
Report for January 1939.

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

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National Labour Legislation.Extension of Factories Act in U.P. to Concerns employing 10 or morePersons: Government's Draft Notification: ✓

Attention is directed to page 48 of Part I of the United Provinces Gazette, dated 14-1-1939 where is published for criticisms and suggestions the draft of a notification (No. 20/XVIII of the Industries Department dated 9-1-1939) which proposes to extend the Factories Act, 1934, to "all premises whereon or within the precincts whereof, on any one day of the 12 months preceding this notification, 10 or more workers were employed, and where work is carried on with the aid of power". All the Sections of the Act, except Sections 15 (artificial humidification), 16 (cooling), 33(1) and (2) (power to make rules relating to shelters for workers during rest and rooms for children) are to apply to the newly declared factories.

Criticisms and suggestions will be ~~accepted~~ accepted up to 28-2-1939 ✓

The Burma Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1939: Bill proposed tobe introduced for Legalising Authorised Deductions: ✓

Attention is directed to pages 1 to 2 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 14-1-1939 where is published the text of a Bill proposed to be introduced in the local legislature for the Amendment of the Payment of Wages Act. The Bill aims at legalising certain authorised deductions and deductions of contributions to provident funds. In addition, the Bill provides, as explanation to Clause 9 of the Act, that, "for the purposes of this section, an employed person shall be deemed to be absent from the place where he is required to work if, although present in such place, he refuses, in pursuance of a stay-in-strike or for any other cause which is not reasonable in the circumstances, to carry out his work." ✓

National Labour Legislation. (contd.)Classes of Persons holding Positions of Supervision or Managementin Factories: Bombay Government's Notification ✓

Attention is directed to pages 42 to 56 of Part IV A of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 12-1-1939 where is published a Notification (No. 352/34 dated 6-1-1939) under the Factories Act, defining the persons who hold positions of supervision or management ~~of~~ or are employed in a confidential position in a factory and the classes of adult workers in factories who are exempted from the provisions relating to working hours. ✓

Amendments to the Indian Mines Rules, 1924: Form of Registersunder the Act Specified ✓

Attention is directed to pages 77 to 82 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 21-1-1939 where ~~are~~ published certain amendments to the Rules made under section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. The amendments relate to the forms of (1) the register of persons employed in a mine, (2) the notices regarding commencement and end of work and rest intervals, (3) register of persons working below ground, (4) register of minor accidents, and (5) certificate of age and fitness ^{for} under sections 26-A and 30(e) of the Act of young persons and children/employment in mines. ✓

The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939: Bill to prohibitForced Labour introduced on 20-1-1939 ✓

Attention is directed to pages 81 to 82 of Part V of the Bihar Gazette dated 25-1-1939 where is published the text of the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, introduced in the local legislative Assembly by a non-official member (congress party) on 20-1-1939. The Bill seeks to confer occupancy rights on a person holding a house in rural areas, otherwise than as a ryot, if his possession has been

recorded in the last record-of-rights or if he had been living in it continuously for six years. If a person builds a house on a land settled with him for the purpose, the Bill confers occupancy rights in the land and the house, and declares that he cannot be ejected as a tenant-at-will.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the present legal position of a landless agricultural labourer or artisan occupying a house in rural areas is that of a tenant-at-will and he can be turned out of the house ~~it~~ though it may have been occupied by his ancestors for generations. This is causing great hardship to landless labourers and artisans living in villages who, on account of their present precarious ~~own~~ position, are kept under the thumb of their masters and are compelled to render forced labour to them without ~~payment of~~ adequate or reasonable wages for work done by them. It is to stop this practice of begary (forced labour) and to secure houses to the landless labourers and artisans that the Bill has been introduced.

Draft Amendment of Madras Factories Rules: Exemptions to Hours
of Work Provisions in Factories Act. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 104 to 106 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 24-1-1939 where is published the draft of certain ~~am~~ amendments which the local Government intends making in the Madras Factories Rules. The proposed amendments, inter alia relate to the provision of washing facilities in factories and defines the classes of workers exempted from the provisions relating to hours of work in the Factories Act. ✓

The Bombay Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1939. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 47 to 64 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 31-1-1939 where is published the text of the Bombay Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1939, which the Bombay Government intends introducing shortly in the local Legislature. The Bill makes provision for the regulation of hours ~~of~~ work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres and other establishments. ✓

Conditions of LabourLabour Conditions in Annamalai Plantations: MadrasGovernment's Order on Strathie Report. ✓

The Ministers in charge of Industries and Labour, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Public Health, Madras Government, recently investigated on the spot the conditions of labour obtaining in the plantations in the Annamalais. Mr. D.N. Strathie, I.C.S., whom the Government subsequently deputed to examine these conditions in greater detail, after consultation with the interests concerned, later submitted a full and interesting report. In the light of the material before them, the Government of Madras has made certain recommendations, and the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has been asked to communicate them to the planting community and see that they are carried out fully and effectively. The following Government Order setting forth the recommendations of the Government has been passed:-

Pre-employment Advances: The Government observed that pre-employment advances to workers carry no interest, and do not, as a general rule, exceed Rs. 5 in each case. In some cases, however, the amounts exceed this figure. The Government considers it desirable to discourage large pre-employment advances and are of the view that in no case should such advance exceed Rs. 20. The Government also considers that no pre-employment advance should be recoverable from the worker unless it has been disbursed in the presence of a Village Officer or some higher revenue official and unless the transaction has been reduced to writing and attested by the officer present. A copy of the document should be given to the worker and the original should be sent to the employer through the Maistry concerned.

