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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for June 1929.

Contents.

	Pages
1. <u>General</u>	1 - 6
2. <u>Royal Commission on Labour</u>	7 - 9
3. <u>References to the League of Nations</u>	9 - 11
4. <u>References to the I.L.O.</u>	11 - 18a
5. <u>National Labour Legislation</u>	
(a) Bombay Maternity Benefit Bill	19 - 23
(b) Proposed Factory Legislation in Baroda	24
(c) Proposed Amendment of Madras City Municipal Act	24 - 25
6. <u>Conditions of Labour</u>	
(a) <u>General</u>	
(1) The Working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act in 1927	26 - 29
(2) Forced Labour in Indian States	29 - 30
(3) Conditions of Mines in the Central Provinces and Berar	31 - 32
(4) Indian Coolies in Ceylon Tea-gardens	32 - 35
(5) Industrial Relations in Ceylon	36 - 37
(b) <u>Labour Disputes</u>	
(1) Statistics of Industrial Disputes in British India for quarter ending 31-3-1929	38
(2) The Bombay Textile Strike	39 - 43
(3) Strikes in Ahmedabad	44 - 45
(4) Jamshedpur Tinsplate Workers' Strike	45 - 47
(5) Strike situation in Bangalore	47
(6) Strike in Oorgaum Gold Mine	47
7. <u>Industrial Organisation</u>	
(a) <u>Employers' Organisations</u>	
(1) Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment	48 - 49
(2) Baroda Millowners' Association	49
(b) <u>Workers' Organisations</u>	
(1) G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union	50
(2) Ajmer Postal Conference	50 - 51
(3) All India Telegraph Workmen's Union	51 - 52
(4) Madras Tramway Workmen	52
(5) M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union	52 - 53

	Pages
8. <u>Economic Conditions</u>	
(1) The Banking Inquiry	53 - 54
(2) The new Rupee Loan of the Government of India	54 - 55
(3) Removal of Export Duty on Manila Hemp	55
(4) Land Revenue Conference ...	56 - 57
(5) Inland Waterways of India ...	57
9. <u>Unemployment</u>	
(1) Mysore Farming Colony ...	58 - 59
10. <u>Social Conditions</u>	
(1) Temperance Work In India ...	59 - 61
(2) Opium Cultivation Statistics ...	61 - 63
(3) Social Reform	63 - 64
(4) Depressed Classes Inquiry Committee	64
11. <u>Public Health and Sanitation</u>	
(1) Imperial Medical Research Institute	65 - 66
12. <u>Co-operation</u>	66
13. <u>Education</u>	
(1) Industrial Education in Madras	66 - 67
(2) Training of Printers' Apprentices in Calcutta	67
14. <u>Agriculture</u>	
(1) Review of Agricultural Operations in India 1927-28	68 - 69
(2) Agricultural Research Council ...	69 - 70

GENERAL.

The most important political event during the period under review is the extension of the life of the Legislative Assembly*. Even before the end of the Delhi Session and the departure of the Government of India for Simla, there was considerable speculation about a possible extension of the life of the Indian legislature. Sir Hari Singh Gour, a member of the Assembly and of the Indian Central (Simon) Committee, busied himself during the closing days of the ~~hot~~ ^{Cold} weather session to canvass support from members of the Assembly for a petition, in which a definite request for the prolongation of the Assembly was embodied. The idea of the petition did materialise and a petition signed by Sir Hari Singh Gour and a score or so of co-operating politicians was presented to the Viceroy early in April. This bid on the part of the co-operators for an extended lease of life nettled the Swarajist party in the Assembly, and the party's leader, Pandit Motilal Nehru, wrote to Mr. Crerar, the leader of the Assembly, to allot a day for the discussion of the question of the life of the Assembly. Mr. Crerar declined to accede to the request. The Swarajists thereupon decided to move an adjournment of the House to discuss the question, but eventually no adjournment motion was made. It has been alleged subsequently that the reason why Pandit Motilal did not press for an adjournment motion on the question was that the Viceroy had informed him informally through the President of the House that there was no probability of the Government deciding to prolong the life of the Assembly. The Delhi Session of the Assembly

* See this office reports March 1929, page 3, para 2;
April 1929, page 7, para 3;
May 1929, page 2, para 2.

closed on the 12th April, leaving the all important questions of the next elections and the life of the present Assembly in a vague and indefinite position.

It may be mentioned here that, in the ordinary course of events, the Assembly, having completed its allotted span of 3 years of existence, would have been dissolved about the end of September 1929, and fresh elections would have been held by December to enable the new Legislative Assembly to meet by January 1930. But a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated Simla, 23rd May, containing an announcement by the Governor General, gave a definitely new turn to affairs. The announcement was to the effect that the Assembly would not be dissolved in September 1929, that the present Assembly would continue to function, but that no final decision has been reached on the actual period of the extension, and that before the necessity arises of making a formal order on the extension of the life of the Assembly beyond its normal term, the Governor General shall reconsider the matter and make a definite announcement. The following are the reasons assigned by Lord Irwin for his decision. According to him there are "evident disadvantages in holding the elections for the Assembly on the eve of the publication of the report of the Statutory Commission". Further, the reports of the Statutory Commission, the Indian Central Committee, and some of the provincial committees cannot be expected before the beginning of 1930, and therefore, at the time when elections would be held, speculation as to the possible recommendations of these bodies and the resulting uncertainty could not fail to be embarrassing, both to candidates and electors. The announcement has created considerable resentment among nationalist politicians, and has met with

a ~~mixed~~ mixed reception from other groups. There can be no doubt about the strict validity of the legal power, which has been exercised by the Viceroy in the present instance; the relevant section of the Government of India Act provides that the three years' life of the Legislative Assembly "may be extended by the Governor-General, if in special circumstances he so thinks fit".

The Swarajists assert that the Viceroy, by postponing the elections, was deliberately avoiding an appeal to the electorate because of the fear, that a general election at this juncture, which would amount to a referendum on the Nehru and Simon Reports, would result in a Swarajist sweep of the polls, and thus provide a conclusive demonstration of the Nehru Report's acceptability to the Indian people in preference to any scheme that the Statutory Commission~~xxx~~ might evolve.

Following the Viceroy's announcement, the provincial governors of Bombay, and of the United Provinces have also published their intention not to dissolve their Councils in October. It may therefore be accepted that, with the exception of Bengal and Assam where the Councils have been dissolved and fresh elections are being held, all other provincial councils would follow the lead of Simla.

In view of the Viceroy's notification, the meeting of the All India Congress Committee which was held at Bombay during the last week of May assumes special importance. It met on the 24th May under the chairmanship of Pandit Motilal Nehru, and on the 25th Gandhi moved a resolution that, in view of the campaign of repression which the British Government is carrying on in all parts of the country, the nation should prepare for an efficient resistance. He, therefore, suggested the reconstruction of the Congress organisation so as to make it a more efficient body. The Working Committee of the Congress also resolved that Congress members of the

various legislatures should abstain from attending meetings of those bodies as a protest against the extension. This has created a rift in the lute, and it is not at all likely that the Congress members of the legislatures in the United Provinces, Bengal and Madras will consent to obey the Congress mandate in this respect. As a matter of fact the Tamil Nadu (Madras) Congress Committee was for freedom to the Congress parties to attend the legislatures and even accept offices, though at the Bombay meeting they did not press their case in view of the necessity for presenting a united front in opposition to the Viceroy's order of prolongation.

Moderate opinion in the country as represented by Mr. C.Y.Chintamani and others of his political persuasion ^{are} more or less united in condemning the prolongation as "a fraud upon the electorate", but the Mohamadans, and Maharashtra leaders like Kelkar and Jayakar (as also, curiously enough, the Deputy leader of the Swarajist Party, Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar) seem to favour the Viceroy's action.

The second session of the Indian States' People's Conference was held at Bombay on the 25th and 26th May 1929 with Mr. C.Y.Chintamani in the chair. It condemned the method and manner in which the Indian States (Butler) Committee conducted its proceedings, inasmuch as no opportunity at all was afforded to the representatives of the subjects of Indian States to present their case before the Committee. Another resolution urged that for the speedy attainment of Swaraj for India as a whole, the Indian States should be ~~brang~~ brought into constitutional relations with British India, and expressed dissatisfaction with the Butler Committee's recommendations to the effect that the princes should not be transferred, without their agreement, to a relationship with a new government in British India, (evidently referring to

the Government of India after the attainment of Swaraj) responsible to the Indian legislature, and that the relations of the States should be directly with the Crown through the Viceroy, and not with the Government of India. After urging the necessity for several administrative and legislative forms calculated to bring the political life in the Indian States in line with that in British India, the Conference asked for an independent inquiry into the economic conditions in Indian States. Two resolutions dealing with labour were also accepted by the Conference: these are reproduced in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour.

Meanwhile the Indian princes propose to wait in deputation upon the Viceroy at Bombay, and place before him their views on the Butler Report. It is expected that they will press for the limitation of the Paramount Power's right to intervene in cases of maladministration in the States or in other matters of a purely domestic character.

The personnel of the Indian Delegation to the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations has now been announced. In accordance with the promise made by the Government in reply to Sir Pheroze Sethna's motion in the Indian Council of State (see this office report for April 1929, page 8, para 1, and page 16, para 4), Sir Mahomed Habibullah, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council in charge of Education, Health and Lands, has been appointed leader of the Delegation, and his colleagues are the Maharaja of Kapurthala and Sir William Ewart Greaves, an ex-judge of the Calcutta High Court. The substitute members are Sir Chunilal Mehta (ex-Member of the Bombay Executive Council), Sir ~~SMG~~ Geoffrey Corbett of the Department of Commerce, and Syed Raza Ali, a member of the Public Service Commission. Mr. G. S. Bajpai, the present Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of

Education, Health and Lands, will also be accompanying the Delegation. The appointment of an Indian leader to the League Delegation has met with universal approval in India, as giving the lie to the argument that Indian princes will not care to serve in a deputation headed by an Indian.

His Excellency Lord Irwin will be leaving India by the 26th June for England, where he will be in consultation with the British Cabinet regarding the impending constitutional reforms in India. He is expected back in October.

Royal Commission on Labour.

A Government of India communiqué dated Simla, May 23rd, 1929 announces the anxiously awaited personnel of the Royal Commission on Labour. At the opening of the Legislative Assembly on 28-1-1929, the Viceroy had announced that the King had approved of the appointment of a Royal Commission under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. J.H. Whitley to inquire into the conditions of labour in India (see ¹⁹²⁹ February report of this office, page 5).

The Commission will consist of the Following.

