

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for May 1935.

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References to the I. L. O. +

The March 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Ry. Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 14-1-1935 reviewing the work of the I.L.O. during 1934.

* * *

The March 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Ry. Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes a long note under the caption: "The I.L.O begins a New Year's work" reviewing the work of the 69th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 1-5-1935 reproduces the note on the 69th session of the Governing Body published in the Monthly Summary of the I.L.O. for January 1935.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 8-5-35 reproduces extracts from the items: "69th session of Governing Body" and "Recent I.L.O. publications" included in the News Bulletin issued by the I.L.O. for February 1935.

* * *

The March 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Ry. Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes the full text of the memorandum submitted by Mr. Jammadas Mehta to the Governing Body of the I.L.O. regarding certain irregularities in the application of the Hours of Work Convention to Indian railways.

* * *

The April 1935 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publishes the record of an interview granted by Mr. Jammadas Mehta to a press

representative on his arrival from Geneva about his work at the 69th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

* * *

The April 1935 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, reproduces a note from the Press Reports of the All India Railwaymen's Federation regarding the extension of the Hours of Employment Regulations to the M.& S.M. and B.B. & C.I. Railways. The note also draws attention to the action taken by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. in regard to the complaint of Mr. Jammadas Mehta regarding certain irregularities in the application of the Hours of Work Convention to Indian railways.

* * *

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 11-5-35 and the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 18-5-35 publish a communique issued by this Office on 24-4-1935 on the 70th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

* * *

The annual Report of the Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce for 1934 publishes at pages 264-266 two communications dated 3-10-34 and 10-12-34 issued by the Government of India regarding the date and agenda of the 19th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The March 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S. Ry. Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes the Government of India communique issued on 10-12-1934 regarding certain additions to the agenda of the 19th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The April 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by the Government of India on 29-3-1935 announcing certain additions to the agenda of the 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The May 1935 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, and the April 1935 issue of the Insurance and Financial Review, Calcutta, publish short notes announcing the nomination of Mr. K.L.Dutt as adviser to the Indian employers' delegate and publish photographs of Mr. Dutt.

* * *

The April 1935 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, publishes a short note announcing the nomination of Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee, as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference. A photograph of Mr. Laljee is also published.

* * *

The Hindu dated 30-4-35 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 12-5-35 publish an Associated Press of India message announcing the personnel of the non-Government section of the Indian delegation to the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindu of 25-5-35, the Hindustan Times of 26-5-35, the Times of India, the National Call and the Leader of 27-5-35 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 28-5-35 publish a message dated 25-5-35 from Simla announcing the personnel of the Indian delegation to the 19th I.L.Conference. The delegation is composed as follows:-

Government Delegates: Sir B.N.Mitra and Sir Joseph Bhore.

Advisers to Government Delegates: Mr. A. Dibdin, Begum Shah Nawaz and Mr. S.R.Zaman, I.C.S.

Employers' Delegate: Mr. Hooseinbhoj Laljee.

Adviser to Employers' Delegate: Mr. K. L. Dutt.

Workers' Delegate: Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar.

Adviser to Workers' Delegate: Mr. V.P.Kolte.

Secretary to the Delegation: Mr. S.R.Zaman, I.C.S.

The Government communique on the subject is published at page 735 of Part I of ^{the} Government of India ^{Gazette} dated 1-6-1935.

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 16-5-35 publishes the reports of three functions organised by the Indian Mining Federation, Mr. Ramsaran Das and Mr. A.N.Laba respectively in honour of Mr. K.L. Dutt on his nomination as adviser to the Indian Employers' delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Leader dated 22-5-35 publishes a photograph of Mr. K.L. Dutt, adviser to the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Hindu of 6-5-35 publishes the report of a party given by the Workers' Bank of India, Ltd., Madras, on 5-5-35 to Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar to bid him farewell on his leaving India to attend the 19th session of the I.L. Conference as the Indian workers' delegate. Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar addressed the gathering explaining the various items on the agenda of this year's Conference.

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 16-5-1935 publishes a United Press of India message dated 14-5-1935 from Bombay to the effect that Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar sailed for Europe to attend the 19th I.L. Conference as Indian Workers' Delegate.

* * *

The Leader of 17-5-1935 publishes a photograph of Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Indian workers' delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Statesman, the Hindustan Times and the National Call and the Hindu of 7-5-1935, the Times of India of 8-5-35 and all principal papers publish a news item to the effect that the Director of this Office left New Delhi on 6-5-35 for Geneva to attend the 19th session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 14-5-35, the Hindu, the Times of India, and the Leader of 17-5-35 and the Statesman and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 19-5-35 publish a communique issued by this Office on 13-5-35 on the Blue Report on the partial revision of the Hours of Work (Coal Mines) Convention of 1931.

* * *

The Hindu of Madras dated 18-5-1935 publishes an editorial article on the communique on the partial revision of Hours of Work (Coal Mines) Convention, 1931, The article, after drawing attention to the operative part of the Convention, remarks that India cannot ratify the Convention even after revision since hours of work in Indian mines ^{were} ~~was~~ reduced only very recently. It also points out that even if this reform is necessary for a European country it does

not follow that it is necessary for India too. The article says:
 "The Government and other agencies will do well to investigate the
 problem how far differences in climate and conditions of living
 affect the efficiency of work of labourers in this country and
 outside. The results of such an enquiry would enable us to deal
 with the problem of ameliorating the lot of workers in a manner
 suited to the conditions prevailing in this country."

* * *

The Statesman of 22-5-35 publishes an editorial note on the
 communique issued by this Office on the partial Revision of Hours
 of Work (Coal Mines) Convention, 1931, in the course of which the
 opinion is expressed that India cannot ratify even the revised
 Convention since hours of work in Indian mines were reduced subs-
 tantially, though not to the level advocated by the Convention,
 only recently.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 15-5-35 publish a communique
 issued by this Office on 11-4-35 on the Grey-Blue Report on unemploy-
 ment among young persons.

The May 1935 issue of the Indian Labourer, Madras, publishes
 a translation in Tamil of the communique.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique,
 vide page 1 of April 1935 report of this Office).

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 22-5-35 publishes a communique
 issued by this Office on 13-3-35 on the Grey Report on Holidays
 with Pay.

* * *

The Times of India dated 18-5-35 publishes details of an enquiry conducted by the Government of India to elicit opinion of industrial interests on the question of holidays with pay.

* * *

The Statesman of 14-5-35 publishes a long article from "A Labour Correspondent" contributed exclusively to the London Times and the Statesman, under the caption: "Recovery in 1934" summarising and reviewing the Report of the Director to the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Times of India of 14-5-35 publishes a short note bringing out the salient features of the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindu dated 15-5-35 publishes a note describing the salient features of the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference, received from a London Correspondent by mail.

* * *

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 27-5-35 publishes a note summarising the portions in the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference referring to the economic depression and unemployment.

* * *

The National Call and the Hindustan Times dated 24-5-35, the Statesman dated 26-5-35, the *and the Hindu* Leader dated 27-5-35 and the Times of India dated 28-5-35 publish a communique issued by this Office on 22-5-35 on the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 29-5-35, the Hindu dated 30-5-35, and the Statesman dated 31-5-35 ^{and the Times of India dated 3-6-1935} publish a second communique issued by this Office on 27-5-35 on the Director's Report to the I.L.Conference (1935).

* * *

The Times of India dated 30-4-35 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 27-4-35 on the date and agenda of the next Maritime Session of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Statesman dated 8-5-35 publishes a short editorial note on the communique issued by this Office on 27-4-35 on the date and agenda of the next maritime session of the I.L.Conference. The note draws attention to the importance of the items on the agenda and says that the decisions arrived at by the Conference will go a great way towards modifying the conditions of work of Indian seamen.

* * *

The second quarterly issue of "Contemporary India", Lahore (Vol.I No.2) publishes an article under the caption: "The Significance of the I.L.O." contributed by Dr. Mack Eastman. The article (sent to this Office by Geneva) was forwarded to the quarterly by this Office.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 21-5-35 publishes an Associated Press of India message dated 20-5-35 from Bombay to the effect that the Federation of Jewish Labour, Palestine, has affiliated with the Asiatic Labour Congress. The message also gives the names

of the present members of the Congress and the list of office bearers (The message was published in all leading dailies in this country).

* * *

The Times of India dated 20-5-35 publishes the report of the proceedings of a meeting held at Bombay on 17-5-35 to celebrate "International Goodwill Day", presided over by Mr. N.M.Joshi. In the course of his presidential speech, Mr. Joshi made several references to the League of Nations and the I.L.O., and outlined the contributions they are making for the ensurance of international peace and goodwill.

* * *

The Hindustan Times, of 14-5-35, the Leader dated 16-5-35 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 19-5-35 publish an Associated Press of India report dated 10-5-35 from Simla based on details received from Rome of the recent meeting of the Permanent Committee of the International Institute of Agriculture. In the course of the report references are made to the connection of the Institute with the I.L.O.

* * *

The Hindustan Times, the Times of India and the Hindu of 7-5-35 and the Leader of 10-5-35 publish a report received from Geneva (by mail) of the last session of the Committee of International Students' Organisations, held at Geneva, where resolutions were passed recommending the I.L.O. to adopt measures to alleviate the unemployment problem.

* * *

The March 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S.Ry. Employees' Union

Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes a brief account of the debate in the last session of the Legislative Assembly on the Government resolutions recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Conventions regarding unemployment insurance and hours of work in glass works.

* * *

The Times of India dated 27-5-35 reproduces a note published in the Christian Science Monitor on the results of the working of the 40-hour week in Italy. The note also announces that the 40-hour week has been made a permanent measure in that country from 16-4-35.

* * *

United India and Indian States, Delhi, of 4-5-35 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication, "Social Aspects of Industrial Development in Japan".

* * *

The April 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 11-3-35 under the caption: "Night Work in Japan: Employers and Proposed Legislation".

* * *

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian press during May 1935:

1. An article on the Director's Report to the 19th I.L. Conference contributed to the London Times and Statesman exclusively (source unknown).
2. A note on the Director's Report published in the Times of India of 14-5-35 (source unknown).
3. A note on the Director's Report published in the Hindu of 15-5-1935. The note was received by the paper from "A

London Correspondent" by mail.

4. A report of the last session of the Committee of the International Students' Organisations held at Geneva, received from Geneva by mail (source not known). +

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National Labour Legislation.

Amendment to Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation
Rules, 1934. ✓

Attention is directed to page 304 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 9-5-1935 where an amendment to the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Rules, 1934 is published. The amendment relates to certain verbal changes in Form B appended to the above Rules. +

Health Insurance for Workers in India;
Government of India Contemplating Possibilities
of Introduction of Scheme. +

At pages 13-14 of our December 1933 report ^{it was pointed out} ~~mention was made~~ that the Government of India were seriously considering the possibility of implementing the recommendations of the Whitley Commission relating to the provision of sickness insurance schemes for industrial workers. It is now understood that the Government of India have come to certain tentative conclusions on framing a scheme of sickness insurance for industrial workers in India. The subject of sickness insurance was discussed ~~by~~ the Royal Commission on Labour in India which held that the situation called for the exploration of all methods that might lead to the alleviation of the hardships due to the absence of an insurance scheme. They also

recognised that the statistical material available was insufficient and recommended that special enquiries should be instituted at selected centres as soon as possible.

Government Views on the Whitley Recommendation.- The Government of India examined these recommendations in consultation with the Standing Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature attached to the Department of Industries and Labour. They have come to the conclusion that an elaborate analysis would be required, over a series of five years, of the experience as regards sickness and employment of a representative sample of the industrial population. The requisite statistics would have to be collected on "experience cards" to be completed for each individual worker in the sample by a large number of employers throughout the country.