Medical Examination:- The workers are now medically examined on arrival at the estate and those that are found unfit are sent back home. A suggestion was made that the planters should be required to arrange for the medical examination of all workers at the foot of the hills. But the Planters' Association, Valparai, is against the suggestion both on account of the extra cost involved in running a camp at Vannanthurai and also by reason of inconvenience to labourers themselves who will have to break their journey at this camp. It has also been pointed out that the labourers rejected are sent back at the expense of the estate concerned. In view of these facts, the Government will not insist on the medical examination of labourers at the foot of the hills, but consider that all estates should make it a universal rule to pay the expenses home of any labourer brought by the Maistries and refused work.

Housing.- Housing conditions in the estates require improvement. The Government ~~are~~, however, glad to observe that this question is already receiving the careful attention of the planters and that improved types of buildings are being erected. The Commissioner of Labour is requested to obtain and furnish the Government with a statement showing the number of workers employed in each estate, the number of the type of quarters built for them and the accommodation provided for each worker or family of workers

Provision of Cumblies (Blankets) .- Each worker, on his arrival at the estate, is ~~let~~ supplied with a cumby. In the rainy season the cumby gets wet during the day and thus becomes unfit for use at night. The Government considers that in addition to a cumby, each worker should be given a waterproof coat for his use.

Supply of Rice.- Complaints have been made that the quality of rice supplied to the worker on the estates is bad and that the price is high when compared with the quality supplied. The Government ~~should~~ considers that the workers should be allowed to purchase his own rice from the market. It should be possible in this matter to eliminate a fruitful source of discontent and constant friction between the workers and the planters.

Weighment of Leaf Plucked.- The Government ~~are~~ not satisfied with the system at present obtaining in respect to the weighment of the leaf plucked. Several abuses have come ~~to~~ notice and the Government considers that the following system should be adopted in the future:-

There should be a fortnightly or monthly card index in which the weight of leaf plucked by each worker should be entered each day at the place of weighment, and at the end of the period, the total amount of leaf collected should also be recorded in the card. Nothing should be entered in the ~~of~~ card except in the presence of the worker concerned.

Piece Work Rates for Plucking.- The established piece work rate for plucking is three pies per pound, and the Commissioner of Labour says that it is on plucking that good wages are earned. Women are generally employed on this work and men only occasionally. The ~~men~~ men earn on an average more than the basic rate, and in many estates they are paid the basic rate whether they earn it or not. The Commissioner of Labour says that those estates which do not follow this rule at present have undertaken to consider its adoption. The Government considers that a uniform method should be adopted in the case of all labourers, both men and women, and that they should invariably be given the basic rate whether they earn it or not. The Commissioner of Labour is requested to report at the end of three months to what extent the above suggestion has been adopted by the estates.

Enhanced Basic Rates on Tea Estates.- The Commissioner of Labour considers that, as in the case of the higher paid employees on the estates, the cuts imposed on the basic rates of wages during the period of depression should now be removed. The Government agrees with the Commissioner of Labour and considers that this recom-

mentation should be given effect to at least from 1st May, 1938. The tea industry to-day is prosperous enough to be able to afford to pay better wages to the workers. The basic rates of wages should accordingly be revised as follows:-

	Annas per day
Adults, male ..	8
Adults, female ..	6
Adolescents, male ..	6
Adolescents, female ..	5
Boys and girls under 15 years of age	4

The Government agrees with the Commissioner of Labour that there is no case for increase in wages in respect of coffee or cardamom estates.

Methods of Wage Payment.- The Commissioner of Labour has described in detail the three systems now in vogue, viz., the strict settlement system, ~~the modified settlement system~~ and the monthly payment system. Under the last mentioned system, wages are paid out monthly; under the strict settlement system they are carried forward to the end of the settlement period, the labourers being free in the meanwhile to draw upon their accounts; and under the modified settlement system, labourers are paid their monthly balances part of which they return for safe custody to the estates. The Commissioner of Labour reports that "planters are prepared to sink their individual opinion and adopt the monthly system if the Government so desire."

Labourers to decide Method of Payment.- The Government considers that labour should be gradually educated to stand on its own legs and to practise thrift for its own sake. Enforced thrift has little moral value. The Government considers that by paying wages every week or every fortnight they will help the workers to stand on their own legs. They are not, however, prepared to insist on such payments at present. The Government considers that each estate should afford an opportunity to its labour force to decide which particular system of settlement it desires to adopt and should accept that decision and act upon it. If the workers prefer the strict or modified settlement system, the Government considers that they should be given the necessary facilities to withdraw their balances at fixed intervals if they so desired.