The Rt. Hon. J.H. Whitley (Chairman),
 The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri,
 Sir Alexander Murray, *
 Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoolah,
 Sir Victor Sassoon,
 Mr. N. M. Joshi, *
 Mr. A. G. Clow, *
 Mr. G. D. Birla, *
 Mr. John Cluff (Assistant General Secretary of the
 Transport and Railway Workers' Union, England),
 Dewan Chamanlal, *
 Miss Beryl M. le Poer Power (Deputy Chief Inspector,
 Trade Boards, England), and
 Mr. Kabiruddin Ahmed (Members)

Mr. S. Lall, Department of Industries and Labour,
 Government of India, and Mr. A. Dibdin of the India Office
 will act as joint secretaries to the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are:-

"To enquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in industrial & undertakings and plantations in British India; on the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed, and to make recommendations".

The Commission, consists of six Indians and five Britishers with a British chairman. The personnel as announced has on the whole met with a favourable reception in the Indian press, with occasional attacks from the extremist

press. The Hindustan Times of 26-5-1929 comments editorially thus:- "The terms of reference and the personnel of the Whitley Commission on Indian labour conditions, are eminently satisfactory Indian labour interests are effectively represented by Mr. N.M.Joshi and Dewan Chamanlal. European industrial interests are represented by Sir Alexander Murray and Sir Victor Sassoon, while Mr. G.D.Birla and Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola represent Indian industry!" The Times of India in its issue of 28-5-1929 in the course of a leading article observes "We can rely upon Mr. Whitley and the stronger members of the Commission to make an exhaustive study and draw up a fair report. The terms of reference are sufficiently wide to enable the Commissioners to pursue their investigations untrammelled by needless restrictions. The Commission has an enormous task before it and, even though it may not rouse the same "hatred" as the Simon Commission, it should be none the less productive of permanent advantages".

The Pioneer of 26-5-1929 publishes the following from its Lahore correspondent. "Inquiries made in various circles show that the appointment of Dewan Chamanlal, M.L.A. to the Royal Commission on Labour has been well received in the Punjab. It is felt from the labour point of view that his appointment gives the Commission a definite touch of popularity as he is one of the founders of the All India Trade Union Congress".

The phrase "Industrial undertaking" as used in the terms of reference is interpreted as in Article I of the Washington Hours Convention. The Commission is expected to meet in Bombay next October, and will be visiting all the leading industrial centres and the provincial capitals in the course of the ensuing cold weather.

It may here be mentioned that at the second session of the Indian States' People's Conference held at Bombay on the

25th and 26th May 1929, it was urged that the terms of reference of the Whitley Commission should be widened so as to include an investigation into the conditions of labour in the Indian States. The resolution which was put from the chair was carried unanimously.

REFERENCES TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Hindu of 25-5-1929 publishes a fairly long letter from its Geneva correspondent. The letter deals with the disarmament discussions at Geneva.

... ..

A message from the special correspondent of the Times of India at Simla is published on 28-5-1929 to the effect that the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, will be announced by the 1st June. The correspondent forecasts that though the Delegation may not be led by a non-official Indian this time, the probabilities are that an Indian official would be deputed to lead the Delegation.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a short news paragraph about the United States' accession to the League of Nations Slavery Convention of 1926.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a news paragraph about the adoption of a draft Convention providing certain modifications of the existing penal legislation and police measures to make prevention and punishment of counterfeiting more effective.

... ..

The Times of India of 28-5-1929 publishes a news paragraph about the work of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

... ..

The Pioneer of 29-5-1929, as also other papers, publish the full list of the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations.

... ..

The Pioneer of the same date publishes the news of the appointment of Mr. A. C. Chatterjee as an officer in the Information Section of the League of Nations.

... ..

The Times of India of 30-5-1929 publishes a leading article on "India and the League". The article comments favourably on the composition of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, and answers the criticism that the Delegation is mainly official in character by pointing out that the Delegations of other countries, for example that of Britain, have been composed mostly of officials. Referring to the Nawab of Palanpur's criticism of the disproportionate cost that membership of the League entails for India, the paper says that India must always be fully identified with the idea of world peace and world co-operation, and that as the League offers the best chance for making the idea effective, India has no occasion to regret her association with that body.

... ..

The Times of India of the same date publishes a message to the effect that the personnel of the Indian Delegation has been received with satisfaction by the moderate political leaders of Bombay.

... ..

The Times of India of 31-5-1929 publishes an article by Mr. Sisley Huddleston about the League's difficulties in tackling the question of the minorities in Europe.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 9-6-1929 has a leading article entitled "India and the League" in the course of which the question whether it is worth while for this country to continue her membership is once again considered, and the opinion is expressed that so long as India occupies her present subject position, it is doubtful if she is wise in continuing her membership.

... ..

The Pioneer of 14-6-1929 publishes a short account of the work of the Refugees' Section of the League.

... ..

The Servant of India of 6-6-1929 publishes a review by the Director of this office of the book "From Paris to Locarno and After" by F.Alexander.

... ..

REFERENCES TO THE I.L.O.

The Times of India of 27-5-1929 publishes a two column article contributed by Mr. Otto Rothfield on "International Labour - What the League of Nations is doing?" The article is couched in a critical vein and ascribes to the whole Geneva atmosphere an air of unreality. The writer says that "the cosmopolitan crowd of officials" belonging to the League of Nations Secretariat and the International Labour Office "are superbly removed from common life in their grave progression back and forwards" to their offices.

In his observations on the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Rothfield affirms that the Organisation has a strong labour bias. After pointing out that the I.L.O. was founded "by the influence and pressure of industrial operatives, especially those of the United States, Great Britain and France, organised in federations and trade unions", the writer continues to observe "The Labour Office is, therefore, primarily an expression of the thought and will of the leaders of organised industrial labour in the most highly developed capitalist countries of the world; it is guided by extreme radical conceptions tending to what is usually called socialism, and it is directed in a spirit of implicit acceptance of oral or written discussion by elected representatives as the final and ideal type of government, whether in national or international affairs". Mr. Rothfield thinks that even the building which houses the I.L.O. corresponds to the labour bias of the Organisation. Says he "A great mass of stone, it is modernist and indeed futurist and almost communist in style and decoration". About the staff of the I.L.O. he says "There are 375 officials in all; no small number for an office which is still so young and which has resulted in so little action". Another charge that Mr. Rothfield levels against the I.L.O. is that "the Bureau is representative in the main of the "democratic countries - hardly at all of the spirit of the others. Italy, Spain, South America, Hungary, even Germany they count for comparatively little in its guidance, less still in its spirit. England, France, and to an almost incredible extent Czecho-slovakia with its subtle and enormously subsidised propaganda -- these furnish the real soul of the Labour Office". According to the writer "the essential weakness of the organisation, as indeed of the whole League of Nations, is the absence of sanctions".

The article, however, concludes in a commendatory vein. The writer admits that in the face of various difficulties "the actual results of the Labour Office's work are perhaps not disappointing..... Moreover, it is undeniable that the office does exercise a moral pressure which even if illusive, is still distinctly appreciable, and which makes governments and even capitalists shrink from the open exposure of mal-practises before an admiring world".

... ..

The Statesman of 28-5-1929 publishes a fairly long message from its special correspondent at Delhi about the 13th (Maritime) Session of the I.L.Conference. The correspondent points out that the welfare schemes hitherto adopted by the Government omit Indian seamen from their scope, and hopes that Geneva's lead in the matter will induce the Government of India to shake off its apathy. The correspondent also refers to the work of ^{the} Indian branch of the International Labour Office in collecting information about the conditions in Indian ports, particularly those relating to Indian seamen. (The material for this message was supplied to the Statesman correspondent by this office).

... ..

The Pioneer of 29-5-1929 publishes a fairly long message from its correspondent at Delhi about the 13th session of the I.L.C. The correspondent points out that no legislation safeguarding the interests or conditions of service of Indian seamen exists in the country, and says "that the various welfare schemes of the government have always left Indian seamen in the lurch". The message then gives the four items on the Agenda of the 13th session, and proceeds to sketch an outline of the probable lines of reform contemplated by

Geneva. The message pays a tribute in passing to the work of the Indian branch of the I.L.O. in this connection. (The material for this message was supplied by this office).

... ..

The Times of India of 30-5-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters message from Geneva about Sir Atul Chatterjee's plan whereby a financial settlement for the I.L.O. for a quinquennium would be concluded with the Assembly. The message says that Sir Atul's plan is to fix the standard expenditure for the period; to make allowances for progressive increases in succeeding years, while the saving in expenditure of the office in any year would not revert to the League, but would be carried forward to the following year.

... ..

The Hindu of 31-5-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters agency message about the opening of the 12th I.L.Conference. The message says that the 12th session of the Conference has the largest number of delegations since the inception of the International Labour Office, and that 50 out of the 55 States-members of the League of Nations have sent delegations. After mentioning the items on the Agenda, the message says that the Conference, which is presided over by Dr. Brauns, will also consider the report of the International Labour Office on unemployment.

... ..

The Hindu of 31-5-1929 has a short editorial note on forced labour and unemployment in India. The paper hopes that the League and the I.L.O. together will be able to combat the problem of unemployment.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 2-6-1929 publishes a two column leading article on the 12th session of the I.L.Conference. The article affirms that India is vitally interested in the I.L.Conferences, and cites in support the testimony of Mr. C.F.Andrews and the continued loyalty of the All India Trade Union Congress to the Geneva ideal, despite the violence of the extremist section of Indian labour. The four items on the Agenda of the present Conference are then discussed in turn, and the bearing of each on Indian interests is elucidated. The article points out that the framing of suitable conventions and recommendations on these items would be of great help to India. The article concludes "It is our firm conviction that India's participation, viewed at from whatever angle, leads to the irresistible conclusion that such participation redounds to India's good". The Hindustan Times also pays a tribute to the composition of the Indian delegation to the 12th Conference and congratulates the I.L.O. on its "felicitous" choice of Dr. Pillai as its representative in India.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 2-6-1929 publishes a full page of pictures about the I.L.O. at Geneva. Besides pictures showing the conference in session, and of the I.L.O. headquarters at Geneva, pictures of M. Albert Thomas, Mr. Butler, Dr. Pillai, and of some members of this year's delegation to Geneva are reproduced. (The pictures were supplied by this Office).

... ..

The Statesman of 2-6-1929 and all papers publish a Reuters agency message to the effect that as an experiment for one year, the I.L.Conference groups have agreed that Government delegates shall participate in the Committees if they wish to attend, though hitherto they have been excluded from attending Committee ~~xxxxxxx~~ meetings.

The Pioneer of 3-6-1929 publishes a three column article entitled "India at the International Labour Conference - Urgent need for Industrial Legislation". The article discusses at length the four items on the Agenda of the 12th Session of the Conference in relation to India's present industrial needs. The contribution endeavours to demonstrate the great ~~and~~ advantages India stands to gain by participation in the activities of Geneva. The same article is reproduced in the Hindu of 3-6-1929. The article was issued as a communiqué by this office.

... ..