Statistical Enquiry Unnecessary.- The Royal Commission doubtless had in view the possibility of the ultimate establishment of a comprehensive scheme applicable to workers employed in organised industry, and believed that any such scheme would have to be based upon the statistical enquiry which they recommended. But they attached great importance to actual experience and suggested "a tentative scheme" applicable to single establishments, which may have been designed to afford a practical test of the statistical material or may, on the other hand, have been intended for independent adoption. The statistical enquiry, however, in the opinion of the Government of India, is not the only possible method of approach to the problem and for the following reasons the Government of India doubt whether any advantage would be gained by proceeding with it:

- (a) The maintenance of the experience cards will be a difficult and probably a costly task, which it will be impossible to prevail upon employers to undertake;
- (b) Even if the administrative and financial difficulties were overcome, statistical results obtained in the absence of benefits would be extremely unreliable because there ~~was~~ would be no effective check on their accuracy;
- (c) So far as the Government of India are aware, no local Government or large body of employers is at present likely to institute any comprehensive scheme.

Spade Work to be done by Consulting Employers.- The Government of India have therefore desired expression of the views of the commercial community as well as employers on the feasibility of a specific enquiry of the kind contemplated by the Royal Commission on Labour and on the alternative possibility of building on the actual experience gained in the operation of small experimental schemes. The Government feel that the various schemes contemplated in the report of the Royal Commission can be introduced where medical facilities are or can be made available provided that the employers and the workers are willing to make the necessary contributions.

Bengal Employers' Views.- The industrial employers of Bengal appear to take the view that if any statistical enquiry is to be undertaken it would mean a great delay and cost which they would not be willing to bear. A start can well be made on the basis of the actual experience gained in small industrial units. The object is certainly laudable and it is hoped that the Government of India would be able to frame a suitable scheme for the benefit and protection of workers during sickness.

(The Times of India, 28-5-1935). †

Amendment of Mysore Factories Regulation;

Introduction of a 54-Hour Week Contemplated. +

Reference was made at page 47 of our October 1934 report to the ~~an~~ announcement in the Mysore Representative Assembly by the Government of the State that they were considering the question of introducing a 54-hour week in the State and making other amendments in the State Factories Regulation on the lines of the Indian Factories Act, 1934. It is now understood that the Government of Mysore will introduce a Bill to amend the Mysore Factories Regulation at the June 1935 session of the Mysore Legislative Council. The amendments are drafted on the lines of the Government of India ^{Act} Bill of 1934, which was based chiefly on the recommendations of the Whitley Commission on labour.

According to the proposed Bill, factories in the State will be restricted to 54 working hours a week, with a maximum of ten hours a day. Under the present Regulation ~~an~~ the maximum is 60 hours a week. Provision is made for safeguarding the health and safety of labourers. Standards of artificial humidification of factories, so as not to cause discomfort to workers, are prescribed. Provision is also made for safeguarding against hazardous operations.

(The Times of India, 25-5-1935).+

Maternity Benefits in Mysore State: Bill to be Moved in
Mysore Legislative Council.

Messrs. K.T. Bhashyam and T. Ramachandra, Members of the Mysore Legislative Council and Representative Assembly, have sought the permission of the Dewan of the State to move a Maternity Benefit Bill at the session of the Council to be held in June 1935. The Bill will first be placed before the Representative Assembly to be held earlier in the same month at Mysore. The statement of principles and objects

of the Bill points out that there is a large number of women working in industrial concerns, chiefly factories in the State. At present there is no law making it compulsory for factory owners to provide for the maintenance and protection of these women during the period of child-bearing as a result of which they strain themselves and endanger their health and that of the children.

The proposed Bill seeks to prevent women from being forced to work during the period of confinement and provide sufficient financial help for them during such periods of absence from work. A system of maternity benefit is already in force in the State regarding women workers in Government factories. The proposed Bill seeks to extend the benefit to all women workers in all factories in the State.

(The Times of India, 21-5-35). +

Madras Compulsory Labour (Amendment) Act, 1935.

(Act No. IX of 1935). +

Reference was made at page 29 of our October 1934 report to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Council on 22-10-1935 of the Madras Compulsory Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1934. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Council on 20-2-1935 and received the assent of the Governor and Governor General on 4-4-35 and 1-5-35 respectively. The following is the text of the Act:-

Act No.IX of 1935.

An Act further to amend the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858. +

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

- 1. This Act may be called the Madras Compulsory Labour (Amendment Act, 1935.
- 2. For section 5 of the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

358.
1 for
of
etc.,
gers.

"5. It shall be lawful for heads of villages, on the requisition of the officer in charge of such works, as aforesaid, or in his absence, on the requisition of the tahsildar or in case of emergency when neither such officer nor the tahsildar is on the spot, of their own motion, to make requisitions upon the inhabitants of their villages for the supply of materials, to wit, earth, stone, trees and leaves, bamboos, straw, gunny bags and the like, necessary for preventing or repairing breaches in the embankments of tanks, rivers and canals and to remove or seize, and, if necessary, to cut down such materials wherever they may be found, giving receipts for them in writing; such materials shall be paid for from the public treasury at the highest prices for which they are sold in the neighbourhood and in case damage is sustained by any person in consequence of the removal, seizure or cutting down of any such materials, compensation shall be made for such damage, the amount of which compensation shall, in case of dispute, be determined in the same manner as amounts payable under section 6. When the work for which such materials are used belongs to a private person, the amount advanced from the treasury shall be recoverable from him by the same means by which arrears of land revenue are recoverable."

Pages 63-64 of Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 28-5-1935). +

The Payment of Wages Bill, 1935:
Changes by Select Committee.

Reference was made at pages 29-31 of our February 1935 report to the introduction of the Payment of Wages Bill, 1935, in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-1935. The Select Committee appointed by the Assembly to consider the Bill met at Simla from 27-5-1935 to 1-6-1935. Full details regarding the various amendments made by the Select Committee are not available, but, it is understood, that the following changes have been made.

1. The scope of the Bill is extended to workers earning less than Rs.200 instead of Rs.100 as originally contemplated.

2. The scope of the Bill is extended so as to include railway workers in addition to Factory workers.
(The Hindustan Times, 29-5-35)

3. The number of days within which wages should be paid has been increased from 7 to 10. As regards factories employing less than 1000 workers, the period is to be 7 days.
(The Hindustan Times, 30-5-35)

4. Provision is made that claims arising from deductions in wages or delay in payment and penalty for malicious or vexatious claims should be heard by the Labour Commissioner in Presidency towns and Judicial Officers in the mofussil.

5. It is decided that appeals against orders under the Bill should go to the Chief Judge of the Small Causes Court in Presidency towns and District Judges in other places.
(The Hindustan Times, 31-5-35)

The Congress group in the Select Committee is reported to have made serious attempts to widen the scope of the Bill considerably but their efforts were not always successful since the Government

^{joy}
engaged a majority of two in the Committee. The Congress members of the Committee are reported to ~~has~~ have submitted a dissenting minute.

The following comments have been made by the Times of India of 27-5-35 on the Bill:

The evils of delayed payments are not, perhaps, so serious now as they were said to be formerly, and many industrial concerns actually make payment within a week or so. But numerous organisations are strongly opposed to the proposal on account of the serious difficulties involved. In the case of cotton mills time is required to prepare wage lists, as payment is made on a piecework basis, while on plantations money has to be brought from a distance. Moreover, great inconvenience is caused when holidays occur at the beginning of a month. It has, therefore, been urged that the period for payment should be ten days and not seven. Special difficulties could be met by granting exemptions where necessary.

The levy of fines for damage to articles in the course of manufacture is mostly confined to jute and cotton mills, the workers being sometimes given the option of taking over damaged cloth in lieu of a fine. Government had accepted the principle of a fine for faulty work as valid, and provided for it in their original Bill; but as the practice is becoming less frequent and appears to be prevalent only in some centres they decided to disallow it in the new measure. Employers, however, are apparently insisting on the continuance of their right to levy fines for negligent work as a matter of principle, and also to enable them to maintain discipline and diligence at work and to compensate themselves for loss. They argue that if they are to be precluded from such a course they might be compelled to dismiss careless workers at an early stage. In the case of the Bombay mills, for example, the practice was examined and approved by the Fawcett Committee after full inquiry. With regard to those fines which are allowed by the Bill, Government desire to enforce the commendable practice followed by many ~~est~~ establishments of devoting the proceeds to welfare work for the benefit of the workpeople themselves. +

Conditions of Labour

Establishment of All India Industrial

Council: Proposal of Employers' Federation of India to Government.

According to the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during March 1935, the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, sent to its members towards the end of January 1935 the draft of a representation which the President of the Federation proposed to submit to the Government of India suggesting the desirability of establishing an Industrial Council for India to co-ordinate labour legislation and its administration.

Whitley Commission Recommendation.— The representation set out that the question of labour legislation in India was examined by the Royal Commission on Labour in India, and that they recommended the establishment of an Industrial Council to be constituted by statute composed of ~~a~~ representatives of employers, of labour, and of the Provincial and Central Governments and the States which would meet regularly in conference. The organisation was to be sufficiently large to ensure the adequate representation of the various interests involved.

Labour Legislation in the New Constitution.— According to the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, labour and other industrial legislation consisting mainly of the regulation of mines, factories, employers' liability, workmen's compensation, trade unions, welfare of labour, industrial disputes, etc. had been placed in the "Concurrent" list, that is to say, list of subjects for legislation both by the Federal Legislature as also by the Provincial Legislatures and the States would have the right of legislating in most matters concerning industries and labour. As between the Federal Legislature and the Provinces, it was proposed that Federal Legislation should supersede Provincial legislation in matters coming under the "Concurrent" list unless the Provincial legislation had been reserved for the assent of the Governor-General or had so received his assent. So far as the States were concerned, while an Act of the Federal Legislature regulating any subject, which had been accepted by a State as a Federal subject, would apply to that State as to a Province, yet this jurisdiction of the Federal Legislature in the States would not be exclusive. It was competent for the State to exercise its existing powers of legislation in relation to such a subject but

in case of conflict between a State law and a Federal Law on a subject accepted by the State as Federal, the latter would prevail. It was, however, open to the States not to accept Industrial or Labour legislation as a Federal subject or to accept it subject to reservations. The effect of these proposals would therefore be, not only would the States be able to enjoy immunity from any legislation passed and made applicable to British India but the Provinces themselves would be able to enact their own legislation so that industries in one Province might be subjected to handicaps which did not exist in other Provinces, in addition to the prevailing inequalities between British India and the different States.

Administration of Labour Matters under the Future Constitution. As regards the administration of labour legislation it was proposed that it should be a function of the Provinces and the States. In the case of the Provinces, in addition to the moral obligation on them to ensure the proper enforcement of Federal laws in the "Concurrent" field, it was provided that the Governor-General should have powers in the last resort to issue instructions for this purpose or Federal officers might enforce laws in so far as these laws themselves required it. But in the case of States, even where they accepted the subject as Federal there would be only a moral obligation and the Governor-General might issue general instructions for the enforcement of the law by the State, or Federal Officers might act under the Federal law, but subject to the limitations imposed by the Rulers' Instruments of Accession.

Proposal of Employers' Federation.- It was contended that the anomalies set forth above which were inherent in any scheme which vested concurrent powers of labour legislation and its administration made it absolutely necessary that some machinery should be devised in order to ensure more or less uniform conditions throughout the country. Otherwise an undesirable state of affairs resulting from unequal conditions in different parts of the country would be created, and it was, therefore, suggested that Government should take early steps to deal with the whole problem. The Federation suggested that a conference might be convened of the leading industrial and labour interests with a view to determining the exact constitution and functions of the proposed co-ordinating authority.

Views of the Bombay Millowners' Association.- The subject-matter contained in the draft representation to Government was carefully considered by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. They doubted whether the institution of an Industrial Council on the lines set forth in the Whitley Commission report would solve the problem. They felt that with Government dealing

direct with the proposed organisation, special bodies at present constituted on a provincial or sectional basis, and which now effectively voiced the views of their respective constituents on new labour legislation, would probably be ignored while the new organisation might not for some time to come, at any rate, be in a position to take their place quite so effectively. They, therefore, held that, whatever the nature and constitution of the proposed Council, the rights of individual associations to present their views direct to Government in any matter affecting their constituents should be recognised and respected. The Committee further indicated that in the event of Government convening a meeting of the interests concerned as tentatively suggested by the Federation, the Association would have no objection to be represented therein.