Uniform Method to be enforced.- The Government also considers that an uniform procedure should be adopted for disbursement of wages of workers in all estates. ~~They~~ considers that all payments of wages should be made in the immediate presence of the Manager or some other responsible officer.

Maternity Benefit.- The Government notes with pleasure the decision of the planters to pay maternity benefit to their workers. The Commissioner of Labour reports that planters have agreed to pay bonus and bear charges in connection with the free feeding of the mother for a period of three weeks before entry into hospital and for another period of three weeks after leaving it.

Annual Report on Maternity Benefit Statistics.- The Government considers that it will be very interesting to publish relevant statistics as regards maternity benefit payments in the estates in the report on the Maternity Benefit Act. The Commissioner of Labour is, requested to obtain and publish information in his administration

report on the following points:- The annual statistics of adult women population in each estate; the number of child births in each estate per year, the number of children born in estate hospitals annually, the amount of bonus paid in each estate annually, and the cost of free feeding for six weeks on each estate.

Ban on Re-employment of Coolies to be removed.- It has been represented that if a cooly on account of some misfortune gets into discredit in an estate, he ~~is~~ is debarred from employment in any estate in the hills. The Government is not sure if there is any such rule. If there is, the Government trusts that it is enforced only in extreme cases of indiscipline or insubordination of a grave character, and that plenty of chance is given for a delinquent to turn over a new leaf. ✓

(The Hindu, 19-1-1939). ✓

Working class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres
in India during November 1938. ✓

The cost of living index number of working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during November 1938 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: Year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in November 1938 rose by 1 point to 106. The average in the year 1937 was 106.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in November 1938 remained stationary at 72; for 1937 the average was 75.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during November 1938 remained unchanged at 71; the average for 1937 was 73.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in November 1938 was stationary at 61.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in November 1938 remained stationary at 57. ✓

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, November 1938). ✓

Halpati System abolished: 40,000 Semi-serfs freed in Gujarat. ✓

Some 40,000 landless agricultural workers of Gujarat belonging to the lowest strata of society, called halpatis or dublas, whose conditions of life and work bordered almost on serfdom, have been

liberated from virtual enslavement in the last week of January 1939 by a collective agreement effected between the halpatis and their peasant masters by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and other Congress workers. The halpati system has been in existence in about 300 villages in Bardoli and neighbouring talukas in Gujarat.

Main Features. - The principal feature of the system was that the halpati was induced to repay with manual labour loans taken from his employer by him for marriages and other purposes; in actual practice, the halpati's wages were so low that he was never able to clear the debt. Further, the halpati was wholly dependent for his food on his master. He had to take one meal at the master's house, no matter how bad it might be, and for a second meal he had to depend on the grain given him by the same master.

Cash Wages introduced. - Under the new arrangement, definite daily cash wages have been fixed - four and a half annas a day for males, and three and a half annas for females, and the old method of repaying loans has been stopped. The halpatis are to eat at their own houses. Men who have worked for their masters for 12 years will have to pay back nothing. Others will repay their debts on a cash basis and by easy instalments. The habit of contracting debts is to be sternly discouraged in the future.

Mahatma Gandhi, and the Hon'ble Mr. B.G.Kher, Prime Minister of Bombay, have recently visited Bardoli and given their approval to the new arrangement.

(The Times of India, 21 and 26-1-39). ✓

Minimum Wage for Inferior Government Servants in

Bombay City: Bombay Government's Plans. ✓

The Government of Bombay have at present under consideration the question of fixing a minimum wage for all inferior and low-paid Government servants in Bombay City, as they regard this question as urgent. They propose to take up for consideration the question of fixing a suitable minimum wage for similar Government servants in the mofussil as soon as the financial position permits.

(Public Information Series, (Published by the Government of Bombay) 1-2-1939). ✓

Abolition of Forced Labour in Anb State, N.W.F.P. ✓

According to an Associated Press Special Service message from Abbottabad, N.W.F.P., the abolition of begar (forced labour) within Anb State and the introduction of compulsory primary education have been ordered in a recent firman issued by the Nawab of the State. The State is situated in the North-Western Frontier Province. A circular letter issued in this connection by the Administration to State officials particularly forbids them from exacting forced labour in any form.

(The Hindu 25-1-39). ✓

Abolition of Hakdam System in Bihar: Village Headmen not to be compelled to Supply Provisions to Touring Officers. ✓

The Government of Bihar has recently decided to abolish forthwith the Hakdam system whereby village headmen were required to furnish supplies at prices fixed by executive order to Government officers on tour. The system of payment according to rates fixed by executive order was originally introduced in order to protect village headmen and grocers in the mofussil from under-payment by Government officers. The rates fixed were raised in 1925 and it was decided that the system should not apply to officers on tour at sub-divisional headquarters where supplies could be obtained from the local markets, and in case provisions were taken, the prevailing market rates were to be paid. Even this system has failed to give protection ~~to~~ a satisfactory degree to village headmen, and complaints have continued against the system.