The Times of India of 3-6-1929 publishes a two column article under the caption "Twelfth International Labour Conference -- India's interest in the session". The article was supplied by this office. It makes an endeavour to assess the importance of the part that Geneva plays in Indian affairs, and combats the tendency in certain Indian quarters to decry India's connection with the League.

... ..

The Pioneer of 6-6-1929 and all papers publish a ~~Reuters~~ Reuter's Agency telegram to the effect that at the International Labour Conference one of the Indian Government representatives declared that there was no truth in the allegation made by the German labour representative that labour legislation was not being observed at Kharagpur. The same message says that in the general debate on forced labour, the British Government delegate stated that the British point of view was that forced labour could not be abolished, but should be made the object of a searching examination.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 3-6-1929 has a small editorial

note on forced labour. The paper draws attention to the existence of forced labour in Kenya and other African colonies, and expresses the hope that the International Labour Conference would make a definite protest against the continuance of the evil.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 3-6-1929 comments editorially on the Report of the International Labour Office on unemployment. The paper regrets that all such inquiries have hitherto ignored agricultural unemployment and says that even the Whitley Commission has excluded the agricultural labourer from its sphere of consideration. The paper is of opinion that this state of affairs is largely due to the West being obsessed by the problems of manufacturing industry only and hopes that the delegates to the I.L.Conference will view the question in its broader aspects.

... ..

"Justice", the ministerial daily of Madras in its issue of 4-6-1929 publishes a leading article on forced labour, welcoming Geneva's initiative in the matter. It concludes "the I.L.O. has already to its credit a fair volume of beneficent legislation, and we have no doubt that by tackling the system of forced labour successfully, it would add considerably to its prestige and usefulness."

... ..

The Hindu of 4-6-1929 also has an editorial note on forced labour. It advocates a thorough inquiry into the conditions in the country, but argues that to introduce a distinction between "private" and "public" enterprises will only result in complicating the issue, and in rendering futile all remedial measures.

... ..

The Swarajya of Madras in its issue of 5-6-1929 has an editorial note entitled "British Government and Forced Labour" in which it is said that the British Government was the only power to uphold forced labour at the League deliberations". "It is impossible to resist the conclusion, however skilful the legerdemain of diplomats; that the empire is a force to keep alive slavery in this century".

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 6-6-1929 publishes a brief editorial note on forced labour under the caption "Britishers' plea for semi-slavery" and advocates passive resistance against the system.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 6-6-1929 and all papers publish a message that in the course of the discussion on forced labour at the I.L. Conference, the Indian Workers' delegate demanded its total suppression. Max M. Gayen, the Belgian Employers' delegate, the message says, declared that employers unanimously wish for abolition of forced labour in all forms.

... ..

The Servant of India of 30-5-1929 publishes a short note on the work of the 43rd meeting of the Governing Body.

... ..

The May number of the Indian Review, Madras, has an article on "India and Geneva" from the pen of Mr. C.F. Andrews. It contains appreciative references about the I.L.O.

... ..

The Servant of India of 13-6-1929 publishes a leading article on "Forced Labour" advocating its abolition as pleaded for by Mr. N.M. Joshi.

... ..

The Times of India in its issue of the 7th June 1929 has a long leader on forced labour in India, in which the British Government's position is upheld. It deals with the cases in India where forced labour is permissible under legal enactments or by established practice, and advocates further investigation into the matter.

... ..

All papers publish a Free Press telegram of 4-6-1929 to the effect that Dr. Paranjpye referred to Mr. Furtwangler as a mere globe-trotter who knew nothing about labour in India, and that, therefore, his condemnation of conditions in the Assam tea plantation was not to be relied upon.

... ..

All papers publish a Reuter's telegram of 8-6-1929 giving a summary of Mr. Joshi's speech comparing Moscow methods with those of Geneva. Sir Atul Chatterjee's suggestion for a shortening of the Agenda is also referred to.

... ..

A Geneva telegram of 11-6-1929 announces that Mr. Humbert Wolfe on behalf of the British Government declared that the Government had decided to ratify the Eight Hours Convention, the Minimum Wages Convention and the Convention regarding Seamen's Agreements.

The Indian Labour Review of May 1929, at pages 19 to 22, publishes an article "The I. L. C. : A Survey" by Dr. P. P. Pillai.

The Bombay Chronicle of 13-6-29 has an editorial welcoming the change in the attitude of the British Government in regard to the 8 hour Convention etc.

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Bombay Maternity Benefit's Bill, ^{as} passed on 15-3-1929.
(See our April Report, page 27).

The following is the full text of the Bombay Maternity Benefit's Bill as finally passed by the Bombay Legislative Council on 15-3-1929:-

BILL No. VI OF 1928.

A Bill to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them in the manner hereinafter provided; And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80-A of the Government of India Act and the previous sanction of the Governor required by section 80-C of the said Act have been obtained for the passing of this Act; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

5 & 6
Geo. V.
c. 61.

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929.

2. Extent and operation.-- (1) This Act shall apply in the first instance to the Bombay Suburban District and the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Virangam, Surat, Broach, Jalgaon, Sholapur, Belgaum, Amalner and Karachi. The Government may, from time to time, by notification in the "Bombay Government Gazette" extend this Act to such other places as it thinks fit.

(2) It shall come into operation on the first day of July 1929.

3. Definitions.-- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -

XII of
1911

(a) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the manager of a factory;

XIII of
1911

(b) the expressions "employ" "employed", "factory", and "inspector of factories" shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them under the Indian Factories Act, 1911;

(c) "maternity benefit" means the amount of money payable under the provisions of this Act to a woman employed in a factory.

4. After this Act comes into operation,-

Employment of or work by women in factories prohibited during certain period.-- (1) No employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery; and

(2) no woman shall work in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery.

5. Right to payment of maternity benefit.-- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman employed in a factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of eight annas a day for the actual days of her absence for the period immediately preceding her confinement and for the four weeks immediately following her confinement as mentioned in sub-section (2):

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in the factory of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date on which she notifies her intention under sub-section (1) of section 6.

(2) The maximum period for which any woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit shall be seven weeks, that is to say, three weeks up to and including the day of her delivery and four weeks immediately following that day. If a woman dies during this period the maternity benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death.

6. Procedure regarding payment of maternity benefit.--

(1) Any woman employed in a factory and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act, who is pregnant may, on any day, give notice in writing to her employer stating that she expects to be confined within one month next following, that her maternity benefit may be paid to her, and that she will not work in any employment during the period for which she receives maternity benefit.

(2) The employer shall thereupon permit such woman to absent herself from the factory from the following day until four weeks after the day of her delivery.

(3) The amount of maternity benefit for the period up to and including the day of delivery shall be paid by the employer to the woman within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child. The amount due for the subsequent period shall be paid punctually each fortnight in arrear.

7. Payment of maternity benefit in case of a woman's death.-- If a woman entitled to maternity benefit under this Act dies during the period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit, the employer shall pay the amount of maternity benefit due, if the newly born child survives her, to the person who undertakes the care of the child; and if the child does not survive her to her legal representative.

8. No notice of dismissal to be given to a woman

during period of maternity benefit.-- When a woman ~~is~~ absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

9, Forfeiture of maternity benefit.-- If a woman works in any factory after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 6 she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of the maternity benefit to which she is entitled.

10. Penalty for contravention of the Act by an employer.-- If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Act he shall, ~~in~~ on conviction, be liable to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

11. Penalty for contravention of the Act by a woman.-- If any woman works in any factory within four weeks of the date of her delivery she shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding ten rupees.

12. Cognisance of offences.-- (1) No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the inspector of factories.

(2) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence against this Act or any rules thereunder.

13. Limitation of prosecutions.-- No court shall take cognisance of any offence against this Act or any rule thereunder unless complaint thereof is made within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

14. Rules.-- (1) The Governor in Council may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

(a) the preparation and maintenance of a muster roll and the particulars to be entered in such roll;

(b) the inspection of factories for the purposes of this Act by inspectors of factories;

(c) the exercise of powers and the performance of duties by inspectors of factories for the purposes of this Act;

(d) the method of payment of maternity benefit in so far as provision has not been made in this Act; and

(e) any other matter for which no provision has been made in this Act and for which provision is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, necessary.

(3) Any such rule may provide that a contravention thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(4) The making of rules under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication. Such rules shall be laid on the table of the Bombay Legislative Council for one month previous to the next session thereof and shall be liable to be rescinded or modified. If any rule is modified the Governor in Council may accept the modification and re-issue the rule accordingly or may rescind the rule.

15. Copies of this Act and rules thereunder to be exhibited.-- A copy of the provisions of this Act and the rules thereunder in the local vernacular shall be exhibited in a conspicuous place by the employer in every factory in which women are employed.

*(Copied from pp 1656-1660 of Volume XXV
 ... Appendices ... of the Official
 report of the Bombay Legislative
 Council debates for the February
 - March 1929 session)*

Proposed Factory Legislation in Baroda.

The Sub-Committee consisting of the members of the State Dhara Sabha (Legislative Assembly) met last week under the presidentship of Mr. V. K. Dhurandhar, the Legal Remembrancer to consider the provisions of the New Factory Act. The Committee took up the consideration of the bill and it is understood, decided to recommend 14 years instead of 15 as the age when a boy ceased to be a child for the purpose of employment in the factory. It was further resolved to amend the provisions regarding the limitation of working hours per day and during the week in case of seasonal factories from 11 and 60 to 12 and 66 respectively as proposed for all the factories by the Committee previously appointed by the Government to consider the bill.

(Times of India, 11-6-1929)

... ..

Proposed Amendment of Madras City Municipal Act.

To bring the provisions of the Madras City Municipal Act, relating to industries and factories, into line with those in the District Municipalities Act, Government at the instance of the Commissioner of the Corporation have framed a bill, which they have now sent to the President of that body for being placed before the Councillors and their opinion obtained. Schedule 6 of the Act which sets out the purposes for which "premises may not be used without a license," has been amended by the inclusion of "use for any industrial purpose, any fuel or machinery and doing in course of any industrial process, anything which is likely to be dangerous to human life, health or property." Section 287 has been modified so as to provide for notification in the first instance before making it obligatory on users of premises to take out licenses

and the area of its operation has been extended to a distance of three miles beyond city limits. Extension to outside limits has been made conditional on previous sanction of local government, to avoid possible conflicts in jurisdiction between the Corporation and other local bodies in the said area.

(The Hindu, 12-6-1929)

... ..

Conditions of Labour

(a) General.

The Working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act* in 1927.

Though 1927 was the third complete year of the working of the Act, the difficulty in obtaining satisfactory returns from employers still persists; and the figures showing the number of cases and the amount of compensation paid during the year cannot, therefore, be regarded as wholly reliable. Nor do these figures cover all the cases of workmen protected by the Act; but the numbers excluded are of small importance, as the more important classes of workers, ^{such as in factories, mines,} decks, railways, and tramways are here included.