(The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during March 1935). +

Working of the Trade Disputes Act

in Bombay Presidency, 1934*.

Applications for Appointment of Board of Conciliation.— According to the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-12-1934, no application for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation or a

* Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1934, . -No.1055. dated the 15th April 1935 - Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay. - Price Pies 6 or. 1d. - pp.2.

Court of Inquiry under section 3 of the Act was received during the year. The statement of cases referred under that section to Boards of Conciliation or Courts of Inquiry, for the year 1934, is therefore blank.

Prosecution Against Workers for Promoting Illegal Strikes.-

In August 1934, the local Government launched a prosecution against eight leaders of the textile strike of April to June 1934 in Bombay City on the grounds (i) that some of the demands made or formulated by the strikers were not in furtherance of a trade dispute, and (ii) that the strike was designed or calculated to inflict severe, general and prolonged hardship upon the Community and thereby to compel the Government to take or abstain from taking some particular course of action. The accused were charged under sections 16 and 17 of the Act as being persons who incited others to take part in an illegal strike.

The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, who heard the case, found that some of the objects of the strike - viz. (1) unemployment benefit and maternity insurance at the expense of Government and owners, (2) right of organisation, speech, assembly etc., (3) trade union legislation and right of trade union organisation within Native States, and (4) withdrawal of repressive laws and the release of all political prisoners - were other than in furtherance of the trade dispute which existed between the employers and the workers in the Bombay Textile Industry and that the case before him was therefore covered by clause (a) of section 16(1) of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. He further found that, while the evidence led by the prosecution showed that such a strike would

inflict severe loss and hardship on the two contesting parties, it did not show that the strike was designed or calculated to inflict severe, general and prolonged hardship upon the community, that is, the people in general, the public. The Court thereforend held that the strike was not illegal within the meaning of subsection (1) of section 16 of the Act and acquitted all the accused on 23rd October 1934.

The local Government have since preferred an appeal against the order passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate which has been admitted by the Bombay High Court. +

Rationalisation in the Bombay Mills: Questions in
Legislative Council.

The following are questions regarding rationalisation in certain Bombay Mills asked in the Bombay Legislative Council on 11-3-1935 by Mr. R.R.Bakhale and the answers thereto given by Mr. R.D. Bell, the Home Member with the Bombay Government.

Mr. R.R.Bakhale: Will the Honourable the Home and General Member be pleased to state -

(a) the number of mills in Bombay City and Island which were working during the six months ending 31st December 1934;

(b) the number of mills as per (a) which are members of the Bombay Millowners' Association;

(c) the number of mills as per (a) which have introduced methods of rationalisation (i) in the Spinning Section; and (ii) in the Weaving Section?

The Honourable Mr. R.D.Bell: (a) The number of cotton mills

working in July was 55, in August, September and October 56, and in November and December 1934, 57.

(b) 46 of the 57 mills working in November and December 1934.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 45 of the "Report of the Departmental Enquiry into Wages and Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry, 1934" (vide pages 24-30 of our June 1934 report for summary of Report. A copy of the report was forwarded to Geneva by the Labour Office Bombay in June 1934) copies of which were supplied to all non-official members of the Council.

Mr. R.R.Bakhale: Will the Honourable the Home and General Member be pleased to state -

(a) whether the methods of rationalisation introduced in some of the mills in Bombay are uniform;

(b) if not, what are the different methods introduced by different mills?

The Honourable Mr. R.D.Bell: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to pages 45-48 of the "Report of the Departmental Enquiry into Wages and Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry, 1934", copies of which were supplied to all non-official members of the Council.

(Extracted from pages 1172-1173 of Bombay Legislative Council Debates dated 11-3-1935, Vol.XLI).

Wage Reductions in Bombay Mills: Questions
in Legislative Council.

The following are the interpellations put by Mr. R.R.Bakhale, M.L. C., in the Bombay Legislative Council on 25-3-1935 regarding the practice of deducting wages in certain factories, and the answers thereto given by Mr. R.D.Bell, Home Member, Bombay Government-

Mr. R. R. Bakhale: Will the Honourable the Home and General Member be pleased to state -

(a) whether there are in this presidency any factories governed by the Indian Factories Act in which the practice of deducting wages for more days than the actual days of absence prevails;

(b) if so, which are the kinds of factories where this practice obtains and what is their percentage to the total number of factories governed by the Indian Factories Act;

(c) what are the details of the manner in which deductions take place under this practice;

(d) whether Government have considered the desirability of stopping this practice by legislation; if so, when do they propose to introduce such legislation; if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. R.D.Bell: (a) Yes.

(b) The practice obtains in almost all classes of factories. The percentage of factories, in which the practice prevails, to the total number of factories, will be available when the results of the general wage census conducted by the Labour Office last year are published.

(c) For each day's absence, the worker loses in addition to that day's pay, the wage for either a full day, a quarter day or two hours. In some cases where monthly rates of wages prevail, a cut of a pie per every rupee of pay for every hour of absence is made.

(d) The attention of the honourable member is invited to clauses 6 and 7 of the "Bill (No.8 of 1935) to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry" which the Government of India recently introduced in the Legislative Assembly, (vide pages 29-31 of our February 1935 report), under which, while the system is not prohibited, it will not be possible to enforce it owing to the limitation placed upon deductions from wages by way of fine.

(Extracted from pages 1668-1669, Bombay Legislative Council Debates, dated 25-3-1935 Vo.XLI) +

Exemption of Salaries and Wages from Attachment:

Employers' Views on Government Bill. +

At pages 36-39 of our February 1935 report was given the full text of the Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 18-2-35 with a view to prevent the attachment of salaries below Rs.100 per month. The Government of India have asked the Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations in this country to express their views on the proposal made by the Royal Commission on Labour that the salary and wages of every workman receiving less than Rs.300 a month be exempted entirely from the possibility of attachment and the Bill introduced by the Government to implement the recommendation.

The Existing Law.- The existing law is embodied in the Code of Civil Procedure Act and the position is that labourers and domestic servants receiving wages up to any amount, and Government

and Railway servants receiving less than Rs.40 per month have the whole of their wages or salaries exempted from attachment, both before and after they are payable. All other employees can have the whole of their wages or salaries attached after they become payable, but no part can be attached before it is payable.

Points on which Opinion is called for.- The points on which the Government have asked for the opinion of the commercial community are (1) whether it is desirable to extend complete protection of wages from attachment to other classes than those at present protected; (2) whether the power to secure continuous attachment of salaries of public officers or railway servants should be curtailed; (3) and the extent to which any changes introduced should apply to debts incurred before the changes were made.

Views of Employers' Associations.- It was felt by the Indian Jute Mills Association that while the cases of attachment of jute mill workers' wages were comparatively infrequent, in their opinion the class of workers in respect of which it was suggested the protection should be extended should be clearly defined and that the limit to which immunity from liability to attachment should extend should be a salary or wage of Rs.100 per month as otherwise it would promote indebtedness by giving full facilities to lenders to recover money easily.

The Mill Owners' Association of Bombay observed that the immunity from attachment of the salaries or wages which the Bill proposes should be given to industrial workers should be extended to all classes of debtors, whether they are industrial workers or not. The Jute Mills Association view with favour the above proposal made by the Mill Owners' Association.

Date of Application of Amending Legislation.- In regard to the extent to which any changes should apply to debts incurred before the changes were made, the Indian Jute Mills Association holds the view that some reasonable warning period should be given and suggests that any legislation brought in should apply only to debts incurred after such introduction and should not affect debts incurred previously. It is difficult to understand the circumstances that have led the Government of India to provide in the bill that the amending legislation should be made applicable to all suits instituted on or after February 1, 1935, because the Government of India observed on a previous occasion that "the indefinite extension of the power to recover all debts by the old method might lend itself to the evasion of the law in respect of fresh liabilities, and it would in many cases be difficult to distinguish between old and new liabilities. A possible compromise would be to permit of the recovery by the old method only of degrees which had actually been obtained before the changes were introduced. Provided that a reasonable warning was given of the coming into force of any new measure that might be adopted, this should give creditors as much opportunity as they can equitably claim."

(The Times of India, 28-5-1935). †

Postal Department Reorganisation Enquiry Committee

Recommendations: Views of All India Postal

and R.M.S. Union. †

Reference was made at pages 15-16 of our March 1934 report to the appointment by the Government of India of a Committee with Mr. M.L.Pasricha as Chairman to make recommendations regarding the rationalisation of the Postal Department. The report of the Committee was submitted to the Government recently. The points examined by the Committee included, among others, a higher scale of pay for office clerks, delegation of additional powers to Superintendents, creation of minor circles, revision of present dead letter offices, establishment of directory offices at the headquarters of each circle, separation of the R.M.S. from the post office, reconstitution of the foreign post, enlargement of the area of Superintendents and creation of Assistant Inspectors, introduction of an extra departmental or cheaper agency to do post office work, recruitment and training, time ⁴test and its application, standards for determining functions and status of post offices and establishment of a central money order audit office.

The Executive Council of the All India Postal and R.M.S. Union met at Delhi on 22 & 23-5-35 under the presidentship of Mr. V.V. Giri, M.L.A., to consider the reports submitted by the various Sub-Committees, which have considered the recommendations of the Postal Enquiry Committee and have offered criticisms thereon. After a long and protracted discussion in which the members of the Council representing various interests participated and in which all sides

of the questions were placed before the Council by the "reporters" of each Committee, the Council adopted the reports with suitable modifications.

Salaries of Staff.- In the opinion of the Council the Pasricha Committee's report contained many recommendations which were one-sided and in respect of which no opportunity was given to the service association to place the view-point of the staff before the Committee. Some proposals, in the opinion of the Council, were already outside the terms of reference,. For instance, the Council referred (a) recommendation for sanctioning scale of pay to clerks in circle offices higher than that for post office workers, (b) abolition of higher and lower divisions in clerical establishment of post offices and (c) introduction of the system of grades in time scales of pay of postal workers, while in other important matters for which the Committee was mainly appointed, they failed to study the question and make concrete proposals and contented themselves by suggesting the appointment of an officer or a Committee to study and report on those problems and thus evading their responsibility.

Report Reactionary in Character.- The Council entered an emphatic protest against the action of the Government in giving effect to some of the recommendations which they alleged were of a reactionary character and prejudicially affected the interests of the subordinate staff. The Council further expressed the opinion that some of the recommendations of the Committee were half-hearted and halting in their nature and the Committee was not bold enough to prescribe any remedy even where the evil was apparent. In the detailed report adopted by the Council instances are cited in support of the criticism and observations made by the Council on various points mentioned above.

Scales of Pay for New Entrants.- The Council also protested against the introduction of new scales of pay for entrants into the department which they allege are most retrograde and inadequate and introduce grades which are strongly condemned by the Postal Enquiry Committee of 1920 and abandoned by the Government. In fixing these scales the Council expressed the opinion that no regard seems to have been paid to the points considered by the Committee of 1920 and the reasons that weighed with Sir B.N.Mitra, the then Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, in further revising the scales of pay in 1926-27.

Council's Views not Final.- Despite detailed examination and elaborate criticism the Council made it clear that the opinions expressed and observations made by them so far are still tentative and intended to form the basis of discussion, and liable to revision and changes in the light of suggestions that may be made by provincial and divisional branches throughout the length and breadth of India and Burma. The All-India Conference is expected to be held at Allahabad, probably in the last week of July of this year when final conclusions of the Union will be reached. Meanwhile, the Council

resolved to approach the Government with a request to extend the period of three months (which ends by the middle of July 1935) before which views of the Union ^{will} be communicated to them so that they may be able to get the benefit and, if desirable, to incorporate in the report suggestions of careful students of departmental law and procedure.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-5-35).+—

Workers' Organisations.South Indian Federation of Peasants' and Workers'Associations: New Organisation Formed. ✓+

Representatives of Peasants and Workers' associations in the ~~the~~
Madras Presidency met ^{at Madras} on 28-4-35 under the auspices of the Peasants' Protection Committee, when the South Indian Federation of Peasants' and Workers' Associations was formed with Mr. K.Nageswara Rao, M.L.A., proprietor, "Andhra Patrika", as President, and Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.L.A., as General Secretary. An Executive Committee, including among others Messrs. V.V.Giri, M.L.A., Kumaraswami Raja, M.L.A., Samuel Aaron, M.L.A., Srimathi Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmiipathi, Mr. A Kaleswara Rao and Mr. M.Bapineedu, was also elected.