(The Hindustan Times,
26-1-1939). ✓

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Employers' Organisations.

Plea for Industrial Council to Co-ordinate Labour and Social
Legislation: Viceroy's reply to Bombay Millowners' Associa-
tion's Representation. ✓

One of the important points stressed in the address presented to the Viceroy by the deputation of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, which waited on him at Bombay on 21-1-39 was the need for bringing into existence machinery for the purpose of co-ordinating and planning the progress of social and labour legislation throughout the country. The following are relevant extracts from the address:

"According to the Government of India Act, industrial and labour legislation in respect of factories, & conditions of labour, workmen's compensation, health and unemployment insurance and other such matters has been included in the "Concurrent List". This being the case, it appears to our Association extremely desirable that some means of achieving co-ordination and central planning should be speedily devised.

"In 1935, a resolution was moved in the Council of State recommending to the Governor-General-in-Council to take steps to establish an industrial council on the lines suggested by the Whitley Commission on Labour. Government at that time stated that their attitude was sympathetic, but ~~it was~~ indicated that the time for the establishment of an industrial council was not then ripe. The question has been, both before and after the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy, repeatedly brought to the notice of the Central Legislature by our representative, Sir H.P. Mody, who has stressed the effects of advanced legislation in any particular province upon the competitive capacity of industries established in that province.

"Industrial development in India is still in its early stages, and there are peculiar difficulties which retard the speedy development of the vast mineral and material resources of the country. We believe that it is only by an active policy of encouragement & on the part of the State that a rapid advance towards the industrialisation of the country, consistently with the preservation of the balance between agriculture and industry, can take place."

Viceroy's Reply.- The Viceroy in his reply, dealing with this point, said:

"I yield to no one in my appreciation of the value of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission. I would, however, say on the point which you have touched, that I am myself inclined to regard the establishment of an industrial council on the lines which the Commission suggested rather as a means to an end than as an end in itself; and to feel some doubt whether conditions today are entirely ripe or entirely appropriate for the constitution of a permanent organisation of the character contemplated by the Commission. My own view is that

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the wise course in the present circumstances is not so much the establishment of a specific framework or organisation in the hope that it will result in producing co-ordination, as the provision of opportunities outside and apart from any tight framework.

"If we can pool provincial experience and provincial effort for the formulation of common policies for social and labour legislation, the creation of machinery should present a relatively simple problem; and my suggestion is this; that we should devote our efforts rather to the fostering of the growth of a spirit of co-ordination than to the immediate development of a specific procedure or specific organisation.

"I am encouraged in this connection to notice the increasing volume of evidence in support of the view, to which my Government subscribes, that labour legislation in India should aim at combining a basic unity, with the adaptability necessary to meet the diverse conditions of different localities."

(The Times of India,
23-1-1939).

Workers' Organisations.

16th Half-Yearly Meeting of A.I.R. Federation with Railway
Board, 9 and 10-1-1939: Draft Rules for Unions
seeking Recognition.

The sixteenth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held in New Delhi, on January 9 and 10, 1939. The ~~ps~~ deputation from the Federation included Mr. Jamma-das Mehta, the President, Mr. Guruswami, the Acting General Secretary of the Federation, and eleven other delegates from certain Unions affiliated to the Federation.

The subject for discussion was the draft rules prepared by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to serve as a model for adoption by ~~railway Unions seeking recognition~~ by railway administrations concerned. The draft rules as they emerged after discussion will be considered by Government before they are finally promulgated.

Reference was also made informally to certain other matters which have been under the Railway Board's consideration, e.g., running parcel clerks on the Eastern Bengal Railway in regard to which the deputation was told that the orders of the Railway Board would issue as early as possible.

The Railway Board agreed to the request of the Federation that the next half-yearly meeting should be held at an early date and the 19th and 20th May 1939 were accordingly fixed.

(Indian Information Series,
(published by Bureau of
Public Information, Govern-
ment of India) 1-2-39).

Workers' Organisations.Progress of Trade Unionism in Bihar, 1937-38 * ✓

The year ended 31-3-1938 opened with five registered trade unions in Bihar. During the year five additional trade unions were registered. One more trade union, viz., the Jamalpur East Indian Railway Labour Union, 1938, submitted an application for registration during the year, but as this was objected to by a rival party^E, the District Magistrate was requested to make necessary enquiries into the matter, and the Union could not be registered before the end of the year.

During the year under report no certificate of registration of any trade union was withdrawn or cancelled ~~under~~, nor was any registered trade union dissolved. There was also no case of amalgamation of registered trade unions. The total number of the registered trade unions borne on the register ~~at~~ the end of the year was ~~10~~ 10. No prosecution under the Act was launched during the year against any registered ~~7~~ trade union. No federation of trade unions was registered during the year.