The total number of accidents which occurred during 1927 and were dealt with under the Act was 15,216 as against 14,096 in 1926, while the total amount of compensation paid was Rs. 11,11,254 as against Rs. 8,21,476 in the preceding year. Of these accidents only 42 affected miners, and the injuries proved fatal only in 783 cases, including six miners. The general comment of the provincial governments on the working of the Act is that, though much progress remains to be made, the provisions of the Act are becoming more widely known, and the benefits accruing from it more generally appreciated by the working classes. On the other hand a good deal of ignorance still persists among certain sections of workers regarding their rights under the Act. Thus, the Bengal report states that very few claims are received in the Raniganj Coal-field area, largely due to the absence of any proper trade union to assist the

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1927, together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. 1923. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1929. pp. 6 Price As. 6.

workers in obtaining the relief provided for under the Act. But factory inspectors as well as increasing number of employers are assisting workmen to obtain their just dues; and labour organisations, particularly in Bombay and Bengal, are taking an increasingly active part in furthering the claims of their members. As against these reports of sympathetic co-operation from Bengal, Bombay and ^{the} Punjab, the Government of Bihar and Orissa point out that there is an increasing tendency to deny liability on the part of employers, particularly the smaller classes which are working at a loss owing to the depression of the coal industry.

The growth of the practice of insurance against claims made under the Act, ~~z~~ may tend to minimise any undue reluctance which employers may feel in meeting just claims. The percentage of employers who insure their liabilities is not known, but it is mentioned that in Burma most of the employers are thus insured, while the Madras report mentions the existence of thirty insurance companies and a Claims Bureau. Such insurance also appears to be widely resorted to in Bengal and Bombay, where also Claims Bureaus are functioning.

The total number of applications filed before the Commissioners in 1927 under section 10 of the Act for the award of compensation was 554, as against 379 in 1926, the increase of over 46 per cent. being a striking indication of the increasing frequency with which working people claim their benefits under the Act. Distribution cases filed before the Commissioners under section 8 of the Act rose to 491 in 1927, as against 408 in 1926. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 22.9

as compared to 23.7 in the year previous. The total number of applications filed for the registration of Agreements was 711, as against 610 in 1926; and only 3 out of these 711 applications were not registered on account of the inadequacy of the compensation offered. In the majority of cases compensation was paid without the intervention of the Commission^{ers}. Over 15,000 persons are reported to have received compensation in 1927, while the total number of applications filed was only 554 as pointed ^{out} above.

Occupational diseases have figured for the first time in connection with the working of the Act in India. It is reported from Bengal that a compositor in a Government Printing press received the sum of Rs. 2,730 from the government as compensation for permanent disablement due to lead poisoning. ~~Through~~ Though no case of occupational disease is included in the returns from Burma, cases of lead colic, plumbism, and some mild forms of lead poisoning in the mines worked by the Burma Corporation at Namtu have come to the notice of the Public Works Department.

The Act remained unchanged throughout the year, but a government notification under section 2(3) of the Act was issued during 1927 declaring the occupations of loading, unloading, and fuelling any ship in any harbour, roadstead, or navigable water to be hazardous occupations. Dock labour^{ers} are thus brought within the scope of the Act. The Act is also popular among Indian lascars; and though it is directly applicable only to lascars of steamers registered in India, maritime local governments have been able to induce shipping companies which recruit lascars in India to insert in the Articles of Agreement of Indian lascars on ships registered in the United Kingdom an

additional stipulation by which such lascars can claim to be compensated as workmen under the Indian Act.

The Government of India has recently passed an amending measure (Act V of 1929) making certain changes of a non-controversial character, and they have also under consideration certain proposals which involve changes of a radical nature in the Act.

... ..

Forced Labour in Indian States.

The second session of the Indian States' People's Conference which was held at Bombay on 25 and 26-5-1929 has passed a series of resolutions relating to conditions of labour in some of the Indian States. Resolution No.XI which was passed unanimously by the Conference runs thus:-

(a) "Whereas the system of compulsory labour which prevails in most Indian States is inhuman and barbarous, this Conference calls upon the Indian princes to abolish the same immediately.

(b) "This Conference regrets that in some states customs and practices analogous to slavery still exist, and strongly urges that they should be immediately abolished"

It may be pointed out here that the Rajputana States People's Conference which was held at Ajmere on the 23rd and 24th November 1928 passed resolutions advocating the abolition of "begar" (compulsory labour) and slavery in the Indian States of Rajputana. (See the report of this office for December 1928, page 28). It is significant that despite these emphatic allegations of barbarous practices in the Indian States, no authoritative disclaimer from the Indian States has as yet appeared in the Indian press.

Bombay

The Conference has also passed a resolution to the

effect that the terms of reference to the Whitley Commission be widened so as to include an investigation into the conditions of labour in the Indian States.

... ..

Conditions of Miners in the Central Provinces and Berar.

According to "the Annual Review on the District Reports on the Working of the Indian Mines Act IV of 1923 in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1928"^{*}, the depression in the coal and manganese markets continued throughout last year and resulted in the closing down of two coal mines in the Chindwara District of the Central Provinces and as many as ninety manganese mines throughout the province.

The demand for labour was, in consequence, below normal and the supply plentiful in almost all districts.

Imported labour plays but a small part in the mining industry of the province as the labour force to a large extent consists of local agriculturists who are attracted to the mines by higher wages during the open season and return to their hereditary pursuits at the commencement of the agricultural season. Imported labourers usually visit their homes during the season of Hindu festivals from September to November and return to the mines in December.

The Review
~~A RESOLUTION~~ issued by the Local Government states that the relations between employers and employees continued to be cordial and the year was marked by a complete absence of strikes and labour disputes. Labour in mines is still unorganised.

The contraction of the demand for labour was not

* Nagpur, Government Press 1929 pp 6

accompanied by any appreciable reduction in the rates of wages. In the coal area of the Chhindwara district, the average earnings of a male labourer varied from Re. 0-7-0 to Re.0-9-0 per day for underground work and from Re.0-6-0 to Re.1 for surface work, while a female cooly earned on an average from Re.0-4-0 to Re.0-7-0 both underground and on surface. The daily income of a skilled labourer varied between Re.0-10-0 and Rs. 2-10-0

In other parts of the province the rates for male labourers approximated to those ruling in the Chhindwara district, while the earnings of female labourers were one to two annas less. Outbreaks of cholera, influenza, malaria and smallpox occurred in several labour camps. Cholera was responsible for 133 attacks and 57 deaths, of which 7 attacks and 2 deaths occurred in the Jubbulpore district, 70 attacks and 28 deaths in the Nagpur district, and 56 attacks and 27 deaths in the Chhindwara district. Necessary measures were taken by the mine management concerned to combat the epidemic and in the Nagpur district where the attack was most intense, an extensive programme of inoculation was undertaken.

Medical facilities are within easy reach of every important mining area in the province. In addition, the larger mine-owners in the Nagpur, Balaghat and Chhindwara districts maintain their own dispensaries for their labour force.

The Government notes with satisfaction that during the year the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company established a maternity and infant welfare centre at their Kandri mine in the Ramtek tahsil under the charge of a qualified nurse. The dispensary is reported to be well equipped and is affiliated to the provincial branch of the Indian Red Cross Association. Although it is reported that the services of the nurse are not as yet readily utilized by the labourers, it is anticipated

that they will appreciate the benefits of this new institution in course of time.

A new dispensary was also opened by the same company at their Ramrama mine in the Balaghat district.

In spite of unfavourable trade conditions the total income from mines rose slightly from Rs. 3,94,266 in 1927 to Rs. 4,03,643 in 1928.

The whole of this increase of 2 per cent was contributed by coal mines in the Chanda and Chhindwara districts.

Out of the total income, manganese mines yielded Rs. 2,62,003, coal mines Rs. 1,04,860, and other mines Rs. 36,780.

(Statesman, 13-6-1929).

... ..

Indian Coolies in Ceylon Tea-Gardens.

Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, M.L.C., Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council, has contributed an article to the Hindu of 5-6-1929 on the labour conditions prevailing among Indian tea estate workers in Ceylon, whose number is estimated at 8,00,000. According to Dr. Reddi, the wages obtaining for Indian tea-estate coolies are as follows:-

The average man's wage	= 54 cents
The average woman's wage	= 43 cents
Children	= 32 cents

(A rupee is 100 cents).

The cost of living in Ceylon, according to Dr. Reddi is one and a half times and in certain places even twice as expensive as in India. On an average they work 24 days in the estates, Sundays and other holidays not being paid for. The wages of a husband and wife put together thus work out to less than a rupee, which are insufficient for meeting the expenses of even a small cooly family. A consequence of the low rates of wages is that parents are driven to send even

their children under ten years to work on the tea-estates, so that their meagre earnings might also contribute to the insufficient income of the elders. According to Dr. Reddi it is no rare sight to see whole families, including tender children, working on the cold, rain-swept hill sides of the high ranges in Ceylon, on which the plantations are located. The difference in climate and environment occasions an abnormally high rate of mortality among the Indian immigrant labourers. The insufficiency of the wages compels even pregnant ~~women~~ women labourers to keep on working right up to the period of confinement.

Some feeble efforts are being made in the direction of maternity benefits, but as they consist only in the giving of some quantity of rice, varying with each estate ~~xxx~~ from a quarter of a bushel to one bushel, and after child birth cash varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5, and some castor oil for the baby and mother, they do not contribute substantially to the alleviation of the difficulties of women workers. Even these benefits, Dr. Reddi asserts, are wholly denied in some estates, while in certain estates the maternity benefits are given only a week after delivery, and that only if the child is alive. Analysing the average budget of a worker's family consisting of husband, wife and 2 children, Dr. Reddi points out that when the woman becomes pregnant the free ration of $\frac{3}{4}$ th bushel rice for herself and $\frac{1}{8}$ th bushel rice for each of her two children per month are not sufficient for them, as the husband earned only Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 after paying off the price of the rice allowance for himself, out of which amount he has to meet ^{the} other expenses of himself and of his family. (An adult labourer requires ~~xxx~~ one bushel of rice for himself for 30 days). The result as has been mentioned earlier, is that pregnant mothers have to work right up to

the period of confinement, with no time except the mid-day interval to nurse their babies. The Ceylon Administration Report for 1927 says "The maternal mortality is high on the estates, and so also the percentage of deaths from pneumonia is increasing due to change from the hot plain to the cold tea regions of Ceylon. In 1927, 2845 children died from debility most probably due to malnutrition and unfavourable ante-natal conditions".