The Federation, it is stated, will work for the economic and political advancement of all peasants and agricultural workers. It will seek to bring about better exploitation of land and greater productivity of agriculture and a higher standard of living of peasants and workers by a "progressive collectivisation of agriculture". For this purpose, it will aim at the exploitation of the unoccupied but cultivable waste lands of Government by co-operative societies of peasants and workers. It will be the aim of this Federation to bring about co-operation between the peasants and the agricultural workers by seeking to settle their mutual economic relations by the establishment in a suitable conciliation machinery. It will also strive for the abolition of all those systems of land revenue other than the ryotwari so that the State and the peasants may have direct dealings with each other without any intermediaries.

The Federation will immediately make efforts to bring about satisfaction of the minimum demands of Zamin ryots as formulated by the Peasants Protection Committee and to extend the same to others under similar tenures, agitate for the stopping of resettlement operations in various districts, the cancellation of the Government Orders passed since 1929 enhancing the land revenue and water rates, etc., demand legislation to reduce the burden of agricultural indebtedness, and press for other measures necessary to protect the indebted peasants. The Federation would urge the grant of lands only to co-operative societies of peasants and workers without the right of alienation, the development of cottage industries and the ruralisation of industrial development, reduction of the burden of indirect taxation imposed by provincial and Central Governments, ^{and} reduction of the land revenue and other taxes upon peasants. It will take all steps to raise the general level of agricultural prices and the standard of living of the workers and peasants, and safeguard the interests of peasants and workers in the coming elections and for this purpose seek to co-operate with the Indian National Congress.

The Federation will have in its fold all the peasants and workers and allied associations in all the four linguistic provinces in the South, namely, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

(The Hindu, 30-4-1935). +

The Cochin Labour Union:

Progress during 1933-34. ✓ +

The first anniversary of the Cochin Labour Union was held on 5-5-1935 under the presidentship of Dr. K.P.Thayil at Cherlai, Cochin State.

Report of Progress 1933-34.- Mr. P.Gangadharan, Secretary of the Labour Union, exhorted the labourers to realise their present neglected condition and to organise themselves for their common uplift. He then read the report giving a detailed account of the work of the Union since its inception in March 1933. Most of the members of the Union were employed in the coir factories and workshops in Palluruthi and Cochin and the Union had succeeded in securing for the men better terms of service and more regular payment of wages. The Secretary then enumerated the several needs of the labourers in Cochin such as the regulation by statute of their work and wages, the limitation of the hours of work, the representation of labour in the Legislative Council, the introduction of a system of adult education and the protection in general of the interests of labourers.

President's Address.- Dr. K.P. Thayil spoke of the genesis and growth of the labour movement in America and Europe, and said that Labour organisations were started in India only recently. He urged that all classes of workmen should enlist themselves as members of the Union and work unitedly for the removal of their disabilities.

Resolutions Passed.- Several important resolutions were passed next. His Highness the Maharaja was thanked for appointing Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetti (who represented Indian employers on more than one occasion at the International Labour Conference) as the Dewan and the latter was congratulated on his appointment. The meeting urged that three seats should be reserved for labour in Cochin Legislative Council to safeguard the interests of labourers. The Government was requested to frame a constitution for the administration of the State that would ensure the well-being of the masses. Another resolution urged that a comprehensive scheme of mechanisation of agriculture and industry should be introduced by the State with a view to solving the growing problem of unemployment.

(The Hindu, 8-5-1935).

The U.P. Kisan (Peasants) Conference - Allahabad, 1935 +

The following is a summarised list of some of the more important resolutions adopted at the United Provinces Kisan (Peasants) Conference held at Allahabad on 28 & 29th May 1935 under the presidentship of Mr. Vallabhai Patel, an ex-President of the Indian National Congress.

1. Committees to Settle Reductions in Rents.- The first resolution urged that authoritative Committees, in which the peasantry should be adequately represented, should be set up which, after making inquiries, should be empowered to make recommendations for effecting reductions in rents. In the opinion of the conference the rentals should be in the neighbourhood of what they were in 1895 and the revenue to be realised from the petty zemindars, at any rate, should be the same as it was in 1895.

Explaining the resolution, Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma, the mover, said that during the last seven years, due to the inflation of the value of the rupee by the legislature and to the great fall in the prices of grain, condition of the peasantry has gradually declined and the rural life has been violently shaken. The Government has made no substantial efforts towards ameliorating their condition; whatever small remissions in rent have been granted are entirely inadequate.

2. Writing Off of Agricultural Debts.- The next resolution which was moved by Pandit Mohan Lal Gautama, related to the indebtedness of Kisans. It recorded the opinion of the conference that in the existing state of the peasantry, it was necessary that the tenants who could not pay their debts should be relieved of the burden while those who could pay should be required to do so only according to their capacity and the balance of the debts should be written off. The same resolution further recorded that so long as the above principle was not in force, the cultivation requisites and as many of the belongings of the tenants as were necessary for the maintenance of their families, should be exempted from attachments in lieu of decrees.

3. Further Debt Relief Legislation Advocated.- The Conference also held that the debt legislation passed by the Provincial Council did not solve the problem of indebtedness and that the legislature should undertake legislation to solve the question, adopting the principle underlying the resolution.

Mr. Gautama, in the course of his speech, remarked that the legislature had made provision for the condemnation of big men's

debts, inasmuch as the Insolvency Act came to the rescue of those indebted to the extent of Rs.500 or more. He felt that similar legislation should be taken in hand for the relief of the peasants also.

4. Arrears of Agricultural Rents.- Another resolution urged that an inquiry should be instituted with regard to the arrears of rents and that arrears should be written off in the case of tenants who might be found to be unable to pay them, and, in the case of those who could pay, their liability should be limited to their capacity to pay, and that in no case it should be more than one-third of the arrears to be realised.

5. Opposition to Splitting up of Holdings.- Another resolution opposed the practice of splitting up holdings, It suggested that a holding should not be of less than eight bighas (one bigha in the United Provinces = 3025 sq.yards) and therefore, though the present holdings of less than eight bighas might not be disturbed, their splitting up further should cease and in the case of other plots being added to them the minimum limit of eight bighas should be observed. The resolution also suggested that if a tenant held land which was just sufficient for his family's maintenance, it should be exempt from rent ~~charges~~ charges and that the zemindars should be ^{allowed} according to their capacity to pay.

6. Illegal Exactions by Zemindars.- The Conference also recorded the view that illegal demands and the refusal of receipts by zemindars for rents should be penalised and it urged the tenants to insist on rent receipts; if there was any difficulty in securing them the payment should be made by money orders.

7. Occupancy Rights for Life Tenants.- Another resolution recorded the view of the Conference that so long as the Zemindari system was not abolished life tenants should be given occupancy rights.

8. Village Panchayats. - The Conference also suggested legislation for the improvement of village life on the lines of the Town Improvement Act and urged that "panchayats" should be established, whose function should be to create model villages where tenants should have full liberty to build houses without any interference by Zemindars.

9. Agricultural Unemployment.- A resolution put from the chair recalled the principle that it was the duty of the Government to provide facilities to the unemployed to get employment and another accorded a welcome on behalf of the Kisans to Mahatma Gandhi's Village Industries Organisation and requested the Kisans to cooperate in the execution of that scheme.

10. Abolition of Zemindari System Urged.- The only effective measure, in the view of the Conference for ~~the~~ rural development was to end the taluqdari and zemindari system and to rule that the Kisans should pay rents directly to the Government without the intervention of middlemen, that is taluqdars and zemindars.

The Conference also suggested the steps which should be taken to achieve that end. The same resolution asked for legislation which would enable the tenants to pay compensation to the zemindars for the lands in their possession in easy instalments and thereby make them owners of land. The resolution also wanted that the Government should make advances of money to the tenants at low interest to enable them to purchase lands from the zemindars and that the money so advanced should be realised by the Government from the tenants in the course of 30 to 50 years.

(¹¹The National Call, 3-5-1935). +

Asiatic Labour Congress: Palestine Becomes a Member. +

Mr. R.R. Bakhale, General Secretary, Asiatic Labour Congress, has received a communication from the Secretary of the General Federation of Jewish Labour in Palestine that it had decided to affiliate itself with the Asiatic Labour Congress, the first session of which was held at Colombe in May 1934. Thus Japan, India, Ceylon and Palestine are the four Asiatic countries which have so far joined the Asiatic Labour Congress.

The office-bearers of the Asiatic Labour Congress so far elected are as follows:- President: Mr. Bunzi Suzuki (Japan); Vice-President: Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A. (India); General Secretaries: Mr. M. Yonekubo (Japan); Mr. R.R. Bakhale, M.L.C. (India); to be in charge of Asiatic Labour Congress Office.

(The Times of India, 21-5-1935). +

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Economic Conditions.

Development of the Handloom Industry:

Bombay Government's Scheme. ✓ +

References were made at pages 66-67 of our July 1934 report and pages 34-35 of our November 1934 report to the grant of financial help by the Government of India to provincial Governments for the development of the handloom industry. The Government of Bombay have drawn up a scheme for the development of the handloom industry in the Bombay Province, the details of which are given below:-

Starting of Industrial Associations.— The scheme provides for the starting of industrial associations in five districts, namely, Poona, Ahmednagar, Hubli (Dharwar District), Ahmedabad and Hyderabad (Sind). These associations will be registered under the Bombay Co-operative Societies' Act to enable them to be financed by the various Co-operative Banks. Membership of the associations will be open to individual weavers, weavers' societies and sympathisers. To enable as many weavers and others as possible to join the associations, the shares will be of small value. Each association will have a board of management of which the marketing officer (handloom products), the local assistant registrar of co-operative societies and the local weaving assistant of the Department of Industries, will be ex-officio members.

Aims and Objects of the Associations.— The principal aims and objects of the associations will be: (1) to supply improved appliances, on the hire-purchase system or otherwise; (2) to supply raw materials at reasonable rates; (3) to advise weavers and others in regard to the production of improved and easily marketable patterns and designs; (4) to undertake preparatory and finishing processes and dyeing and printing in connection with the handloom industry; and (5) to accept, on consignment account against partial payment, handloom products from weavers and to purchase outright and sell handloom products, etc.

Buying of Material and Marketing of Products.— In order to fulfil these objects, each association will start a shop in the headquarter town of its district. In the case of Dharwar district the headquarters and the shop of the association will be located in Hubli. Each shop will be directly supervised and managed by the Board of management of the association concerned, under the general control of a joint board. The shops will accept on consignment account against partial advances and sell on a commission basis the products of handloom weavers. They will also

purchase outright and stock the products of handlooms and sell them; and whenever possible carry out the other objects mentioned above.

In determining the percentage of commission to be charged on consignment goods and the rate of profit to be fixed in connection with other goods the aim of the shops will be to make themselves self-supporting as soon as possible. It is also intended to help some of the existing organisations which are interested in the sale of handloom weavers' products by the grant of a small subsidy from the Government of India grant for the scheme. The joint board will make suitable grants to these organisations if and when funds are available.

Management and Working of Scheme.- The scheme will be generally controlled by a joint board consisting of the Director of Industries and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The administrative officer will be the Director of Industries, who will convene the meetings of the joint board, which will be held in Bombay. An advisory committee, which will meet once in three months, will be appointed for reviewing the working of the scheme as a whole. The proceedings of the meetings of this committee will be forwarded to Government by the Director of Industries with his remarks. The committee will comprise Director of Industries (chairman), Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Managing director of the Provincial Co-operative Bank, Bombay, and two non-officials actively engaged in the piecegoods trade, especially fabrics produced on handlooms, nominated by Government. The marketing officer will be the secretary of the committee.