The report points out that registered trade unions still continue to be very unpunctual in submitting the annual return under section 29 of the Act, and says that the default is generally ascribed to labour troubles, i.e., struggles against the employer companies. ✓

Annual General Meeting of B.N. Railway Indian LabourUnion - Kharagpur 28-1-39. ✓

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union was held at Kharagpur on 28-1-39, Mr. V. R. Kalappa, M.L.A.(Central Provinces) presiding. Among those present by invitation at the Conference were the Hon'ble Mr. Vishwanath Das,

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the Province of Bihar for the year 1937-38. Printed by Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna in 1939. Price Annas 2 pp 3.

Premier, Bihar, the Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Labour, Madras, Mr. A. Duncan, Agent and General Manager, B.N. Railway, Mr. J.J. Ghandy, General Manager, Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Jamshedpur, and the Director of this Office.

Presidential Address.- Mr. Kalappa, in his presidential address, dealt on the question of recognition of the B.N. Railway Labour Union, and acknowledged with gratitude that, though formal recognition was withdrawn in 1937 as a sequel to the strike of that year, so far as negotiations with the Railway Administration on outstanding problems were concerned, they continued as if there was recognition unofficially. At the same time he urged that formal recognition should be restored, and pointed out that the B.N. Railway workers were keen on making their Union a model one.

Other Speeches.- Short addresses were made by Messrs Giri, Das, J.J. Ghandi, and Dr. Pillai *and Mr Duncan.*

Mr. Duncan in the course of his speech, announced the appointment of a Joint Committee of six Railway officers and six Union officers to discuss the fundamental conditions and details of procedure to build the relationship between the Union and the Railway Administration on the solid foundation of mutual goodwill and friendship, and said that the question of recognition will be taken up after the Joint Committee had presented its report.

Office-bearers-1939-40.- The following new office-bearers were elected for 1939-40: President:- Mr. V.R. Kalappa, M.L.A., Vice-Presidents:- Messrs B.N. Das, Sirajuddin, S.N. Pathak.; General Secretary Mr. K. Gopalrao; Publicity Secretary:- Mr. G.V. Raghavan; Organising Secretaries:- Messrs P.K.Das, B.B. Ghosh.

(Indian Labour Journal,
29-1-39). ✓ + .

Economic Conditions.

Rupee Sterling Ratio: Governments of India and Punjab

defend present ratio of ls. 6d. ✓

At the meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress held at Wardha on 11 to 16-12-1938, a resolution was passed criticising the present exchange ratio of ls. 6d to the Rupee and urging the fixing of the ratio at ls. 4d. (vide pages 48 to 49 of our December 1938 Report). The Governments of India and the Punjab have expressed their views on the suggestion; a brief summary of their respective views is given below:

Government of India and the Ratio question.- The Government of India wishes to make it clear that it has no intention of allowing a lowering of the present exchange value of the rupee. On the contrary, it intends to defend it by every means in its power and is confident of its entire ability to maintain it. The Government of India is convinced that a lowering of the ratio in existing international market conditions would produce no appreciable rise in what the cultivator can realise for his produce. ~~It~~ is equally convinced that it would produce an immediate rise in the cost of what ~~he~~ buys. Lowering the ratio would also seriously weaken the budgetary position of the Central Government and the larger Provincial Governments. In fact a lowering ~~of~~ the ratio would do no good to anybody except the monied and speculative interests who profit from conditions of uncertainty and disturbance or who secure an additional but unseen all-round increase of 12 1/2 per cent. in the protection afforded to them at the expense of the consumer.

Altogether the Government of India has no doubt that it is its clear duty in the interests of India generally, and the cultivator in particular, to defend the present ratio to the utmost of its power. As already stated it has every belief in its ability to do this and it is confident that drastic measures of contraction will not be necessary except to the extent that they are forced upon it by the action of speculators who place their funds abroad in the hope of bringing them back at a profit. Incidentally, the Government is convinced that the exchange would be materially stronger today were it not for the fact that there have been large movements of funds to the United Kingdom by these same speculative interests during the last year.

(Indian Information Series, New
Delhi, dated 15-1-1939). ✓

Views of the Punjab Government.- In reply to a letter from the Bombay Government, getting the ratio lowered ~~in~~ to ls. 4d., Mr. Manohar Lal, Finance Minister, the Punjab, replied stating the inability of his Government to do so. In doing so, he pointed out that it was far from certain that the currencies of the world had been so established as to justify the proposed step. Taking into consideration all the circumstances of the world market, the Punjab Government was not convinced that

the effect of devaluation would be to stimulate exports and its effect in raising the prices of agricultural produce was also problematical. Immediate prejudicial results, it was stated, were certain consumers would undoubtedly suffer from a rise in the prices of imported goods and the increase in the prices of imported cloth in the Punjab. Sterling liabilities would increase the estimated expenditure in England during the current year by £ 500,000 ; it would have a much greater effect on the Government of India, with consequences prejudicial to the provincial finances and might presumably involve an increase of Central taxation. Moreover, there would be great speculation in exchange and disturbances in the money market, with consequential harm to trade and industry.