Discussing the hours of work in the tea-gardens, Dr. Reddi points out, that the coolies have to get up very early as the roll-call is at 6.30 or 7 a.m. The labourers work 9 hours or more from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. with one hour interval at mid-day. Even after the day's work is over, the coolies have to wait till the leaves are weighed and recorded, and by the time they go home it is often 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. The coolies get free quarters and free medical aid on the tea estates, but as the majority of the coolies (40 per cent of them belong to the depressed classes) live in huts in the open air in their Indian villages the question of rent hardly arises and the free medical aid is also no new thing as they obtain free aid in the Government dispensaries in India. Dr. Reddi points out that there are no public schemes for the insurance of these coolies against sickness, unemployment, old age, or accident. According to Dr. Reddi the protection of expectant mothers, the grant of full wages 6 weeks or a month before and after child birth, and the forced attendance of children below 12 years in schools even against the parents' wishes have to be immediately insisted upon. "Ceylon" she says, "has been turned into a fairy land with the sweat of Indian labour", and the Indian labourer deserves some return for his contribution to the island's wealth. The tea-estates, even the poorest of them, are able to declare dividends of

of 25 per cent and, therefore, a part of the huge profits can justifiably be set apart for the amelioration of labour conditions.

(Hindu, 5-6-1929)

Industrial relations in Ceylon.

An agreement between the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress and the Employers' Federation of Ceylon was signed at a Conference held in the first week of June 1929, at which the Chairman and Acting Secretary of the Employers' Federation represented their body, while the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress was represented by its President and Secretary.

The following are the germs of agreement:-

That the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress hereby acknowledge the right of each of them to negotiate on behalf of their members on all matters affecting them.

That the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress undertakes that no strike will be called without an attempt being first made to arrive at a settlement with the employers' concerned, or failing any settlement being reached by such negotiations, without giving the Employers' Federation not less than seven days' notice in writing addressed to the Secretary that a strike will be called unless a settlement can be arranged meanwhile, such seven days notice to run as and from the date on which the Secretary of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon should receive such notice in the ordinary course of post.

That the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress will address the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and not its individual members in matters of common interest. Minor and individual matters will be dealt with direct with the Employers concerned at present.

That both parties to this agreement undertake to do all in their power to assist a pacific settlement, when and wherever possible, of any labour troubles which may arise.

That each party to this agreement will carefully consider any communications received in writing from the other and submit a reply thereto ~~with~~^{within} a reasonable time.

That in the event of any member of either body breaking any one of the terms of this agreement, the Union or Federation to which such member belongs will "immediately take steps to expel such member" according to the rules of the bodies concerned.

That any breach of this agreement by either party hereto will entitle the other party to determine it by giving 24 hours' notice in writing.

It is expressly agreed that this document does not bind the members of either body to arbitrate on any specific case.

This agreement may be terminated at any time by either party giving to the other three months' notice in writing of its intention to determine the agreement.

The following are the Associations composing the Federation:-

The Ceylon Engineer Employers' Association,
The Ceylon Employers' Association, Colombo
Harbour Interests, The Ceylon Motor Employers'
Association, The Ceylon Stores and Mills Association,
The Ceylon Fertilizer Employers' Association, The
General Importers and Distributors Association,
The Ceylon Hotel and Associated Trades Association,
The Master Printers' Association.

The following Trade Unions ~~have~~^{from the second party} subscribed to the agreement:-

The Ceylon Labour Union, The Ceylon Chauffeurs' Union,
The Ceylon Printers' Union, The Ceylon Hotel and
Domestic Workers' Union, The Ceylon Mariners' Union,
The Ceylon Tramway Men's Union, The Ceylon Mercantile
Union, and all Unions connected with Labour which may
join the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress hereafter.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.(C) Labour Disputes.Quarterly Strike Statistics.Statistics of Industrial disputes in British India for
the quarter ending 31st March 1929.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has in a press communiqué dated 6th June 1929, published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-3-1929. According to the Government communiqué, during the period under review there were 45 industrial disputes in British India, involving 77,385 workers and entailing a total loss of 820,215 working days. The disputes may be distributed according to provinces thus:- Assam - 2; Bengal - 7; Bombay - 29; Burma - 1; Delhi - 2; Madras - 2; and the United Provinces - 2. Bombay alone was responsible for 29 disputes involving 51,157 men and entailing a loss of 542,488 days. Bengal comes next with 7 disputes, involving 18,585 men and entailing a loss of 115,010 working days. Out of the total of 45 disputes, 19 were due to questions of personnel, 16 due to wages, 2 to bonus, 1 to leave and hours and 7 to other causes. In 10 disputes the workmen were successful, in 10 they were partially successful, in 17 they were unsuccessful, and 8 disputes are still in progress. The disputes may be classified according to industries thus:- Cotton and Woollen mills - 29; Jute mills - 5; Engineering workshops - 1; Railways including railway workshops - 1; others - Miscellaneous - 9.

... ..

The Bombay Textile Strike.

The Bombay Textile Strike.

The strike of the Bombay Textile Workers still continues, with varying vicissitudes. Both parties to the dispute are showing a degree of stubbornness and obduracy, which is quite out of keeping with the gravity of the situation. In the monthly report of this office for May last, it was explained how the peace negotiations conducted by the Millowners' Association and the Joint Strike Committee in the first half of April broke down on the vexed question of the alleged victimisation of 6000 old hands of the Wadia group of mills, and how the Girni Kamgar Union's demand for the reinstatement of the men was refused by the millowners. From the 8th May there was some improvement in the situation, and many mill hands returned to work. But a notice put up by the millowners that April wages will be paid only on May 15th, and that only for those who would return to work was seized upon by the Girni Kamgar Union as a fresh causua belli, and frantic appeals were made by that body asking the workers not to resume work. (See pages 25-29 of May Report).

The millowners, on the other hand, justify the stand they have taken on this subject. A communiqué issued by the Millowners' Association on 14-5-1929 says "According to the Fawcett Committee which went into the question more thoroughly than was ever done before, forfeiture of wages for lightning strikes is not only legal but also fair. The employees can certainly not make it a grievance that when giving them wages to which they are not entitled, we make it a condition that an employee should have worked for six days to enable him to draw the wages, which, we repeat, we have a clear right to forfeit".

On 15-5-1929 the strike situation took a serious turn as the result of the Girni Kamgar Union's decision calling upon

the strikers to enter the premises of the mills where they were working to demand payment of the wages for April. Collisions occurred in several places between the strikers and the police pickets posted at mill-gates, when the pickets tried to prevent the strikers from rushing into the mills. On two occasions the police had to resort to firing. The military had also to be called in to control the situation. Owing to the tension in the mill-area, there were fewer mills working on 15-5-1929, and a communiqué of the Millowners' Association of the same date estimates the number of men working at 34,000. A press communiqué issued by the Girni Kamgar Union, explaining the incidents of the day (15-5-1929) states that the strikers had gone peacefully to demand their wages, that a few "black-legs" came out of the mills and stoned the strikers, ~~xx~~ that the police wantonly charged them, and that the opening of fire by the military was equally without sufficient reason. The Union sent a telegram to the Governor complaining of the injustice done to them and claiming April wages. On the same day a deputation of the Millowners' Association waited upon the Home Member, and demanded adequate police arrangements for the prevention of such recurring troubles.

On 16-5-1929 the situation had quietened down. Crowds of strikers offered satyagraha at the millgates as a protest against non-payment of wages. ~~xxxx~~ Meanwhile the moderate leaders, who had supported the strikers in their demand for April wages, but who did not approve of violent methods, distributed handbills among the strikers signed by Messrs. Ginwalla, Asavale, Bakhale and others, advising the men to keep the peace pending their negotiations with the millowners for a peaceful settlement. A deputation of the moderate leaders waited on the millowners and urged the payment of

April wages on grounds of expediency, if not as a matter of right, but the millowners did not accede to the request.

The number of mills working on 18-5-1929 was 50, and the attendance at the mills had increased to 47,300. Against this reassuring feature should be set the fact that the exodus of strikers and their families from Bombay began to increase. On 17-5-1929 a deputation of the European Textile Association of Bombay, which for the last 50 years has been responsible for the management of about 75 per cent of Bombay's mills, waited on Mr. G.E.B. Hotson, the Home Member, and expressed the view that it fully supported the action taken by the Millowners' Association and that there can be no peace in the industry until the communistic influence of the Girni Kamgar Union has been broken. The Home Member replied that Government was watching the situation closely to decide what action ought to be taken.

On 18-5-1929, according to a communiqué of the Millowners' Association, there were 54 mills working either partially or completely with a complement of 58,000 hands. But the strike leaders challenged the accuracy of these figures. According to them only five or six mills were working with a total attendance of about 4,000 workers. The strike thus went on, both sides carrying on intensive propaganda. The exodus of mill workers continued, and according to an estimate of the Girni Kamgar Union, about 20,000 workers left the city during the third week of May. The Union had arranged for concession rates on coastal steamers, and this, no doubt, lent stimulus to the exodus. It must also be remembered that, on account of the approach of the rains, this is a period when the industrial workers in Bombay usually go to their villages to attend to their agricultural work.

Meanwhile an offer to set up a court of inquiry by the

Government was turned down by the Union leaders on the ground that they could not understand what inquiry was needed on such an obvious matter as the April wages, and that the machinery of the Trades Disputes Act "should not have been brought into existence if it was to be exploited for harassing the workers". In spite of the activities of the Union leaders the strike situation continued to improve and on 24-5-1929, according to a communique of the Millowners' Association, 100,000 men were at work, and there were only five mills in the city which were not working.

A sudden turn for the worse took place ~~by~~ 1-6-1929. Many workers after qualifying themselves to receive the April wages by working for the six days required by the employers began to absent themselves. The pronounced absenteeism of the workers began on 23-5-1929 and by 25-5-1929 roughly 8,000 workers had ceased to work. By 27-5-1929 the number of such absentees had come up to 15,000, most of whom after receiving April wages left for their villages.

On 5-6-1929 according to a communique of the Millowners' Association, the operatives at work numbered about 67,000 but the Girni Kamgar Union maintained that over 70,000 workers had already left the city. The Bombay Share and Stock-Brokers' Association, which had been feeling the effect of the strike, sent up a memorial to the Governor, urging him to take certain steps to put an end to the trouble, failing which they would be compelled to close the share market indefinitely for forward transactions, thus dislocating the commercial life of the city. The millowners admitted that on 7-6-1929 the number of operatives had dropped to 65,000, and that one more mill had to close down. A Joint Conference between the Share and Stock-brokers' Association and the Millowners' Association met the same day to consider the situation, but it proved abortive. On 8-6-1929

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A. suggested that the Congress should be asked to intervene, and proposed the names of Mahatma Gandhi and Motilal Nehru as arbitrators. The Union rejected the suggestion. On 10-6-1929 there were over 70,000 men at work but the situation was still serious. The Hon'ble the General Member of the Bombay Government came down to Bombay on 11-6-1929 to receive representations from various representative bodies, and arrange a compromise. His efforts proved unavailing, the strikers insisting that no settlement was possible unless the following five demands were conceded:

- (1) the reinstatement of 6,000 men of the Wadia mills:
- (2) freedom to ~~make~~ collect subscriptions to the Union inside the mills: (3) freedom to mill committees to function:
- (4) enquiry into the causes of the alleged victimisation: and
- (5) payment of April wages; and the millowners steadfastly refusing to concede them. 61 mills were said to be working on that day with a labour force of 72,500 employees. But the bitterest struggle still continues.