A marketing officer (handloom products) will be appointed for organising the various district industrial associations and shops under them and for arranging for the sales of the products of handloom industry in the markets of Bombay City and elsewhere. There will also be appointed a textile designer who will advise the various shops, weavers and weavers' societies in connection with improved and marketable designs. These two officers' headquarters will be in Bombay in the office of the Director of Industries.

(The Times of India, 10-5-1935). +

Cottage Industries in Sind:

Bombay Government's Efforts at Revival. ✓

In order to revive dying industries in Sind, particularly the cottage industries, the Department of Industries of the Bombay Government arranged an industrial demonstration at Karachi during

the Silver Jubilee Week. According to a Statement issued by the Officer in charge of the demonstrations, the Government is running four weaving schools in Sind, where bona fide weavers are given training in improved methods of handloom weaving. As the result of the efforts of the Government not only has the languishing weaving industry been revived, but the weavers are earning at least 50 per cent more than formerly.

Working of the Schools.- The schools of the Department, he said, were of the peripatetic type. When the improved looms and other appliances had been popularised at a particular centre, the school moved on to another centre where similar work had to be carried out. Thus during its five years' work in Sind, the Department had worked successfully at Halla and Nazarpur (Hyderabad, Sind) Lakh (Sukkur) and Lahori (Larkana). Seven to eight hundred improved looms had been introduced in various parts of Sind, offering employment for over 1,000 weavers.

Provision of Cheap Materials and Marketing.- A feature of the Department's activities was that it was offering a complete improved handloom for Rs.10 and a tape-loom for Rs.12, which placed them within reach of the poorest of weavers. A weaver working on one of these looms could make 12 annas a day, compared with less than 4 annas on the old type of loom.

The Department has been also alive to the need of providing marketing facilities. For this purpose the Department's inspector called meetings of weavers at regular intervals. He showed them the latest and most popular designs and taught them how to make them. The Government of India have recently sanctioned Rs.500,000 for marketing weavers' products, out of which Bombay's share would be about Rs. 80,000. Sind ~~was~~ to get Rs. 5,000 a year out of this to start with.

(The Times of India, 10-5-1935). +

Development of Handloom Industry: United Provinces

Orders Survey. +

Reference was made at pages 72-73 of our March 1935 report to the outline of a scheme formulated by the United Provinces Government for the development of the hand-loom industry. ^{Fuller} ~~Greater~~ details regarding the scheme are now available and it is understood that plans have been drawn up by the United Provinces Government to institute a survey of the cotton handloom weaving industry in the Provinces. The survey will include cotton, durrie and newar weaving and is estimated to cost Rs. 31,000. Of this sum the local Government, it is understood, will contribute Rs. 13,500, the balance being met out of the Government of India grant.

Census of Looms and Production.- The survey will comprise a census of the looms and of their production, an estimate of the capacity of the weavers at the weaving centres, and an inquiry into the systems in operation for the supply of yarn, production of fabrics, and marketing of the products. The information so collected will enable the Department of Industries and the Department of Co-operative Societies to supply the proper remedies at the centres and develop the branches of the industry according to local requirements.

Investigators.- It is proposed to appoint 15 special investigators with technical training in weaving. Recruitment will be made from former students of the Government Central Weaving Institute, Benares, the Government Textile School, Cawnpore, and the Government Dyeing and Printing School, Cawnpore, and from men engaged in the handloom industry. The work of the investigators will be supervised by two of the three existing Divisional Superintendents of Industries. The entire inquiry will be controlled by another Divisional Superintendent of Industries, whose duty it will be to co-ordinate the work at the centres and to prepare reports. The investigators will remain occupied for eight months. During this period they will be expected to complete their survey and prepare their reports.

Supervision and Storage.- The existing staffs of the weaving and dyeing and printing schools will be asked to help not only in preparing new designs but also in the production of the new design fabrics. The work of supervision and storage will be carried out by the superintendents and demonstration instructors

of the existing model schools, the staff of the Dyeing and Printing School at Bulandshahr and by peripatetic dyeing parties. At some centres the stores will be located in the school buildings. The schools themselves, it is understood, will be converted into tuitional classes, which will be directly utilised to improve the technique of the weavers in the areas where the stores are located. These schools will not only train weavers in improved methods of weaving but will also produce the new designs supplied by the Central Institute and demonstrate their working on the weavers' looms.

Sale.- The officers of the Industries and Co-operative Departments will control the work at the centres and for this purpose two divisional superintendents will be appointed. The Heads of the three central textile schools will control the technical side of the work and inspectors of co-operative societies will be responsible for the co-operative organisation. The U.P. Arts and Crafts Emporium will be made to do the work of a provincial marketing organisation and it will be the duty of the Business Manager of the Emporium to supervise the sales of the weavers' products under the control and guidance of the Industries Department. It is understood that the Local Government will set apart Rs. 20,000 in 1935-36 for organising the sales side of the scheme. This sum will be increased as and when necessary.

Research.- Research and experimental work will be carried out at the Central Weaving Institute, Benares and the School of Dyeing and Printing, Cawnpore. It is proposed to erect an up-to-date finishing plant and the Local Government, it is understood, will meet the cost of the building for this purpose, which is estimated at Rs. 5,000.

(The Statesman, 18-4-1935). +

Relief to Mysore Agriculturists: Government Orders
on Recommendations of Enquiry Committee. +

Reference was made at page 66 of our August 1934 report to the appointment of an Enquiry Committee by the Mysore Darbar to make "a rapid enquiry into the extent to which the fall in the price of agricultural produce in recent years has affected the resources,

debt obligations and credit facilities of the land owning and cultivating classes in different parts of the State, and to report upon the nature and extent of the assistance that may be given to relieve them from the difficulties caused by the present depression, after an examination of the several measures suggested in this behalf and having in view the present financial condition of the State.¹¹

Early in January 1935 the Committee submitted its report. (A summary of the Report is given at pages 64-67 of our January 1935 Report). It is now understood that the Government of Mysore have passed orders on the recommendations of the Committee.

Principal Recommendations of the Committee.- The more important of the recommendations of the committee were that a new provision should be added laying down that in fixing instalments for repayment of debts the courts should be required to take into consideration the period that the loan has been outstanding and also the repaying capacity of the judgment debtor; that the existing power of the courts to deny future interest in some cases when ordering payment by instalments should be modified so as to make it obligatory to allow future interest at a moderate rate; that the courts should be empowered to direct that in the event of failure to pay two consecutive instalments, the whole debt should become due and be recoverable; that exemption from attachment and sale in execution of a money decree should be limited to the agricultural land only of the debtors and that other immovable properties should not be so exempt. Even in respect of agricultural lands, the court should be empowered to order attachment and sale ~~or declare a charge~~ under certain circumstances Government should also be empowered to exempt particular co-operative societies or classes of co-operative societies, at their discretion,

from the operations of the provisions of the regulation.

Government's Orders on the Recommendations.- The Mysore Government have approved of the above recommendations subject to a slight alteration in regard to attachments in execution of a money decree. Government consider that this ^{is} somewhat drastic and goes against the underlying principle of the Regulation, that the land should be saved to an agricultural-debtor. At the same time, Government recognise that it is necessary to give some protection to a creditor to whom payment is postponed by ordering instalments and prevent an unscrupulous debtor from alienating his land so as to defeat the creditor's interests. Government consider that the provisions to order attachment and sale of agricultural & land or declare a charge thereon be limited to cases where payment by instalment is ordered and that the sale in pursuance of an attachment or charge should be ordered only when default is made in the payment of two consecutive instalments.

The Mysore Agriculturists' Relief Regulation to be Amended.-
 The Government will take the necessary action & to amend the Mysore Agriculturists' Relief Regulation in the light of this order.

(The Times of India, 30-5-1935). +

Cottage Industries in Hyderabad (Deccan):
Government's Efforts to Revive them. ✓ +

According to a note recently issued by the Department of Commerce and Industries, Hyderabad State, many cottage industries which had been in a flourishing condition some decades ago are either in a state of decay or have completely disappeared. The State is now making every possible effort to revive these industries by the introduction of improved methods and the establishment of a cottage industries institute on the latest lines.

Paper Industry.— The hand-made paper industry in the State dates back to the days of the Moghuls, when it was first established at Kagazipura (Papertown) in the Aurangabad District, and later flourished at Koratla and Gurud. The paper manufacturers, known as "Kagazees", were all Muslims, and to this day the industry, or what is left of it, is entirely in their hands. The paper made by hand now is mainly used for the publication of the Jaridah (Government Gazette) in obedience to a Firman by the Nizam, but on account of its high price it hardly finds a sale anywhere else. Hence this ancient craft is disappearing. Attempts made by the Commerce and Industries Department to improve the quality of the paper have been fruitless as the cost of production is prohibitive.

Dyeing and Printing Industry.— The dyeing and printing industry is an auxiliary to the weaving industry, hence its progress or downfall is dependent on the latter. It has not altogether disappeared from the State, but has disappeared from certain villages where once it was thriving. Most of the natural dyes have disappeared from the lists of village dyers, with the exception of cochineal and indigo. Synthetic coal-tar dye-stuffs have replaced all the natural dyestuffs, owing to the simplicity of the method of application, lower price and plentiful supply. Other causes of disappearance are competition from textile centres outside the State, customs duty on all imports into the State, and dyeing with power-driven machinery in mills outside the State at very low cost. Natural death due to the introduction of modern cheap dyestuffs also plays an important part. The printing industry is limited to only a few districts from which printers have migrated.

Owing to the change in fashion and rise in the standard of living, the rough-and ready class of goods manufactured hitherto are very little in demand. Pardas, jajams, Razai and Lambada cloths, which were printed only in two colours, red and black, are being replaced by mill-made and hand-made goods, either imported from abroad or British India. For some years past the Nizam's

Government are taking a keen interest in preserving and encouraging the industry in all possible ways.

Gold Thread Industry.— The gold thread industry is one of the oldest cottage industries in the State. At present it is represented at Patan, Aurangabad, Hyderabad and Armoor. The magnitude of the industry can be judged by the imports of gold thread into the State which in value total Rs. 700,000 annually. In days gone by Patan was famous for its gold thread and most of its inhabitants were dependent upon it. It supplied gold lace to the Kimkhab weavers of Aurangabad and other parts of India, in addition to meeting its own requirements for pagrees and pitambars. Since the introduction of cheap French, German and Surat lace, however, this industry has gradually declined. Fifty years ago, when it was the Moghul provincial capital, Aurangabad gave employment to thousands of people in the gold thread industry. Luxury industries, like Kimkhab and Pagree weaving and gotapatha were largely patronised by the nobility and, besides supplying its own needs, Aurangabad exported gold thread to distant parts of India. Only five years ago there were seven factories making gold lace, but at present it is made only by one. Even this factory is not working regularly.

Hundreds of families earned their livelihood by this industry in the nineteenth century in Hyderabad City, but at present there are only four families of Tarkush. Now about 100,000 tolas of gold thread is imported every year into Hyderabad.

Other Industries.— Other industries which have disappeared or are disappearing are the spinning of cotton and wool by hand, the dhurri weaving industry, the woollen carpet industry of Warangal and Farkhal, the tussar industry of Mahadevour, arms and weapons of Hyderabad, Bir and Hanamkonda, metal industry, toy-making, filgreee work, bidri work of Biṣar, and glass bangle making of Manikonda and other places.

(The Times of India, 18-5-1935.) +

Government. It is also learnt that the schemes will be brought into effect at an early date and that the necessary staff will perhaps be engaged by the end of May 1935. (The Statesman, 11-5-35).

