was attended among others, by four other members of the Interim Government, viz., Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. John Mathai, and Mr. C. Rajagopalachari; representatives of Indian States including Sir Sultan Ahmed and Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar; and representatives of industry, commerce and labour.

India's New Trade Policy: Commerce Minister's Address.— Opening the proceedings, Mr. C.H. Bhabha, the Commerce Minister outlined the principles which would guide the new Interim Government's trade policy. These are: Firstly, India must take full part in all international conferences and develop close and direct contacts with other countries and co-operate with them in the furtherance of world peace and freedom. In this connection Mr. Bhabha emphasised that a substantial increase of trade cannot be brought about by the hasty removal of so called trade barriers which must inevitably hamper the development of backward countries and sterilize the purchasing power and real income of their vast populations. Secondly, India's representatives will press the claims of industrially less advanced countries and suggest the adoption of measures which may lead to their economic advancement, thereby lending support to a policy which in the long run will benefit the leading industrial countries also. Thirdly, the new Government will strive to increase the export of manufactured Indian goods, the natural markets for which are the countries of Asia and Africa. Such exports are necessary to finance the imports of capital goods and equipment, technical advice and food and raw materials, which India needs to carry out the projected large scale expansion of industry and agriculture and the complete modernization of her methods of production. Fourthly, the new Government will take steps to control imports, not only by the use of tariffs, but by the application of more direct measures and all of which will ensure that India's limited resources are not frittered away on less essential goods and that the products of India's new industries are suitably and adequately protected.

Suggestions of the Committee.— Discussions during the two days revealed general agreement among the members on the following points: (i) India should reserve the right to use all economic measures such as tariffs, subsidies, etc., as would be essential for the planned development of the country for the purpose of raising the standard of living and the real income of her people; (ii) India should have a mercantile marine large enough to enable her to carry her coastal and foreign trade; (iii) The importance of internal trade should not be overshadowed by plans for the development of foreign trade; (iv) India should not agree to any system of voting in the International Organization to be set up which would not enable the views of economically backward countries to influence international trade policies; (v) If highly developed countries desire free access to raw materials, economically backward countries should have a reciprocal free access to capital goods and technological skill; (vi) Indians should have equal rights to establish businesses in foreign countries, as such as the U.S.A., whose nationals are given similar rights in India; and (vii) Unfair trade practices by which highly developed countries discriminate against the produce or trade of less developed countries should be exposed and put an end to.

Government's Assurance of Protection to Labour.- In his concluding remarks the Commerce Minister gave the assurance that in formulating any plans for the expansion of external or internal trade, the Government would always keep in mind the interests not only of industry and commerce but also of industrial workers and agriculturists. Trade Policy will have to be adopted to changing conditions and will not be regarded by the Government as an end in itself, but merely as a means—perhaps a very subordinate means—of furthering India's economic development as part of its larger plans for the promotion of the welfare of the Indian people. As regards India's participation in international conferences, which the Committee had endorsed, Mr. C.H. Bhabha promised that India would sponsor and champion the cause of economically backward countries.

(The Hindustan Times, 20 and 21-9-1946;
The Bombay Chronicle dated 21-9-1946)

Post-War Development Scheme of Bombay Government:
Centre expected to Grant Rs. 200 Million.

Emphasis on Rural Development.- It is understood that the immediate post-war schemes of the Bombay Government envisage a five-year plan, expected to cost between Rs. 600 million and Rs. 750 million with the avowed object of bringing drinking water, food, clothes and primary education to the 20,000,000 people in the province in the forefront. The Central Government it is expected, will contribute a block grant of Rs. 200 million for this purpose and the balance will be raised by taxation and borrowing. Most of the immediate plans relate to the development of rural areas.

The Government intends to enlist for training persons accustomed to village life so that they will identify themselves with the villagers. A multi-pronged drive to help the agriculturist to get more out of his land than ever before is already in the process of being undertaken. Digging of thousands of wells for irrigation within the next two years, improved seed and manure, scientific methods of cultivation, protection of crops, more cattle-breeding centres and refresher courses for farmers are to be started forthwith.