It may here be noted that according to the statistical tables issued by the Government of India relating to industrial disputes for the first quarter of the current year, Bombay tops the list with 25 disputes, involving 51,157 men and a loss of not less than 542,488 working days.

Some idea of the heavy losses sustained by the textile industry owing to the frequent labour dislocations can be had from the tell-tale figures adduced in the annual reports of some of the city's mills. The balance sheet of the E.D. Sassoon United Mills Ltd. as presented at the general meeting of the shareholders on 25-5-1929 showed a loss of Rs. 21,07,773-5-0, which the directors attributed to the prolonged strike during the period under review. The Jamshed Manufacturing Company Ltd. according to the company's balance sheet during the last year, suffered a loss of Rs.1,79,224-1-5.

Strikes in Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad was the scene of considerable labour trouble during the latter half of May and the beginning of June. In the period April-May 1929, a threatened labour strike was only just averted owing to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association's timely yielding to the wishes of the Ahmedabad Labour Union in the matter of drinking water arrangements and dining shed accommodation (see this office report for May 1929, pp. 30-31). At a meeting of the Council of representatives of the Ahmedabad Labour Union on 22-5-1929, resolutions were passed demanding weekly payment of wages, fixing the normal standard of breakages of yarn in the spinning department and the adjustment of conditions so as not to exceed the standard, the employment of 50 per cent ~~xxxxxx~~ women in the spinning department since wages of spinners are fixed on the family basis, and payment of compensation to piece workers for the loss of production owing to deficiency in material and other causes beyond the control of the men, and authorising the Labour Union's secretary to take steps for preventing recruitment of local labour for the Bombay mills to break the strike there. The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association has not yet given its reply to these demands; but the nature of the demands indicate the possibility of future trouble.

On 27-5-1929, 300 men of the spinning department of the Aryodaya Ginning Mill struck work, alleging harsh treatment by the spinning-master. The spinning master contends that the men are in the habit of wasting time loitering about on false pretexts. The men then charged the spinning-master with the offence of accepting bribes. The mill authorities have expressed their willingness to institute an inquiry if the men resume work, but the men demand the dismissal of the

spinning-master prior to resumption of work. A council ~~is~~ ~~being~~ ~~met~~ of the representatives of the Labour Union is being called on 29-5-1929 to consider the conduct of the strikers.

The operatives of the spinning department of the Fine Knitting Mill and the Ambica Mill went on a lightning strike on 1-6-1929, the men of the former complaining of delay in the payment of wages. The Millowners' Association has written to the Labour Union demanding compensation for such unauthorised strikes.

The Millowners' Association has submitted to the arbitration board the financial statement of certain selected mills in connection with the demand of the Labour Union for the restoration of the cut of fifteen and a half per cent on wages made in 1923. The arbitration proceedings will begin in a few days.

Another partial strike occurred on the morning of 4-6-'29 in the throttle department of the Gujarat Spinning Mill, but thanks to the effort of the Labour Union, the men were persuaded to resume work. The Committee of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association has resolved to demand an explanation from the Labour Union for the occurrence of such unauthorised strikes every day for about a week.

... ..

Jamshedpur Tinplate Workers' strike.*

The Jamshedpur Tin-plate workers' strike which began on 8-4-1929 is still proceeding, and both sides are showing no signs of yielding. On 15-5-1929 a mass meeting of the strikers was held and as the result of fervent appeals many loyal workers struck work, and only two mills were running on that date. The strike leaders have issued a special appeal

* See this office's May Report, pp.29-30.

to all public organisations in and outside Jamshedpur to help the starving workers, and the appeal has met with some success. The management has refused to meet any deputation of the workers, and has also refused to see outside labour leaders willing to negotiate on behalf of the strikers. Dewan Chamanlal, who was approached by the strikers to intercede on their behalf, on writing to the management received a curt reply to the effect that as the works are operating no negotiations were necessary. Dewan Chamanlal then acting upon the wishes of the strikers wired on 22-5-1929 to the Behar Government urging the appointment of a Conciliation Board under the new Trades Disputes Act to bring about a settlement. A statement issued to the press by Mr. Chamanlal on 27-5-1929 says that the Behar Government has issued no answer to this request, but the Behar Government in a communication to the secretary of the Trade Union Congress, Bombay, says that no such application had been received. The Behar Government has appointed Mr. J.R.Dain, I.C.S., to study the situation first hand and to report to Government as a preliminary to a Government inquiry. A deputation headed by Mr. V.V.Giri submitted a memorandum on behalf of the workers to Mr. Dain on 4-6-1929. The memorandum outlines instances of inadequate fulfilment of the terms of settlement arrived at between the Union and the management on 31st January last. The instances referred to include the provident fund and bonus schemes, acting allowance, increments promised to hot mill men, normal supply of soda in hot weather, and unfavourable service conditions compared with the Tatas. Other charges against the management include allegations of transfers of men from hot mills to new and unaccustomed posts, and later their discharge on protesting, and suspensions and dismissals of Union members. The memorandum affirms that the immediate cause of the strike was the management's refusal to meet the

workers' representatives through the Union and urges government to constitute a Board of Conciliation as provided in the Trades Disputes Act. The strike is continuing.

... ..

Strike situation in Bangalore.

At page 32 of the report of this office for May, it was mentioned that on 6-5-1929, there was a strike in the Minerva and Maharaja mills, as a protest against the dismissal of 30 workmen, who had taken a prominent part in an earlier strike. This strike continued and as the men stood firm in their demand for the reinstatement of the dismissed workers no settlement was arrived at. Meanwhile the City Magistrate, Bangalore, on 13-5-1929 issued a gagging order on three prominent labour leaders prohibiting them under section 144 Cr.P.C. from addressing the millhands of the city. On 8-6-1929, however, the dispute in the two mills came to a close, the management assuring that there would be no victimisation, and that the question of Sundays being observed as holidays would be given sympathetic consideration.

... ..

Strike in Oorgaum Gold Mine.

Some 500 men of the Oorgaum Gold Mine went on strike on 25-5-1929. The causes of the strike are the decision of the management to stop Sunday work, entailing loss of pay to the men, and the reduction of wages from 9 annas to 8 annas a day. The strike ended on 27-5-1929, the men returning to work unconditionally.

... ..

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.(1) Employers' Organisations.South Indian Chamber of Commerce and Workmen's
Compensation Act Amendment.

The Honorary Secretary, Southern India Chamber of Commerce, replying to the Secretary to the Government of Madras Public Works and Labour Department, regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act, says:- I am directed to state that my Committee having considered the proposals of the Government of India fully concur with them that the provisions of the Act might be liberalised in certain respects in favour of workmen in unorganised or non-hazardous industries and enterprises. The Committee have no objection if the Act should be extended to fresh classes of workmen employed in the following enterprises:- (a) Plantations: (b) transport, weighing, measurement or other handling of goods within the premises of a harbour: (c) loading, unloading, coupling, etc., in the railways: (d) road work in cities and work in dams and tunnels; (e) hazardous transport services for transporting timber, granite, machinery and iron structures and (f) mining operations in quarries which do not come under the Indian Mines Act.

The Committee are opposed to burdening unorganised industries with any scheme of compulsory insurance of compensation due to employees, but say that the Commissioner's award can be executed against the assets of the employer. Lump sums should be payable in the case of death and in the case of other injuries lump or instalment payments may be made at the option of the injured workmen. The Committee are in favour of a general increase by one-third on the scale of compensa-

sation provided in Section 4 and by one-third on the minima of schedule IV. The Committee agree with the Government that the acceptance of the ~~maxi~~ scale recommended by the International Labour Conference would involve unduly heavy payments for death or permanent disablement.

... .. (Hindu, 23-5-1929).

Baroda Millowners' Association.

The 11th annual meeting of the Baroda Millowners' Association was held at Baroda on 26-5-1929 with Mr. Magambhai Haribhakti, the Nagar Seth (chief of the Guilds) of the city, in the chair. The chairman Mr. Bhailal Amin reviewed the activities of the Association for the last ten years, and pointed out that the organisation had for its object the fostering of local factories and other industries; affording ^{an opportunity} ~~a link~~ for the new and old enterprises to meet on a common platform; assisting the state to promote commercial and industrial enterprises; and maintaining a strict watch for the purpose of safeguarding the interest of the community in general. The Association, in particular, endeavoured to maintain cordial relations between the employer and the employed by looking after the wants and comfort of labour, and had always taken care to represent their best interests whenever it was found necessary. The state had recognised the services rendered by the Association by inviting its president to take part in the discussion when the draft of the new Factory Act was brought before the State Legislative Assembly for consideration.

(Hindu, 25-5-1929).

... ..

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.(2) Workers' Organisations.G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union.

The first annual general meeting of the G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union was held at Chalisgaon on 25-5-1929 under the presidency of Mr. F.G.Ginwala. Mr. Ginwala, in his presidential speech, emphasised the necessity of organising railway workers in India as, of the 700,000 railway workers in the country, only 100,000 were now organised. He condemned Government's action in passing the Trades Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Ordinance in the teeth of strong opposition, and characterised the Ordinance as a great infringement of personal liberty. According to Mr. Ginwala the real cause of India's industrial trouble today was that employers, encouraged by Governments' apathy, took scant notice of the representations of employees' organisations, and thus invited industrial trouble confident of the ultimate support of the Government. He cited as a case in point that in the course of the last year, 1759 complaints relating to fines, victimisation, free passes, compensation, leave, removal from service, etc., which were received from the Union's various branches were forwarded by the Union to the Agent for remedial action; but with very few exceptions the complaints were never remedied. Mr. Ginwala sounded a note of warning to the authorities that, if this policy was continued, a very serious labour situation was bound to arise, and the responsibility for it would rest with the government.

... ..

Ajmer Postal Conference.

The fifth session of the All India Burma Postal and R.M.S. Union (Central Circle) conference was held at Ajmer on

19-5-1929 under the presidentship of Rai Sahib Har Bilas Sarda, M.L.A. The Conference directed attention to the inadequate salaries of postmen and runners, who, in the opinion of the Conference, did not even get a living wage. The plight of graduates employed before the recent revision of salaries, and who had to work at a disadvantage compared with new graduate employees was sympathetically considered by the Conference. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the revision of salaries had given no relief to packers, mail peons, letter-box peons, and van peons. "You will realise the ~~sting~~ stinginess shown by the Government to postmen in India" said Mr. Sarda, "when you compare them with their confreres in England. In England a postman starts on a salary of Rs. 175/- per month and rises to Rs.304/8/- in 13 years. In Rajputana he starts on Rs. 18, and rises in 20 years to Rs. 30/8/-. Till two years ago he could not rise beyond Rs. 24/-."