New Port-Folio of Rural Development/ Created.- A new portfolio of Rural Development has been created and Sir J.P.Srivastava, Minister of Education, has been put in charge of it. It is also understood that the Local Government feel that, as the conditions in the United Provinces are different from those in some of the advanced provinces, it is necessary to engage a special staff, so that the foundations for the rural uplift work in future can be properly laid.

(The Statesman, 14-5-1935). +

~~Rural Uplift Schemes Six Rs x 10 Millions~~

Competition between Match Factories in Indian States and British India. ✓ +

Reference was made at page 60 of our April 1935 report to the representation made by the Indian Match Manufacturers' Association and the Western India Match Company, Ltd., to the Government of India regarding the competition of match factories situated in certain Indian States with manufacturers of matches in British India.

The statement, drawing attention to the existence of unequal competition between manufacturers having their factories in certain States and others whose factories lie in British India, instances

the fact that the Nizam's Government charges an import duty of five per cent. on all matches sent from British India into the Hyderabad State. As this duty is calculated on the prices of matches inclusive of the excise duty payable to the Government of India it acts as a protection for manufacturers who have their factories in the Nizam's territories. As a result they have been able to beat down the export of matches from British India and to build up an export trade to British India for themselves. The statement recommends to the Government either to insist upon repeal of such discriminating duty or impose a similar duty on matches sent to British India from the States.

The statement also points out that as the States have to refund the collective excise duty for one year, after the expiration of that period some of the States allow long credit facilities for the collection of excise duty to factories situated in their territory. This facility is not enjoyed by British Indian manufacturers. Their condition is further contrasted with that of manufacturers in the dominions of H.E.H. the Nizam, whose government have exempted match manufacturing materials from the import duty of five per cent which is levied on matches. Thus, the factories in Hyderabad are encouraged to increase their production and encroach upon the field of factories in British India.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1935). *

Madras Economic Council: Details of Constitution. ✓

The Madras Government announced some time back its decision to set up an Economic Council for the Presidency. Details are now available regarding the constitution and the function of the Provincial Economic Council which the Government are inaugurating in June 1935. The Council will consist of x the Chief Minister, as Chairman, and the following as permanent members: the Directors of Agriculture, Industries and Veterinary Service, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Surgeon-General, the Director of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Labour, the Sanitary Engineer, and the Development Commissioner, ^(when appointed) the Chairman of the Irrigation Department Board, and the Chief Engineer for Electricity. The members of the Council may divide themselves into sub-committees for education, co-operation, banking, commerce, industry, agriculture and local bodies, to which non-official experts on these subjects may be co-opted for consultation on specific schemes ~~for~~ subjects.

Until a Development Commissioner is appointed an I.C.S. officer will act as secretary to the Council. His functions will be purely advisory in regard to schemes relating to the economic and educational uplift of the people. The extension or the restriction of schemes should be submitted by the Council to Government. The Council may set up a sub-committee of its permanent members and co-opt outsiders. The secretaries or members of Government or the heads of departments may be present, and participate in the Council's deliberations. The secretary to the Council will be authorised to call for information required by the Council from the heads of departments, and from the Secretariat.

(The Times of India, 27-5-1935). +

The Indian Jute Problems: Association's
Decision to Increase Production. ✓ +

A special general meeting of members of the Indian Jute Mills' Association was held in the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta, on 5-5-1935 for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, of passing, with or without modification, the following resolution:

"That the requisite three months' notice as required, by clause 3(b) of the Agreement dated January 21, 1933, and made between the Association and the outside mills be given to the Adamjee Jute Mills, Ltd., the Agarpara Company, Ltd., the Gagalbhai Jute Mills, Ltd., the Ludlow Jute Company Ltd., and the Shree Hanuman Jute Mills, of the intention of the mills in the membership of the Association to release from seal and to put into operation, as on and from Monday, ~~the~~ August 5, 1935, a further 2½ per cent. of the total complement of looms of each mill or mill company in the membership of the Association which at present has looms under seal".

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. S.K. Scott, the Chairman of the Association, made the following remarks on the present jute situation:

Competition from outside and Non-Association Mills.- "The Committee, in recommending the ~~the~~ release of looms, has given due consideration to the factors which have a direct influence on our trade and has acted in accordance with its previously declared policy. You will recall what Mr. Burn said in his speech of April 24 of last year when the first release of looms was decided upon. I quote the relevant passage:- 'Your Committee in recommending the release from seal of 2½ per cent. of the total complement of looms of each mill or mill company in the membership of the Association which at present has looms under seal, did so as part of their considered policy in the light of the existing stock and general trade position. There will be no departure from this policy, the object of which is gradually to effect an increase in production as provided for in the working agreement which will always be considered in conjunction with the stock and general trade position, and competitive influences'"

"Competition, in so far as it affects our trade, is encountered in many and varied forms but the two with which we are most concerned are competition from overseas manufacturers of jute goods and competition from mills here in India which are not parties to the restriction agreement. Our present information indicates that extensions to the latter, together with projected new concerns, make a total of about 2,000 looms; but it must be remembered that the hours ~~is~~ worked by these establishments make their productive capacity equal to that of approximately 4,000 Association looms. This dangerous expansion

is viewed by your Committee with the greatest concern, and has been the factor which most influenced their decision to recommend that looms should be released from seal more speedily than was done in the past."

Plea for Restriction of Hours of Work.- "When the new Factories Act was being considered by the Legislature, the Association put forward certain amendments proposing to limit the hours of non-seasonal factories to 54 hours. These amendments were not accepted. More recently we have endeavoured to persuade the Government of India to introduce legislation limiting machinery hours of all jute mills in India to 54 hours per week but again our efforts have failed. It was thought that limitation of machinery hours for jute mills in Bengal could have been brought about by provincial legislation but, the Central Government to whom the matter was then referred for all-India legislation proved definitely unsympathetic. Your Committee feels that the Government of India is ~~unlikely~~ unlikely to alter its present attitude until we, as an Association, can prove that we are prepared to discourage expansion by the only means in our power, which is to increase production. We have no grounds for assuming that if we follow this course of action the Government of India will reverse its decision but at least we shall have disclosed our determination to protect the future well-being of the industry, and this may carry weight".

A further ^{release of} 2 1/2 per cent. of the total complement of looms of each mill or mill company in the membership of the Association ~~which~~ is ~~is~~ expected on November 11th, 1935.

(The Statesman, 5-5-1935)

Representation to Government by Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.- The Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has made a representation to the Government of Bengal on the subject pointing out the crisis developing in the Jute industry due to the expansion of "non-Association" mills. It is pointed out that not only have the existing outside mills been taking advantage of the restriction pact arrived at by the Association mills, but also that, encouraged by such profits, the number of outside mills is growing rapidly, with the result that the restriction scheme is seriously undermined. Left with no other alternative, the Indian Jute Mills Association has decided to change its policy regarding production. They have now decided to try the weapon of overproduction so that the market may be glutted with unsold jute goods. As a result thereof

not only will the present profits disappear but the mills will start losing. The policy that has now been adopted is bound to create a crisis. The object of creating the crisis is to prevent the expansion of the existing units and starting of new mills.

The representation points out that such a crisis will unsettle the economic life of the Province since the Jute industry is its most important industry. The Government of Bengal, therefore, should lose no time in averting a disaster that affects the industry as well as the province. In the opinion of the Committee the best course will be to pass special legislation whereby it should not be possible for any jute mill, whether a member of the Association or not, to work for more than 54 hours a week. In view of the magnitude of the interests involved the Government should not hesitate from taking the necessary action. If the Government deem it advisable they can convene a Conference, of the various interests concerned to discuss the question as was done during the 1931 crisis. The Government should not await the actual development of the crisis before moving in the matter.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-5-35). +

Employment and Unemployment.

Unemployment Among Educated Classes: Land Colonisation

Schemes in U. P. ✓ +

Several schemes relating to the settlement of educated unemployed young men ^{in the United Provinces} were considered at a meeting of the Agricultural Department Unemployment Committee ^{U.P.} held at Naini Tal recently. Sir J.P.Srivastava, Minister in charge of Agriculture, presided. In the case of a number of the schemes it was felt that adverse factors were so important as to detract considerably from their value. It was, for instance, felt that educated people might not like to settle on tracts of land not enjoying a good climate or easy means of communication or irrigation. On the other hand, certain areas, notably an extensive tract ⁱⁿ ~~in the trans-Hindon~~ ~~portion~~ of Meerut district, were considered almost ideal for a colonization scheme of the type in future. A proposal for previous agricultural training on the Fyzabad farm of young men choosing an agricultural career was also approved, and it was decided to pursue both the schemes, namely, ^{the} Fyzabad and Meerut ^{schemes,} simultaneously.

(Commerce and Industry, 14-5-1935). +

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Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in Mysore, 1933-34. ✓ +

Progress during Last 28 years.- The review by the Government of Mysore of the report on the Co-operative Societies in the State during 1933-34 says that the report contains an interesting account of the development of the co-operative movement in the State during the past 28 years and its possibilities for the future. There has been a steady growth in the movement from year to year. The number of societies in the year 1905-06 was only five with a membership of 362 and a working capital of Rs. 14,243. This number has at the end of the year under review increased to 2,088 societies having on the rolls 146,557 members with a working capital approximating Rs. 21.8 millions. Out of these 1,825 or 87.4 per cent are credit societies and the remaining 263 are non-credit societies. This works out at one society for 18 square miles, 100 villages and 3,605 head of the population.

Working of Societies during 1933-34.- Although the number of societies decreased by nearly a hundred, from the figures for 1932-33, there has been an increase in membership and also in the amount of reserve fund built up by the societies. There is, ~~no~~ ~~doubt~~, ~~an~~ reduction in deposits ^{also} but this was due to the prevailing economic depression. The conditions of the money market enabled societies to attract deposits at low rates of interest ranging from Re. 1-9 to Rs. 6-4-0 per Rs. 100. This enabled a corresponding lowering of interest on loans issued by co-operative banks and societies.

Agricultural Societies.- Out of the 1,629 agricultural

societies, 1,534 were credit institutions, 27 were agricultural supply societies, 49 grain banks and 19 sale societies for areca, cotton, cardamon and other products. The majority of the grain banks are reported to be not working satisfactorily and steps are being taken to wind them up. The report states that the working of the supply and sale societies leaves much to be desired and requires attention. The question of finding foreign continental markets for the cardamon grown by the members of one of the two ~~cardamom~~ cardamom societies is said to be under correspondence with the Trade Commissioner for Mysore in London.

Sericultural Societies.— The number of sericultural societies remained at 20 as in the previous year with a membership of 422 and working capital of Rs. 5,466. They prepared and supplied 427,957 disease-free layings during the year as against 332,676 in the previous year. With a view to improving the working of this class of societies, the Director of Industries and Commerce has been requested to instruct the officers of the Sericultural Department to take steps to develop the co-operative spirit and make the societies serve the larger needs of their members besides attending to their primary work connected with disease-free layings, preserving seed cocoons, etc.

Industrial Societies.— The Gota Manufacturers' Society in Bangalore City continued to do fairly satisfactory work in spite of the trade depression and transacted business to the extent of Rs. 64,874. There were 67 weavers' societies, of which 16 were ^d Aikarnataka societies, with a membership of 5,266, a total working capital of Rs. 139,000 and a reserve fund of Rs. 52,319. Their

total turnover was only Rs. 370,000 as against Rs. 640,000 in the previous year, the heavy fall being due to the general depression in the textile & industry.

The students' and women's co-operative societies continued to do good work during the year.

Working of the Department.- The working of the department was satisfactory during the year. Consolidation of the work so far done was steadily kept in view, and audit and inspection was carried out on a much larger scale than before. Forms of accounts and inspection and audit reports have been revised and refresher courses have been arranged in some of the districts for the proper training of Inspectors and other workers in the field.