(The Statesman 18-1-1939). ✓

Questionnaire issued by A.I.National Planning Committee: Reference to
Conditions of Employment and Vocational and Technical Education. ✓

Reference was made in the December 1938 report of this Office to the draft questionnaire submitted by the Questionnaire Sub-Committee to the All-India National Planning Committee at its meeting held at Bombay from 17 to 21-12-38. (vide pages 30 and 31, December 1938 report) The questionnaire, as approved by the A.I.National Planning Committee has now been issued to Provincial Governments, Indian States, and industrial, labour and agricultural organisations, as also to selected individuals, for collecting data for the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the economic development of India. (A copy of the Questionnaire was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/142/39 dated 26-1-39). Attention is specially directed to chapters IX and X of the questionnaire dealing with conditions and field for employment and technical and vocational education respectively. ✓*

2nd Indian Statistical Conference, Lahore, 5 to 6-1-39. ✓

The 2nd Session of the Indian Statistical Conference was held at Lahore on 5 and 6-1-39 under the presidentship of Dr. T.E. Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India. The Hon'ble Mr. Manohar Lal, Minister of Finance, the Punjab, welcomed the delegates in his capacity as Chairman of the Reception Committee, and Sir Henry Craik, the Governor, formally opened the conference.

Presidential Address.- Dr. Gregory, in his presidential address, stressed the importance of developing existing sources of statistical information and suggested that the next census offered a rare oppor-

tunity if the necessary preliminary work is undertaken in good time. He said that political ideas, however sound and potentially useful, can be fully implemented only if there is a clear conception of the scale and proportion of the society in which the ideas are to operate. It is this scale which statistics can give to Indian society. A state should know at least as much about itself as the average joint stock company knows of its own operations. India is nothing like so well equipped as this, and so long as she remains statistically ignorant of the precise extent and variety of her own wealth she will be unable to reap full advantage from it.

Papers Read.- Among others, papers on the following subjects, were read at the Conference: 'Economic Results of Prohibition in the Salem District, Madras' by Prof. P.J. Thomas; 'Distribution of Expenditure of Working Class Families in Bombay and Madras Cities' by Mr. A.R. Sinha; 'Sampling and Family Budget Enquiry' by Mr. T. Ghose; and 'Economic and Business Statistics' by Dr. H. Sinha.

(the Tribune 5 to 7-1-39). ✓

10th Industries Conference convened by Government of India,
Bombay, 23 and 24-1-39.

The 10th Industries Conference convened by the Government of India was held at Bombay on 23 and 24-1-39, Sir M. Zafrulla ^{Khan,} Commerce Member with the Government of India, presiding. The Conference was formally opened by H.E. the Viceroy. All the Provinces were represented, the majority, by Ministers; several Indian States also sent representatives. The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon, also attended.

Points from Viceroy's Speech.- Referring to the need for a balanced economy in India, the Viceroy said: "Conditions today in the world at large make it more necessary than ever before that India should attain a certain balance in her agricultural, and industrial economy. The goal of self-sufficiency which is being pursued by many foreign countries is not one that is in my judgment suitable for India, but the falling off in the demand for India's raw products, which is one of its symptoms, imposes on us, precisely in the interests of the agricultural classes, the duty of making a fuller use of those raw products ourselves."

Industrial Policy of Central Government.- Describing the circumstances in which the Government of India was unable to carry out the programme chalked out for it by the Indian Industrial Commission of twenty years ago, he said: "It was to the Central Government that the Commission assigned the main responsibility for further industrial advance, and to this end one of their main recommendations was the formation of an All-India Industrial Service of specialists and technical experts, who would largely have been seconded for service under Provincial Directors of Industries, by whom, under the general

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control of Local Governments, the actual administrative work would have been carried on. But about the time when the Indian Industrial Commission made its report, far-reaching constitutional changes were under contemplation, changes which had not been envisaged by the Commission, and which were to render substantial parts of their scheme impracticable. By the time the first Industries Conference met in 1920, it was already known that "Industries" was to be a provincial transferred subject, to be controlled and administered by Ministers. The Conference, therefore, although it consisted entirely of officials, concerned itself mainly with the details of the organisation of the growing Provincial Departments of Industries, and little was done in the way of co-ordination of efforts."

Contribution of Central Government.- After pointing out the circumstances under which the Government of India was forced to play a different role from that envisaged for it by the Industrial Commission, the Viceroy dealt with the contributions made by the Government of India in this field and said: "By the Central Government's control of tariffs, and in pursuance of the policy of discriminating protection, which was accepted as the result of the recommendations of the Indian Fiscal Commission, many great industries - steel, cotton textiles, paper, sugar, have been built up. By their stores purchase policy, Government have done much to assist many large and small Indian industries. During the ten years from 1928-29 to 1937-38 articles wholly or partially manufactured in India were purchased for Government to the extent of Rs. 25,00,00,000. The co-ordination of provincial efforts which is effected by this conference has been emphasised by the establishment of the Industrial Research Bureau, the Industrial Research Council and the Imperial Sericulture Committee, and by the grants given to the handloom, woollen and sericulture industries."