... ..

All-India Telegraph Workmen's Union.

The annual general meeting of the All India Telegraph Workmen's Union was held at Lahore on 29-5-1929, under the presidentship of Dewan Chamanlal. The meeting passed a resolution urging the grant to telegraph workers in cities, rent allowance, cycle allowance, sun-proof glass for summer, rain-proof coats and umbrellas for the rainy season, abolition of the system of bracketting telegrams, and of the practice of not paying for telegrams when addressees are not found. It was also decided that a comprehensive statement of grievances should be sent to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and on receipt of reply, if necessary, a deputation should wait on the Director General.

As a result of representations the authorities of the

Posts and Telegraph Department have formulated a scheme whereby a telegraph delivery peon after a certain period of service in the taskwork department can apply for the post of postman. But the All India Telegraph Workmen's Union demands a more far-reaching scheme under which the menial grade would be altogether abolished in the Telegraph Department.

... ..

Madras Tramways' Workmen.

A meeting of the Madras Electric Tramways and Supply Corporation Employees' Union was held on 29-5-1929 under the presidentship of Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar, M.L.C. Three resolutions were passed at the meeting: one requesting the authorities a general increment of their wages and salaries: the other for the introduction of a system of Provident Fund: and the third that in respect of overtime work done by all employees wages should be paid for such extra hours in accordance with the rules and practice in vogue in mills and factories.

... ..

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway

Employees' Union.

In compliance with the request of this Union, the Chief Engineer, M. & S.M. Railway, has consented to the formation of an employment bureau consisting of the General Secretary of the Union and the Works Manager, Arkonam, for finding out employment in the railways and elsewhere for the retrenched men at Arkonam.

The first meeting of the bureau was held on the 18th May 1929 at Arkonam and the lines on which it should work were agreed upon. Though the men at Arkonam feel that the notices dispensing with their services should have been

cancelled, yet the appointment of the bureau has given considerable relief.

(Hindu, 24th May 1929).

... ..

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The Banking Inquiry.

At pages 54-56 of this Office's report for May 1929 an account was given of the main proposals of the Government of India with regard to a scheme of enquiry into Indian banking conditions. After a consultation with the local governments, the Central Government has now decided to set up a Central Committee and ten local committees - one for each of the nine major provinces, and one for the centrally administered areas. The Committee will inquire into the existing conditions of banking in India, and consider what steps, if any, are feasible and desirable under the following main heads:

- (1) Regulation of banking ~~in~~ with a view to protect the interests of the public:
- (2) Development of banking in the sense of expansion of both indigenous and joint stock banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry: and
- (3) Banking education with a view to the provision of Indian personnel in adequate numbers and with necessary ~~minimum~~ qualifications to meet the increasing needs of the country for a sound and well-managed national system of banking.

The Hon'ble Sir B.N.Mitra has been appointed chairman of the Central Committee, which consists of over ²⁰~~15~~ members. He will take over his duties on the termination of his

membership of the Viceroy's Council early next year; until then Sir Purshottandas Thakurdas, Vice-chairman, will act for him.

The main work of the provincial committees is to be done in the cold weather of 1929-30, when certain sub-committees of the Central Committee will also be active. In the summer of 1930, the Central Committee will study the reports of its sub-committees as also of the various provincial committees, and provisional conclusions and recommendations will probably be settled. The next stage will be consultations between the Central Committee and a small body of outside experts selected by the Government either from England or from other foreign countries with well developed systems of rural credit and industrial banking. These experts will act as advisers to the Central Committee, and will, if necessary, submit a report ~~by~~ of their own which will be included by the Central Committee in its own report to be presented to the Government of India. These final reports according to the present plans will be ready by April 1931.

The Committee has on the whole been well received by the public.

... ..

The New Rupee Loan of the Government of India.

A Gazette of India Extraordinary of 11-6-1929 publishes the terms of the new 5 per cent loan 1939-44 issued at Rs. 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ and ~~giving a redemption yield of 5.34 per cent~~, and of a further issue of 5 per cent bonds 1935 issued at Rs. 98, and ~~giving a redemption yield of 5.59 per cent~~. The 5 per cent loan 1939-44 is for Rs. 120 millions nominal, and the 5 per cent bonds 1935 is for Rs. 150 millions nominal; but the Government of India reserves to themselves the right to close either ~~the~~ the loan or the bonds and close the subscriptions at

any time after subscriptions for both the loan and the bonds taken together have exceeded a total of Rs. 180 millions. The period when the issues are open for subscription is from the 20th to the 28th June 1929.

... ..

Removal of Export Duty on Manila Hemp.

The Government of India have issued orders on the Tariff Board report issued on the 7th June 1929 recommending the entire removal of the duty on Manila hemp to enable Indian manufacturers of Manila rope to ~~xxxxx~~ compete with foreign producers in markets abroad, besides restoring the tariff equality in respect of that part of the output which is sold for local consumption. The Government resolution says: "The Government of India accept & in principle the recommendation of the Board that the duty on Manila hemp should be entirely removed". It is proposed to give effect to it when the financial conditions permit.

Once the industry was in flourishing condition in India, but since 1920 export had practically ceased. One of the reasons assigned for this is the disability to which the Indian manufacturer is subject by reason of the import duty on Manila hemp. The Tariff Board recognises that it is unreasonable to levy on Indian manufacturers a duty which has the effect of shutting them out of their natural export markets and expresses the opinion that an import duty levied on raw materials used in the manufacture of article destined for export was not distinguishable in effect from an export duty on raw materials, to which strong objection was taken by the Indian Fiscal Commission.

... ..

Land Revenue Conference.

With reference to the Revenue Members' Conference, an account of which appears at pages 58-59 of the report of this Office for May 1929, the Government of India have issued a communiqué on 15-5-1929 explaining that the object of the Conference was to enquire into the adequacy of the existing system of land revenue administration to meet present conditions. The last comprehensive examination of this question was undertaken by the Government of Lord Curzon, which issued a resolution on this subject in 1902. The Government of India hope to publish shortly a resolution setting out the main conclusions reached by the Conference on the important questions discussed. But as land revenue administration is primarily the concern of the local governments, being a reserved provincial subject, and as the divergence of the local systems of settlement and local conditions make it essential that any general principles that may be enunciated should be framed with due regard to these factors, the Government of India propose to issue the resolution after prior consultation with local governments.

In this connection attention may be drawn to a statement published in the Pioneer of 22-5-1929 by Mr. K.M.Munshi, M.L.C. (Bombay), who figured prominently during the Bardoli controversy. Mr. Munshi pleads for the establishment of the rule of law instead of the arbitrary rule of the executive authority in the land revenue policy of the country. The essential features of an enlightened revenue policy should be (1) land revenue must be statutorily recognised as a tax and not as rent; (2) principles of assessment must be clearly defined by statute; (3) assessments should be enquired into and fixed judicially, the assessment made by a revenue officer being open to challenge before a land court consisting of

the district judge and a settlement officer, with the right of appeal to the high court; and (4) the recovery of assessment should be by processes more akin to the execution of decrees by the civil courts.

... ..

Inland Waterways of India.

The Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has made a representation to the Government of India, asking for the examination of the problem of the development of waterways in India in all its aspects by a central agency with a view to the formulation of a national policy in the matter. The press supports the Chamber in its request, and points out that the Government of India are wrong in holding that the development of the waterways was primarily a matter for the provinces. According to the "Statesman" of 24-5-1929 "the fact is that the policy of the Government of India in this matter is dictated by the Railway Board Instead of spending its money in opening up routes where there is no water communication, the Railway Board persistently lays siege to traffic which is already carried by the waterways, thus laying the foundations of its own future monopoly. The Government of India admits that railways and roads are an imperial concern. How then can they exclude from the same category waterways, which are only another aspect of the problem?" It may here be pointed out that the Indian Industrial Commission "felt justified in urging that the Government of India should take up the question of improving the existing waterways, as we cannot help thinking that in the absence of a representative especially charged with their interests, the vested interests of railways have prevented waterways in India from receiving the attention that has been given to them in other countries with such satisfactory results".

UNEMPLOYMENT.Mysore Farming Colony.

It will be remembered that early this year the Bengal Government resolved to try the experiment of starting agricultural colonies in that province as a solution to the problem of unemployment among the educated middle classes. The Government of Mysore has now accorded sanction to a similar scheme proposed by the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of an agricultural colony ^{near} ~~under~~ the Bhadra Channel, where an area of 379 acres of wet land and 442 acres of dry land has been selected for the purpose.

The object of the scheme are to give opportunities to intelligent young men who have had an agricultural training to utilise their knowledge to the advantage of themselves and the benefit of the country; to open out and develop the resources of hitherto insufficiently developed tracts; and to serve as a centre for the distribution of agricultural implements.

The scheme provides for the ~~admission~~ admission of only ten men to the colony, allowing 30 acres of wet land and 40 acres of dry land to each of the colonists, who will be required to clear all the wet land within two years or forfeit it, unless they can show sufficient reasons for the delay. Each holding will be non-transferable for a period of 20 years, or until the dues are paid. The estate will be impartible. A sum of Rs. 5,000 is to be spent on wells, roads and bridges for the colony, and the whole colony is to be placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 10,250 per man, out of which the colonist is to contribute Rs. 1,500 and the Mysore Government the balance, which will be treated as a loan free of interest for five years. The Director has proposed

that the principal of this loan, with interest at 6 per cent per annum be made repayable in sixteen equal annual instalments, commencing the fifth year after the disbursement of the loan.

(Statesman, 30-5-1929)

... ..

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Temperance work in India.

An exhaustive review of the temperance work done in India in 1928-29 was placed before the annual meeting of the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association held in London on 13-5-'29. The report drew attention to the fact that during the last 50 years drinking habits had increased in India, and that the excise system by which the sale of drink was regulated had become one of the most lucrative revenue collecting agencies of the Government. An ominous factor in the situation is that about one quarter of the total provincial revenues was dependant upon excise revenues, the proportion rising to as much as 33.3 per cent in Madras, and 34.4 per cent in Bihar and Orissa. This explains the inwardness of the inability of several provincial governments to make any real progress towards prohibition, though they have announced prohibition to be the final goal of their policy.

The excise policies in the different provinces are then discussed. In Bombay after much agitation a system of rationing liquor supplies designed to achieve total prohibition by gradual stages was adopted some years ago, but this system has now been practically abandoned. All rationing of liquor in Bombay Presidency proper was stopped as from

1-4-1928, which led to much criticism in the Council and the passing of a motion of censure on the Excise Minister. In Sind, the rationing system has been continued, the ration for the current year being fixed at 5 per cent less than that of 1927-28.