Water-Supply Plans.- When the Ministry's water-supply plans have fructified, none of the 22,000 villages in the province will suffer for want of water. An urgent survey is already under way to ascertain which of the areas are the worst affected and how to supply them with water—whether by digging or boring wells or by building dams and excavating tanks. Apart from drinking water, irrigation wells are also to receive immediate attention. There is already a scheme under which cultivators are given one-third of the cost of digging such wells as subsidy, while the other two-thirds is advanced to the cultivator as a loan repayable in easy instalments at a low rate of interest; but, in addition to this, the Government itself intend to dig some 50,000 to 60,000 wells.

Improved Agriculture.- There is also to be an all-round development in agriculture. The methods of cultivating the land are to be improved by acquiring better implements, development of animal husbandry, the provision of veterinary aid and prevention of land erosion. Besides these, subsidies are being given to the farmer in kind—groundnut cakes, ammonium sulphate and bone-meal, which are supplied at concession rates. ~~XXXXXX~~

A comprehensive scheme of compost manure is also to be undertaken, thus utilising the vast ~~quantities~~ quantities of night soil and carrion available for the production of manure. In the course of the next two years, the Government expects that all the 160 municipalities in the province will have undertaken this scheme.

(Bombay Information, 22-9-1946).

Several Industries to be State-owned in Assam:
Announcement on Industrial Policy.

Reference was made, at page 59 of the report of this Office for May 1946, to the Assam Government's proposal to nationalise certain industries and to acquire a financial interest in others. An important announcement regarding ~~their~~ its industrial policy was made by the Government of Assam in a communiqué issued towards the end of August.

W and
hot factories,
mills.

Industries to be fully state-owned.- According to the communiqué, all units of industries like bulk generation of electric power, cotton textile mills and paper mills will be state-owned. They will not, however, necessarily be State-managed. The Government is, accordingly, exploring the ~~possibilities~~ possibility of their management either through private Managing Agencies or through a self-governing Industrial Authority to be constituted under an Act of the Legislature.

Industries to be partly State-owned.- The Government ~~is~~ has also decided that in all units of the following industries, which do not at present exist in Assam, and even if they exist, the Government will acquire a financial interest:- manufacture of plastics and celluloid; manufacture of glass, manufacture of refractories and ~~ceramics~~ ^{ceramics}, manufacture of light machinery; non-ferrous metals (secondary processes); manufacture of heavy chemicals and electro-chemicals; manufacture of paints and varnishes; and manufacture of rayon and artificial silk.

The Government will announce its policy in due course or as occasion arises in regard to the following industries:- coal-mining, cement manufacture, cultivation and manufacture of tea, manufacture of matches, production of motor and ~~aviation~~ ^{aviation} fuel, sawmills and plywood factories and manufacture of leather and leather goods.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-9-1946).

Board to Co-ordinate U.P. Rural and Industrial Development: Minister outlines Government's Plans.

Development Board to be Set up.- In the course of a press interview on 27-9-1946, the United Provinces Minister for Justice and Development, Dr. Kafilash Nath Katju, announced the early formation of a development board in the province to co-ordinate all nation-building programmes. The board, would be a small body consisting of Ministers in charge and heads of departments. It would frame a five-year plan with carefully-fixed targets. A development commissioner might be appointed to ensure that the plan was executed according to schedule.

Industrial Expansion Programme.- Elaborating the proposals Dr. Katju stated that the Government was making efforts to secure the services of a qualified industrial adviser so that a programme of industrial expansion might soon be framed. Allahabad was considered to be the best city suited for industrial expansion and the Government would welcome proposals for the industrial development of the city. A geological survey of the province was also under consideration. The U.P. Government intended to employ geological experts to explore all the province's raw material and natural resources.

Three-pronged Drive to Improve Rural Economy Local Self-Government.