Legislative Programme.- Referring to the legislative programme of the Government of India in respect of industries, he said: "In the legislative field, measures recently passed by the Central Legislature such as the Companies Act and the Insurance Act, cannot but have a far-reaching effect of a beneficial nature on industrial development. And there are other measures on the anvil such as the Patents Bill, which proposes to penalise the pirating of designs; a Bill to facilitate the registration of trade marks in India; the revision of the law of merchandise marks; and a Bill which will enable the Central Government to prescribe a uniform standard of weights. All these legislative activities will help to create an environment in which industry can flourish."

(The Times of India, 24-1-39)

Proceedings of the Conference.- The following information about the work of the Conference is taken from a communiqué dated 25-1-39, issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.

Apprenticeship Schemes.- Each of the Provinces and States reported progress in the matter of development of schemes of apprenticeship. The question of compulsory legislation with a view to securing the co-operation of the industrial organisation was debated. After a full discussion, the Conference was of the view that legislation was desirable to regulate these matters, and requested the Central Government to take

up the framing of legislation for the purpose in consultation with the Provinces.

Inland Trade Statistics.- The Conference then took up the question of the amplification of inland trade statistics. The Report of the Committee appointed in that connection was considered. The Conference approved generally the proposals contained in the Report. The question of the allocation of expenditure involved was also discussed and it was made clear by the Chairman that, in view of the present financial stringency, the Government of India was not in a position at present to contribute towards this expenditure.

Planned Industrial Development.- An important subject discussed was the need for drawing up of a regular programme or plan for the establishment and development of industries of national or economic importance and of the key industries. In discussing these matters, the question of co-operation with the National Planning Commission was raised. It was generally agreed that the Conference did not desire that any of its activities should duplicate the work of the National Planning Commission, and that the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments and States should co-operate with the Planning Commission. The Report of the Commission would in due course be considered by the Conference.

Industrial Surveys.- The question of industrial surveys was also considered. In this connection it was decided that, as regards an all-India survey of key industries, this might be left to the National ~~and~~ Planning Commission. Provincial surveys have, however, already been, or are being taken up by the provinces concerned.

Financing of Industrial Research.- The Conference then went on to consider matters arising out of the proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Industrial Research Council. The Chairman pointed out that the provision of funds for the very important matter of industrial research was primarily the concern of the Provinces. The proposal to increase considerably the funds to be made available to the Industrial Research Bureau was generally approved by the Conference.

Handloom Weaving.- The Conference reviewed the progress of the handloom weaving schemes introduced in the provinces and financed by the Central Government at a cost of Rs. 20,88,700. Sir M. Zafrullah pointed out that the smaller and cottage industries, perhaps ought to be described as the greater industries of India, if due regard were had to the large number of people who were employed in them, and laid stress on the need for co-operation and co-ordination between Provinces in dealing with the problems of these industries.

(The Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle, 25-1-39). ✓

2.6
2nd Session of All-India Economic Conference, Nagpur, 28 and

29-12-38.

The 2nd session of the All-India Economic Conference was held at Nagpur on 28 and 29-12-38, Dr. Gyan Chand, Head of the Department of Economics, Patna University, presiding.

Problems of Industrialisation: Opening Address.- Mr. T.J. Kedar, Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University, who formally opened the Conference, in his opening address dealt, among other matters, with the problems of Indian industrialisation, and said that he believed that India could never take its place alongside the great nations without complete industrialization. This required, he admitted, a change in their political ideology. That change had already come and it had come to stay for the lasting good of the country. He hoped that the recent Planning Committee set up by the Congress would scrap the ashram ideology, which did not take stock of international cosmography. If there was one thing common to all nations of the world, he remarked, it was commerce and industry. No society could call itself national without it. Congress rule was now established in eight provinces, and he wished that these provinces would join together and evolve a scheme of large scale industries according to the resources available in the provinces. He thought that the competitive system was a failure and State intervention in some form or other was essential and inevitable. He also said that Indians should destroy the tradition that only a few races were destined by Nature to do the manufacturing of the world.

Presidential Address.- Referring to the present world crisis, due to the serious disequilibrium of social forces, Dr. Gyan Chand said that, since the "malaise", from which the world was suffering was primarily due to economic factors, it has become incumbent to revise the premises of economic thought and to readjust social relationships.

Conditions in India: Politics dominate Economics.- In India is also existing a state of serious disequilibrium owing to the operation of world factors and that of the factors peculiar to India. These factors are correlated and yet distinct. Lack of political freedom in India and the coming struggle for the transfer of political freedom over the federation issue are of significance to the economist because they make it certain that politics are going to dominate economics. Economic institutions will acquire increasingly political functions and be used for the defence of political authority. Among the most important illustrations of the economic institutions being used for political purposes are the contemplated formation of the Federal Railway Authority and the working of the Reserve Bank of India. Both these institutions are in theory autonomous public trusts for the administration by experts of important economic functions. In fact they are important instruments for the maintenance of economic domination.

Agrarian Reform.- Referring to agrarian problems, he said: "Even more significant than the political stresses are the new stresses which have been laid bare by the recent agrarian legislation in the various Provinces. The measures so far introduced, for which the Provincial

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Governments are entitled to their meed of praise, are merely first-aid measures. They have given some relief from an intolerable situation to the distressed peasantry; but they do not affect the situation materially. Their real significance lies in the fact that they reveal how dismal the whole situation is.