The Madras Government have been making some efforts towards prohibition, and have even set apart a sum of money for expenditure each year to discourage the drink habit and to subsidise voluntary agencies working for prohibition.

In Bengal, the Government's attitude leaves much to be desired, in marked contrast to the attitude of Madras, Bombay and the Central Provinces, which have scrapped the old policy of "a maximum revenue from a minimum consumption", and have approved of eventual prohibition as a practical ideal. The Bengal Government is still content with the regulation of the sale of liquor, and regards prohibition as impossible. That the stoppage of excise contributions will be disastrous to provincial finances seems to be the view of the Government, with the result that its attitude to temperance reform has become unsympathetic and even hostile.

(Times of India, 11-6-1929)

The position in Madras is further elucidated by the proceedings of a meeting of the executive committee of the Central Propaganda Board against Alcoholism which was held at Ootacamund on 20-5-1929, with the Minister for Excise in the chair. The Committee considered the draft scheme prepared in the light of the previous discussions, which has for its object the creation of active public opinion in favour of total abstinence, so as to be able to work up to the goal of total prohibition within 20 years. A sum of Rs. 400,000 has been allotted for propaganda this year for the Central

Board. The majority of the members of the Board are non-officials, but the Secretary of the Revenue Department of the Government of Madras, the Commissioner of Excise, and the Director of Public Health are also ex-officio members and the president is the Minister for Public Health.

(Hindu, 3-6-1929).

Opium Cultivation Statistics.

In his report to the Central Board of Revenue, Mr. A.P. Collett, Opium Agent and Commissioner of Income-Tax, United Provinces, remarks that the maximum area of cultivation during 1927-28 (October-September) was further reduced from 100,000 bighas to 80,000 bighas. The settlements were very satisfactory and resulted in an area of 79,251 bighas or only .94 per cent less than the sanctioned area being obtained.

The reluctance of cultivators to engage observed in the previous year was not apparent, and the cultivation of poppy has regained its popularity. But this is due chiefly to the efforts of district officers and there is little doubt in view of the restricted cultivation that the limit has been reached and any further reduction in price will adversely affect poppy cultivation.

The area of production was 76,743, while failures due to climatic causes amounted to 2,275 as compared with 1,459 in the preceding year.

The gross produce amounted to 7,002 equivalent to 7,016 maunds at a consistence of 70°. The amount was 1,298 maunds less than the estimate framed by district officers owing to the unfavourable weather conditions during February.

The average yield per bigha on the actual outturn was 3.66 seers at 70° as compared with 5.12 seers in the previous

year and an average of 4.62 in the past seven years.

For opium delivered the average price paid by the department was Rs. 36-9-0 per bigha, while each cultivator received Rs. 17-6-0 as compared with Rs. 51-3-0 and Rs. 22-9-0 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the poor yield.

During the year 738 lbs. of crude morphine and 164 lbs. 10 ozs. of morphia-hydrochloride were manufactured, besides small quantities of cotarnine-hydrochloride and codeine. The quantity of crude morphine sold through the High Commissioner for India after the necessary permission had been obtained from the Home Office was 1,100 lbs. The balance in hand, 778 lbs. is sufficient to meet Indian indents for some time and as the sale of crude morphine in the United Kingdom affects the sale of special medical opium, which gives better profits, the manufacture of crude morphine has ceased for the present.

The number of chests of medical opium despatched to the High Commissioner for India for sale in the United Kingdom was practically the same as in the previous year: 480 chests comprising 76,800 lbs. were sold and the accounts received up to date of 345 chests valued Rs. 8,68,404-13-0. The price obtained, however, has gradually dropped from 2s.3d per lb. per unit of morphine to 1s.10¹/₂d. owing to the competition of Turkish opium in the London market.

The segregation of the opium obtained from the lancings of the first and second visits to the fields in certain selected localities and the setting aside of the opium so obtained together with opium of high morphine strength obtained from subsequent lancings for the manufacture of medical opium was continued during the year. But though the quality of the opium was good, there was a decrease in outturn due to adverse ~~xxx~~ climatic conditions.

The net profit of the manufacturing operations of the department for the period amounted to Rs. 1,98,79,248 as compared with Rs. 1,69,67,833 for the preceding eleven months ending September 30, 1927. To this must be added interest charges amounting to Rs. 23,10,130 and depreciating^{en} amounting to Rs. 44,996. Most of the profits were, as in the previous year, obtained from the sale of provision opium.

Special medical opium despatched to the United Kingdom yielded a profit of Rs. 4,44,127-2-0. Indian medical opium, cake and powder, also yielded a profit.

There was a loss of Rs. 35,197-2-0 on the sale of lands and buildings due to disposal of the buildings at a price much below their book value.

(Statesman, 24-6-1929).

Social Reform.

How wide is the gulf that separates India from the countries of Western Europe is strikingly brought home by the difference in the connotation of the expression "Social Reform" here and there. Here social reform does not mean schemes of social insurance, or old age pensions, or relief ~~from~~^{of} unemployment. It means rather the removal of the old time social customs, which today act as a bar to progress. Thus, addressing the Conference of the All India Hindu Law Research and Reform Association which opened at Poona on the 15th May 1929, Mr. Justice Madgavkar, I.C.S. emphasised the urgent need there was for the reform of Hindu law, social customs, and religious practices in accordance with the conditions of modern existence in India, and the dictates of prudence and necessity. According to him the three points on which reform was urgently required were the status of women, the caste system, and the joint family system. One of the questions considered at the

brilliant history in some other lines of medical and public health research". The Committee recommend that the headquarters of the Central Medical Research Organisation should be established at Dehra Dun, though some medical bodies in India object to its location at Dehra Dun, where the Institute will be isolated, and teamwork in ~~the~~ other departments of study, such as chemistry, physics, physiology, etc., would not be possible, and it is argued that in the same way as the Public Health Institute of India, for which the Rockefeller endowment has promised a contribution of Rs. 1,500,000, is to be located at Calcutta, Bombay may be chosen as the site of the new Central Medical Research Institute.

CO-OPERATION.

Among the newspaper cuttings on co-operation forwarded with this report are two which deal with the progress of co-operation in Mysore and in Madras, to which special attention is directed. Two other cuttings in the same section deal with the work of co-operative housing societies in Karachi and in Bangalore. A very interesting article in the Hindu of 14-5-1929 on "Water supply in rural areas - Field for co-operative endeavour" also deserves more than passing attention.

EDUCATION.

Industrial Education in Madras.

In the course of a Government order No. 691, Development Department, dated 12-4-1929, the Government of Madras state that they had had under consideration the recommendations of the Committee on Technical and Industrial Education in the Presidency, which reported in 1924, that a number of model

industrial schools ought to be set up in areas where aided schools were few and far between. Accordingly three such trade schools have now been sanctioned to be opened, ~~at~~ a Trade School at Bangalore, and Industrial Schools at Calicut and Bellary, to provide part time instruction in engineering trades, including motor engineering, wood-work and cabinet making etc.

Training of Printers' Apprentices in Calcutta.

At a meeting of the leading Calcutta printers on 21-5-1929 Mr. H.E. Watson, the editor of the "Statesman" presiding, a Master Printers' Federation of Bengal was formed with the primary object of establishing a Board of Control of apprentice training in the printers' trade. The proposal was welcomed by the Director of Industries in Bengal on behalf of the Calcutta Technical School. The Government, he said, had shown its desire to foster industrial training by giving the school property worth Rs. 1.05 millions and making it over to a non-official governing body on which the industries of Calcutta were represented. Technical education was essentially the responsibility of the leaders of industry. Government usually aided these ventures by contributions to capital and recurring expenditure, to as much as 50 per cent of the outlay, and a bona fide gesture from such an important body as the Master Printers of Calcutta, he considered, would undoubtedly meet with government support.

AGRICULTURE.Review of Agricultural Operations in India, 1927-28*

The Review of Agricultural Operations in India for the year 1927-28 by Dr. D. Clouston, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, has now been published, and copious extracts from it together with comments are appearing in the various newspapers of India. After passing in brief review the agricultural conditions of the year, and detailing the nature of the economic work§ on crops, Dr. Clouston points out that a considerable amount of research work bearing on the fundamental problems of the science of agriculture is being done by some of the agricultural departments in India. Investigation into soil fitness and manures is also being carried on at different centres. Government have provided at the cost of over a Rs. 1,000 millions irrigation works which protect 26 out of the 256 million acres under cultivation in British India. Much headway has not yet been made in the designing of improved implements suitable to Indian conditions. Two of the most interesting chapters in the Review deal with agricultural education and the co-operative movement. The number of Indians trained up to date in the technique of good agricultural practices is quite inadequate. A more technical education than is now given in secondary schools would have given the students a bias towards agriculture as a vocation, stimulated their interest in the land, and equipped them to be better farmers. Though the

* Review of Agricultural Operations in India 1927-28 by D. Clouston, C.I.E., M.A., D.Sc., Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India -- Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch - 1929. Price Rs. 2-6 or 4s. 3d. H 157.

co-operative movement as affecting agriculture is in a somewhat unhealthy condition, nevertheless a system of rural credit has been established which, carefully fostered, should in the course of time relieve the cultivator of his burden of usury. Another important subject dealt with in the report deals with the disease and treatment of live stock, and the question of cattle breeding. The net expenditure incurred by the Imperial Agricultural Department was Rs. 1,025,464 during the financial year ending 31-3-1928, while there was a rise of Rs. 800,000 in the gross expenditure of the provincial departments of agriculture over that of the previous year.

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Agricultural Research Council.

In the monthly report of this office for February 1929, pages 3-4, reference was made to the intention of the Government of India to create an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as recommended by the Linlithgow Commission. The Government have now published a resolution formally announcing their decisions with regard to the constitution of the council. The central organisation would be divided into two parts vested with executive and advisory functions respectively. The executive part which will be known as the governing body will consist of the Member of the Viceroy's Council in charge of agriculture, a principal Officer of the Administrative Council, three representatives from the Central Legislatures, two representatives from Indian business interests, one representative each from the Government of each major province, two representatives elected by the advisory board, and such other persons as the Government may nominate. The functions of the advisory board will be to

to examine all proposals in connection with the scientific objects of the Council, to report on their feasibility, and to advise on any other questions referred to it by the governing body. It will consist of all those whose inclusion in the Council was recommended by the Linlithgow Commission, with the exception of the representatives of the Central legislatures, and of the Indian industrial and commercial communities. The principal administrative officer of the Council will be the ex-officio chairman of the advisory board. For the lump grant of Rs. 5 millions recommended by the Linlithgow Commission, the Government have decided to substitute an initial lump grant of Rs. 2.5 millions and a fixed minimum annual grant of Rs. 725,000 of which Rs. 500,000 will be devoted to the furtherance of the scientific objects of the Council, and Rs. 225,000 to the cost of the staff and secretariat.

A. P. P.