(The Times of India, 14-5-35) +

The B. & O. Co-operative Societies Act, 1935. ✓

Mention was made at page 76 of our February 1935 report to the passing by the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council of the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Societies Act, 1935 (Act VI of 1935). The full text of the Act is published at pages 32-70 of Part IV of the Bihar and Orissa Gazette dated 29-5-1935. +

Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Colony for Anglo-Indians:

Majra Scheme. +

At a meeting held at Dehra Dun on 20-5-1935 under the chairmanship of Mr. L.M. Medley, M.L.C., it was resolved to found a colony at Majra, about four miles from Dehra Dun, for the benefit of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European community with a capital of Rs.500,000 divided into 50,000 shares of Rs. 10/- each.

The Rev. Father Clements, the sponsor of the scheme, addressed the meeting at length, explaining the details and the possibilities of the scheme. He said that they had to think of the future of the generation. In the present struggle for existence the competition was indeed very hard. They had to evolve a scheme which should be suitable to every person. A co-operative scheme based on modern principles appeared to be the most feasible one. India was primarily an agricultural country, but that their community was a non-agricultural community. Sixty per cent of it were workers, 30 per cent clerks, and the rest were moving from pillar to post in order to find something. Industry, commerce and education thus appeared to be the means for the amelioration of the community. But land was an essential factor in any scheme of uplift. Proceeding, Father Clements made a definite proposal that an Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Co-operative Society be founded in Dehra Dun. It was their mission to solve the acute economic problem in a practical manner, and provide employment to those of them who had the mettle but not the means to earn a living. At Cawnpore, Lucknow, Agra, Moradabad and Allahabad they had succeeded in these ventures, and there they had a bright future before them.

The aim and object of the scheme was to find employment for the members of the community by opening out industries, taking up agencies, founding scholarships and carrying out land and building schemes. The industries would include carpentry, tailoring, millinery, hosiery, boot and shoe making, lace and embroidery, bakery, confectionery, grocery, butchery, stationery shops, sericulture, house-building, brick and tile making, stone-quarrying, road making, ~~the~~ timber cutting by hand and saw mills, and charcoal-making. Later on, as the colonization and land schemes progressed and prospered, they could start flour, paper cloth and grain mills and open out factories for sugar and ice, curing hides, boots and shoes, suit cases, as also wood and metal workshops. The society would also start house and estate agencies on a commission basis and thus prevent the property of the members of the community from going into the hands of outsiders by private sale or mortgage. Wholesale and retail agencies direct from the manufacturing houses and mills would be organized which would enable the members of the community to learn business principles and be in a position to ~~work~~ compete in the open market with other similar agencies.

The proposal to accept the scheme was unanimously adopted. General Fuller was elected Chairman and Mr. W.R. Chambers, Honorary Secretary of the Society;

Women and Children.Women Workers in Indian Mines :Report on Conditions by A. I. W. C. Committee. +

In June 1934, a Memorandum on Indian Labour was submitted on behalf of the All India Women's Conference by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Liaison Officer, to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. The Conference at Geneva was informed in the memorandum that a detailed report on "Woman and Child Labour in the mines" would be submitted later. With this view a Committee ~~which~~ was formed at the Half-yearly meeting of the All-India Women's Conference at Indore to investigate into the conditions of woman labour in the mines. Accordingly, in October 1934, the Committee visited four mines in the Raniganj area and three in Jharia area. The following Report constitutes the opinion of the Committee.

Report of the Committee.

Nature of Mining Population.- During the Committee's tour the members were given facilities for studying different aspects of the question of woman labour in the mines. Before going into other details, some idea of the nature of the mining labour is necessary:-

Broadly speaking the mining population can be divided into two groups: (1) Local or settled miners and (2) imported workers. The Committee were informed that 50% of the workers in the Raniganj area were settled miners who have been given land by the mine owners or were themselves owners of such land near their place of work. At Jharia the Committee got a strong impression that most of the workers were typically of the imported variety having rather a camping out way of living with its accessory low standard.

Recruitment of Labour.- The recruitment of labour is still managed by Sardars everywhere. Although the Royal Commission pointed out very clearly the dangers of keeping up such a system, nothing seems to have been done to do away with it yet. The Committee recognises there are difficulties in stopping this custom all at once as the Managers of the very big mines are usually Europeans and the Sirdars help the authorities as interpreters as well as contractors for labour. But these

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difficulties could be easily overcome in course of time if the recommendations of the Royal Commission were followed. During the tour the Committee was shown all types of mines:-

- (1) Large ones with good equipment and landed property of their own and
- (2) Smaller ones with no such advantages.

Generally speaking the atmosphere in the smaller mines was smoky, hot and moist. The number of tubs are still insufficient and the Committee saw many workers waiting patiently to begin their work when tubs should be available.

Housing Conditions.- The question of housing still seems to be very unsatisfactory. At one of the mines, the resident labour lives in village huts provided by the Company and built and repaired by them. These village huts were the best we saw in Raniganj. Statistics show that only 33% of labourer's dwelling houses come up to the standard set by the Board of Health - 18% above the standard and the remainder below. The back to back type which has been condemned long ago from the point of view of bad lighting and ventilation is still in existence everywhere. Authorities should also take into account the question of privacy in Dhowras where workmen live with their families. Lack of privacy often leads to worse evils.

Suggested Improvements.- The Committee suggests that the policy followed by one mine in Jharia for improving the back to back type of housing by knocking down the middle walls and connecting the two rooms should be imitated by others where such tenements exist. In this way expense and space could be saved greatly and at the same time the aim of giving through draught and letting in light, could be achieved. The question of privacy could also be solved by following example set by the same mine. The newest type of dwelling they are building, is constructed with a courtyard in front and a wall built round it which prevents overlooking.

Latrines were absent everywhere, except at the Kustore ^{mine} where they have a few only. The need for this convenience cannot be overstressed, specially in a congested area and the recommendation of the Royal Commission on this point, should be taken up at once.

Health & Welfare.- Although on a very small scale, this work is managed very well by the Mines Board of Health at Asansol; Hospital accommodation is provided by only a few of the large mines. The Mines Board have only 96 sq. miles out of 400 under their supervision, so that, ~~the~~ out of the way places do not receive any help. Jharia possesses many more centres and the Kustore Colliery there has a splendid hospital and is the only

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example the Committee have met with there where maternity benefits are given.

Maternity Benefits:

In spite of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission on this important point the Committee found no instance of maternity benefits being given anywhere except at the Kustore. Ante-natal and post-natal care of mothers is essential and that creches are a necessity in all industrial centres where women work. At the Kustore, the women get Rs.1/- weekly from third month to birth of child and enquiries showed how necessary the money was as it was spent entirely on food for the family.

Education.- The Committee was surprised to find that even the best mines did not seem to realise the importance of education. After the recommendations of the Royal Commission, which stressed this point very much, we should have met with solitary examples at least. Except with a few instances in Jharia such as the Kustore which has a Middle English School with a Primary Department attached and another at the Pure Jharia for the children of the workmen only, the Committee did not meet with any. Raniganj seemed to be very backward in this respect.

Recreation.- The only place for recreation for the tired in the evening is the liquor shop. The Kustore is the only mine the Committee came across that has a football ground and the institution of annual sports for the miners. The winners in the different items are given useful presents. In the baby show, six prizes are given and the first two usually get baby cots with mosquito curtains, bedding and bed clothes for the mother, toys and clothes for the children. The Kustore is in a fortunate position in getting a fixed price for their coal but we hope their example will be followed by others. However the principle form of recreation is drinking. This is worse in Jharia owing to the outstill system in Behar, which has reduced the cost of a bottle of today to As.2 again As.9 a bottle in Asansol. A statement was also made to the Committee at a meeting of the Miners' Association, that drink was being adulterated. At this meeting the Committee found that the Sardars took an interest in the proceedings but the people have yet to be taught the benefits of such an institution. As a counteraction, cinemas or tea-shops should be introduced as also restriction on the sale of liquor and early closing measures.

Wages. From statements made to the Committee, it was evident that wages differed according to collieries. Usually a couple earns two to three rupees per week. Statistics in one mine showed a drop of 50% in three years in the wages of the workmen only. It was stated to the Committee that there is no similar drop in the wages of the Officials. As a remedy, the fixing of a minimum wage is absolutely essential for the welfare of the labour.

Restriction of Underground Employment of Women.- On the question of the Restriction of Woman Labour, the Committee states:- "Our impression about the effect of the elimination of women from underground work is, that it is on the whole not suited to the conditions in which the miners live". The advantages and disadvantages may be classed in the following manner:

Advantages.- 1. The atmosphere underground is very unhealthy and necessarily has an injurious effect on the health of mothers and children.

2. As the women have to stay underground for long hours, they cannot keep their homes clean.

3. Children are very often given opium while the mothers are away at work and sometimes they are also left tied up.

Disadvantages.- 1. Dislocation of home life: If the woman is not earning, she would be left behind in the village and there will be no proper home for the miner. There will be a greater temptation for the man to spend his earnings at the liquor shop when there is no family to support on the spot. This evil is feared very much and told to us by the women themselves.

2. Increase of immorality.- This will be inevitable in most cases with cheap drinks and an illiterate mining population.

3. Great decrease in family wages.- As we have discussed earlier the husband and wife earns the wages together. The wife earns it as the loader at present. As the process of elimination progresses the wages of the loader will have to be subtracted from the family earnings and the result will be very distressful for the family ~~to fix the minimum wage.~~

Remedies:- Fixing of minimum wage for miners, as also minimum hours of work.- For this, a detailed study of the fatigue involved in the work done by the miners in the different mines as well as the cost of living in the different mining areas should be undertaken and the wages should be a living wage. 2. Other work should be found for women on the surface, i.e., loading wagons and sorting etc. 3. Basket-making, weaving and spinning could be introduced as cottage industries.

The Committee studied the question of introducing cottage industries very carefully and found that basket-making, weaving and spinning could be successfully tried. The Committee advocated basket-making and is glad to report that its suggestion was accepted by one colliery in Jharia where an attempt will be made to make a success of it.

Provision of Alternative Work Above-ground.- The present Regulation passed in 1929 is that women should be removed gradually

from underground work, so that by 1939, there will be no woman employed underground. Weighing the advantages and disadvantages of removing women from underground work, the Committee agrees that it would be a retrograde step to go back to employing women ~~and~~ underground. The Committee feels India should come into line with other civilized countries in this respect. At present only 14% of the underground workers are women. It is better for all concerned if they are now completely removed and arrangements begun at once for providing them with other work. Although the Committee agrees that underground work is not suited to women, it also feels that the fixing of a minimum living wage for the men, as also ~~for~~ other occupations on the surface for ~~the~~ women should be arranged ~~in~~ ~~for~~, before process of elimination proceeds any further. If ~~these~~ women are removed from underground work in the present condition, the distress will be so great in the miners' homes that it will far outweigh the evils of allowing them underground.

(Extracted from pages 50-54 of the Report of the proceedings of the 9th session of the All India Women's Conference held at Karachi from December 26, 1934 to January 3, 1935.) +

Amelioration of Working Conditions of Indian Women Workers
Memorandum presented by A.I.W.C. to I.L. Conference.

In June 1934, the All India Women's Conference submitted a memorandum setting forth the demands of Indian womanhood regarding improvement of Indian labour conditions, particularly in respect of women workers, to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. The main points brought out in the memorandum are indicated below for purposes of reference:-

Maternity Benefits.- The reason for the importance of this question for India is the large number of women engaged in various manual employments, a total estimated at 49 millions in the 1931 Census, and the fact that it is true to say that practically the whole of this is married labour. The number of unmarried girls employed in a wage earning capacity as manual workers is so small as to be negligible. Two provinces have had Maternity Benefits Acts in force for some years, and in other provinces a few individual employers have introduced voluntary schemes, but these only touch a fraction of the women employed. Since absence from work means a loss of wages and possible loss of a job, the tendency is for a pregnant woman to remain at work till the last possible moment and to return to work far too soon. It has also to be borne in mind that in nearly every case the work undertaken by women involves continuous standing or walking. The experience of the two

provinces which have introduced legislation on this subject shows that it is workable. The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that Maternity Benefits be made compulsory in all the industrial undertakings and plantations for full-time workers.