Dr. Katju announced that the Government was embarking on a three-pronged drive for revolutionary constitutionalism in rural areas, which would improve the economic condition of the masses and foster the panchayat system in villages. The three aims were development of gaon (village) panchayats, co-operative societies and ~~khaya~~ "nyaya adalats" (judicial administration). It was proposed to entrust municipal administration of villages to gaon sabhas, with their executive working committees known as gaon panchayats. The gaon sabhas will include every adult in the village—men and women. The working committee will prepare the budget and draw up a plan of action for 12 months. It will be open to the gaon sabha to pass, reject or modify the budget and the plan of action. The gaon sabha will elect a village head—~~surpunch~~—and will have the power to dismiss or suspend him. The entire municipal administration, including village sanitation, lighting, education, medical facilities, supply of drinking water, housing, village games, recreation etc., will be managed by the working committee, which will have the power to raise taxes. The old Rural Development Department of 1938 would after these gaon panchayats were formed, cease to have an independent existence.

Village Co-operative Societies.- Dr. Katju next referred to the formation of multiple co-operative societies in villages. The societies would be organizations for economic purposes and limited to cultivators. They would keep stocks of seeds, agricultural implements, manures, fertilizers and even cloth, kerosine, sugar and gur. They would store the ~~entire~~ entire agricultural produce of the village after every harvest and then market it to the best advantage. In these co-operative societies each cultivator member would have a definite stake. The societies would have an animal husbandry and a khadi section attached to them. The Government's co-operative department, with its district and provincial banks, would assist ^{and} guide the village co-operative societies.

Judicial Administration.- The third scheme of rural reorganisation was for judicial administration through panchayats called nyay adalats or nyay mandals. The nyay mandals would be judicial units formed by a

grouping of six villages. The gaon sabha of each village will nominate five members to the judicial panel. It was proposed that petty civil and criminal disputes ~~that~~ arising in any village should by a predetermined rule be referred to a tribunal of five of these members. These tribunals would hold sittings in public, hear witnesses and summarily decide each case. They might pass decrees in civil suits and impose fines and sentences of imprisonment not exceeding two weeks or 10 days in criminal cases. Decisions of nyay adalats would not be open to appeal.

(The statesman, 29-9-1946).

GENERAL.Indian Delegation to UNO Social and Economic Council's Preparatory Committee's Meeting.

Following the suggestions of the Trade Policy Committee (vide page 77-78 of this report), the Government of India has decided to send a delegation to attend the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in London on 15-10-1946. The object of the meeting will be to enable the Governments attending the meeting to exchange views on the U.S. Government's Proposals for Expansion of World Trade and Employment and to prepare the draft agenda for the preliminary International Trade Conference, which is likely to meet in April 1947.

The following are the members of the delegation: Mr. R.K. Nehru, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department (Leader); Mr. B.N. Adarkar, Deputy Economic Adviser to the Government of India; Mr. H.S. Malik, Prime Minister, Patiala State; Dr. P.S. Lokanathan; Mr. D.G. Mulherkar, Secretary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi; Dr. A.I. Qureshi, Economic Adviser to H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad (Deccan); Dr. B.N. Ganguli; and M.M.A. Mully, Under-Secretary, Commerce Department (Secretary).

(The Hindustan Times, 17 and 22-9-1946;
The Bombay Chronicle, 7-10-1946).

Indian Delegation to U.N.O. Assembly.

Delegates.- The composition of the the Indian delegation to the forthcoming session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation has been announced. The delegates are: Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Minister for Local Self-Government and Public Health, U.P.; Mr. Justice M.C. Chagla; Sir Maharaj Singh; Mr. Frank Anthony; and Nawab Ali yawar Jang, Member of the Executive Council, Hyderabad State.

Alternate Delegates.- Mr. K.P.S. Menon, Agent-General to the Government of India in China, Mr. R.M. Deshmukh, Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, Mr. V.K. Krishna Menon, President of the India League in London, and Mr. P.N. Saprú, member of the Council of State, will be alternate delegates.

Secretaries.- Captain B.K. Kapoor, Deputy Secretary, External Affairs, Department, and Mr. Azim Hussain, Deputy Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Department, will be the Secretaries to the delegation.

The delegation is to be accompanied by a few official and non-official advisers.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1946).