In consideration of the fact that the Convention providing for Maternity Benefits was one of the first passed by the International Labour Conference, the Memorandum regrets the fact that it has not yet been ratified by the Government of India, and points out that the time is more than ripe for India to ratify this Convention.

Raising of Minimum Age of Employment of Children.- One of the Conventions which treated India as an exception was that which laid down the minimum age for employment of children, in industrial undertakings, This age being fixed at twelve instead of fourteen. The memorandum maintains that the aim must be to reach the higher age as soon as possible. The All India Women's Council feels that the question of the age at which children can be employed in industrial undertakings is inseparably bound up with the question of compulsory education. At present this is non-existent in rural areas and in but few areas in large towns and cities. The A.I.W.C. has always stood for free compulsory education. The memorandum brought to the notice of the Conference the vital connection of this question with the question of child labour. As a first immediate step, the memorandum recommended the introduction of it in all industrial areas, in mining districts and in plantations, and that the school-leaving age be made the same as that for admission into industrial employment, i.e., ~~as~~ twelve years ~~of age~~, (13 in case of mines) as a first essential step towards reaching the international goal of 14 years.

Compulsory Provision of Creches.- Owing to the fact mentioned earlier that women labour in India is married labour, the question of the provision for adequate care of infants and small children in industrial undertakings is a pressing one. Hitherto some enlightened employers have provided creches voluntarily, but this is not satisfactory. (a) There is no standard of cleanliness or suitability required. (b) It only covers a small number of women concerned. (c) In times of stringency this provision may be, ~~and~~ experience has shown often, stopped.

By the new Bill matters would be improved somewhat as Local Governments would have the power to make rules requiring the provision of creches where more than fifty women are employed. The memorandum considered that this provision dealt adequately with the evil which exists at present and urged that the provision should be made compulsory.

Maximum Loads for Women.- A matter which has not yet received attention is the regulation of the lifting of heavy weights which are often excessive and a rule limiting such weights to a certain maximum is necessary to safeguard their health as mothers ^{and} potential mothers.

Regulating the Employment of Children in Non-Industrial Occupations
At present there is no regulation at all in non-industrial occupations and the usual evils of long hours, low wages, employment of children of tender years and insufficient regard to health and safety are often present. The memorandum urged that these occupations be brought within the scope of legislation as soon as possible.

Abolition of the Jobber system.- Naikins (women jobbers) should

be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour. This is by far the most important of the evils prevailing in the mills and factories. Naikins or Mukadams are entrusted with great powers over the recruitment, dismissal, supervision and transfer of women workers. Women workers seeking employment have to keep the Naikins pleased by paying regular instalments from their wages. Bribery, corruption and immorality are rampant under this system. The young and healthy women are tempted to lead an immoral life by these Naikins by selling their honour, otherwise they are harassed and threatened. The Royal Commission on Labour has strongly recommended the abolition of this evil system but Government have so far taken no steps to introduce legislation in this matter. It is absolutely necessary that the power of recruitment and dismissal should be taken out of their hands and entrusted to educated and cultured women-inspectors who should be appointed by every mill and factory and be given sufficient salary to attract the right type of women.

The memorandum urged that a Bill should at once be introduced and passed in the Legislative Assembly recommending immediate abolition of the Jobber system, in mills and factories.

Underground Work of Women.- According to present legislation in India this will come to an end in 1939. Women workers in mines usually belong to a primitive race and they are not, therefore, in a position to know what conditions to expect or demand. The process of elimination from work underground seems to be proceeding without undue dislocation so far as the public is aware, but on this point the Memorandum did not make a final pronouncement as the matter needed further investigation. It expressed the hope that a special committee would be sent to investigate this question to mining areas in September 1934. The memorandum agreed, meanwhile, that India should adopt what has been the universal opinion of civilised countries, that such work is unsuitable for women and should in this ~~mm~~ as in all matters, offer special protection to women labourers until such time as they themselves are educated and well enough organised to speak on their own behalf. The memorandum expressed the opinion that a close watch should be kept on the situation, especially as regards the provision of other employment, as far as this is practicable, for those women withdrawn from underground work. (*The report of this Committee is given at pages 62-66 of this report).

Night Work for Women in Supervisory Positions.- The proposal to remove the ban on night work for women in positions of responsibility and in secretarial and supervisory positions does not, at present, affect India very closely. In India the number of such women is extremely small. Where however such exist, they will be educated and responsible women who could be expected to decide for themselves the suitability of their conditions of employment. The memorandum, therefore, agreed to this proposal being accepted on behalf of India.

Education.Vocational Training in Bihar and Orissa: Working of Institutes. ✓

A communique issued by the Department of Industries in Bihar and Orissa states that the department maintains three handicraft institutes for imparting practical training to literate young men and artisan boys in modern methods and labour saving appliances employed in some important cottage industries with a view to provide intelligent leadership so urgently needed in these industries and to improve the efficiency of the artisans themselves.

The Institute at Patna imparts training in cotton weaving, dyeing, ~~and~~ calico printing, knitting, weaving of carpets, durries and newar tape and in the making of toys out of wood and card boards. A silk institute at Bhagalpur trains boys in sericulture, silk growing, dyeing and printing, weaving and designing. At Gaya boys are taught improved methods of wool spinning, dyeing, weaving and finishing and production of various classes of woollen goods.

The fundamental principle underlying the industrial training given in these institutes is that production by the students should, as far as practicable, be of marketable quality both in respect of workmanship and finish and the training should give the students a thorough knowledge of the craft or crafts taught and enable them to acquire sufficient manual dexterity for carrying on their work independently. These institutes train and turn out annually a large number of young craftsmen fully versed in the use and application of greatly improved appliances, tools, processes and designs and impart better knowledge and appreciation of the diversified range of commodities for which there is a demand.

(The Statesman, 30-5-1935). +

Maritime Affairs.

Port Sanitary Authorities; Bombay Government's Proposal. +

The Government of Bombay recently asked for the views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on a scheme for the institution in the larger seaports of port sanitary authorities which will be responsible to the Central Government for carrying out its international obligations in those ports as well as for improving their general sanitation.

Principal Principle Approved.- The Committee of the Chamber agreed that the principle of the proposed legislation was excellent inasmuch as the scheme provided for the co-ordination for a common purpose of interests which at the moment were independent and might be conflicting.

Constitution of the Authority.- In regard to the constitution of the port sanitary authority, the committee were strongly of the opinion that the port sanitary authority in Bombay should include representatives of shipping interests and local railways. In confining themselves at this stage to the general recommendation, the committee assumed that the Chamber would be afforded an opportunity at a later date of expressing its views on the composition of the port sanitary authority to be proposed by Government.

Jurisdiction of the Authority.- In connection with the question of the jurisdiction of the port sanitary authority, the committee agreed that there should be a well-defined physical boundary and they regarded as reasonable the suggestion to include "such docks and wharves and their approaches as may actually be held to form an integral part of the port." The committee also considered it reasonable and desirable that outside the area of its own ~~juris~~ jurisdiction the port sanitary authority should be given authority to bring to the notice of the proper local authority any ~~a~~ sanitary defect which might affect the

health and sanitation of the port area, but the only power that it was proposed to give them with this object was that of deputing the port health officer to make an inspection and report on any such conditions.

Inspection of Vessels.- In regard to the inspection of vessels, the committee considered that such powers, if conferred, should be confined merely to sanitary inspection of the condition of existing arrangements and there should be no kind of authority to direct structural alterations and so on.

Financing of the Scheme.- It was ~~pro~~ proposed that half the cost of the port sanitary authority should be borne by the Central Government and half by the ^oPort Trust. The Chamber's approval of the proposal to recover half the cost from the Port Trust (that is, from the trade and shipping of Bombay) was conditional on the assumption that the levy would not exceed the contribution already provided by the Port Trust ~~and~~ of half the cost of establishment and contingencies of the port health officer.

(The Times of India, 24-5-1935)+

Competency to Get Licenses to Work as Engineers
in Inland Steam-Vessels.

Attention is directed to Notification No.568/34 dated 24-5-35 of the Bombay Government published at pages 367-368 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 30-5-35. The notification refers to rules regulating the grant of licenses under clause (b) of sub-Section (1) of Section 22-A of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917, authorising persons mentioned therein to act as engineers of inland steam-vessels.

Exclusion of Indian Seamen from British Ships:
Protests from Indian Workers' Organisations.

Reference was made at pages 82-83 of our April 1935 report to the communication sent by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to Mr. George Lansbury regarding the demand of the Labour Party in England for the exclusion of Indian lascars from British-owned ships. The Labour Party's action has evoked strong protests in the country. On 17-5-35 a meeting was held at Bombay under the auspices of the National Seamen's Union of India Bombay, with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President, National Trades Union Federation, as president to record the protest of Indian Seamen against the Labour Party's move.

In the course of his speech Mr. Mehta stressed the ~~inc~~ inequity of the Labour Party's move and said that the only reply the people of India could give was that they, as a nation, unequivocally should assert the right of their nationals to be freely employed on British-owned ships. It should not be forgotten, said Mr. Mehta, that

virtual monopoly of trade between India and England, on cargo ships as well as mail contracts and other patronage which were being given to them by the Government of India imposed an obligation on them to treat Indian seamen with consideration. The number of ~~white~~ white British seamen in employment at present was 105,000. If they had got the right to employment equal in proportion to the trade emanating from British Ports their number could not exceed 30,000 of all grades. And yet with 3 times more employment, they were out to exclude nearly 50,000 Indian seamen.

Mr. Mehta suggested that the Indian National Congress and other political parties, in the country as well as in the Legislatures, should demand that the right of Indian seamen to employment on British ships should not be questioned as things stood at present, and that an amiable settlement of the question should be attempted whereby the number of Indian seamen and the British seamen should be equally divided in the future. Mr. Jamnadas concluded by saying that failing an understanding on the above lines, the Indian working class would be justified in demanding the exclusion of every whiteman from employment in India.

The following resolution was passed by the meeting:-

1. (a) This meeting of the seamen of Bombay deploras the growth of anti-Indian feeling in Great Britain which manifested itself in demanding the restriction and even the exclusion of ~~Indi~~ Indian lascars from employment on British-owned ships in the supposed interests of British seamen. In particular this meeting deploras the attitude of the Parliamentary Labour Party during the discussion of the measures for giving subsidy to British shipping and considers the said attitude as opposed to the solidarity of the working-class movement.

(b) This meeting declares that, in view of the virtual monopoly which British shipping enjoys in India in the matter of freight, postal contracts and other advantages, the Indian seamen have as much right to employment on British ships as white seamen and any attempt to discriminate against Indian seamen on

racial grounds must result in creating bitterness and inviting retaliatory measures. This meeting, therefore, appeals to British seamen to come to an amicable settlement with their Indian comrades in the common interests of both. This meeting appeals to the Government, all political parties, commercial bodies and labour organisations in India to stand by the Indian seamen in resisting this attack on their right of employment on British ships.

(The National Call, 21-5-35).

The following press statement was issued on 23-5-35 by Mr. All-
R.S. Ruikar, President, the Indian Trade Union Congress, on the subject:-

The attempt to discriminate against Indian seamen in British-owned ships on racial grounds has brought to the forefront a most vital question. There is not the least justification for exclusion of the Indians from such ships. The attitude of the British Labour Party in supporting the exclusion of Indian seamen makes it perfectly clear that no British political party is free from the spirit of racial discrimination.

The fate of 50,000 Indian seamen is today hanging in the balance and the question vitally affects the self-respect and dignity of India. Indian Trade Unionists have to take up the challenge and give a fitting reply to this attitude of the Britishers. But all political parties in India have to join with the Trade Unions in voicing their protest. The only fitting reply to this affront is that Indians must demand the exclusion of every non-Indian from any employment in India.

"I heartily support the efforts made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta in this connection and assure him that the Trade Union Congress will try its level best to give a fitting reply to this greatest injustice done to Indian seamen by organizing countrywide demonstrations. I hope All Trade Unionists and political parties and the Indian National Congress in particular will co-operate with the Trade Union Congress in making this protest universal and effective."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 25-5-35).