Industrialisation Problems.— Dealing with this subject, he said: India is already under the sway of industrialism in spite of her industrial backwardness. Further development of industrialism is inevitable. But it will increase the stresses of our economic life and not mitigate them. We should do what we can to bring it under control and speed up the pace of progress; but we must not expect that industrialization is the key to the solution of India's economic problem. It will make it really more baffling and create new difficulties.

(The Times of India, 28
and 29-12-38).+

Problems of Motor Transport: Views expressed at 1st Congress of
A.I. Motor Transport Federation, Agra, December 1938.

Competition between motor transport and railway transport was the principal subject that came up for discussion at the first Congress of the All-India Motor Transport Federation held at Agra in the last week of December 1938, under the presidentship of Mr. K.F. Nariman, B.A.L.L.B., prominent Congress leader of Bombay. The Congress was of opinion that it may take some centuries before a very large majority of the agricultural population will ever hear the whistle of the steam engine, and that hence it was necessary to encourage motor transport, and side by side with it to increase the speed of village road construction. That should be the first item in any industrial planning; the policy of the Government of India of encouraging railway transport at the expense of motor transport was therefore strongly condemned.

Presidential Address.— In his presidential address, dealing with this subject, Mr. K.F. Nariman said that in a vast country like India, with hundreds of thousands of villages scattered about in remote corners, motor transport was more important and vital than the railways, as it alone can penetrate into the remotest corners and be the only connecting link between a large majority of agriculturists and the few commercial and industrial centres. He also said that the development of proper motor transport alone can ultimately lead to the successful working of railways, and expressed surprise that despite such considerations, the shortsighted and suicidal policy of killing motor transport to sustain the existing railways was being persisted in with a view to

maintaining and sustaining the existing meagre and inefficient railway services.

(The Statesman 28-12-38)..

Labour Representation on National Planning Committee:

Mr. N.M. Joshi and Mr. J.C. Kumarappa Co-opted. -

The personnel of the National Planning Committee was given at page 19 of the report of this Office for October 1938. At the first session of the Committee held in Bombay, in December 1938, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Chairman of the Committee, suggested that it was necessary to co-opt a representative of labour in order to inspire confidence in that class that its interests would not be neglected in any scheme of national planning. Accordingly, Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A.(Central), has since been co-opted as member of the National Planning Committee to represent labour interests. Mr. J.C. Kumarappa, General Secretary, All-India Village Industries Association, has also been co-opted to represent cottage industries.

(The Times of India, 12-1-39)..

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Employment and Unemployment.

Relief to Landless Agricultural Labourers in U.P. ; Govern-
ment Scheme for Allotment of Land: -

The Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Revenue, U.P., announced in the U.P. Legislative Assembly on 21-12-1938 a Scheme to provide land for landless agricultural workers in U.P. villages. The salient features of the scheme are summarised below:

Rules guiding Allotment: A resident of a village who is neither a landholder nor tenant of any land may apply to the Assistant Collector in charge of the sub-division that he wishes to cultivate land in his village, and on receipt of such application the Assistant Collector, after satisfying himself by such enquiry as he thinks fit that the applicant intends to cultivate, will proceed as follows:

(A) Allot to him land which is in the cultivation of a landlord assessed to more than Rs. 25 local rate.

(B) If no such land is available, allot to him land which is in the cultivation of a landlord assessed to Rs. 25 or less than Rs. 25 as local rate and who cultivates more than 20 acres.

(C) If no such land is available, allot to him land which is cultivated by a tenant who cultivates more than 20 acres otherwise than as a sub-tenant or a tenant of sir.

(D) If no such land is available allot to him waste land:

Provided that the Assistant Collector shall not allot to the applicant more than five acres of land.

Conditions of Allotment and Obligations of Allottee: The applicant shall become a hereditary tenant of the land allotted to him and shall be liable to pay such rent as the Assistant Collector may determine. In case the allotment is of the nature described in (C) above, the right of the original tenant shall cease in the land allotted and the Assistant Collector shall determine the rent payable by him for the remainder of his holding.

If, in a case of the nature described in (A) or (B), the land allotted is sir, such land shall cease to be sir. No person shall apply for land who might succeed to a tenancy or on whom a proprietary or under-proprietary right in the village might devolve.

(Summarised from the January 1939 issue of "Public Information" issued by the Public Information Department of the U.P. Government).

Public Health.National Health Insurance Schemes: Resolution of All-India
Medical Conference, Meerut. 1938. ✓

At the 15th All-India Medical Conference held at Meerut in the last week of December 1938, Dr. D'Silva presiding, a resolution, among others, was adopted ~~urging~~ urging provincial Governments to formulate national health insurance schemes and demanding that Special Committees should be appointed for this purpose in the various provinces.

(National Call, 29-12-38). ✓

Tuberculosis in Mill Areas: Enquiry under auspices of I.R.F.
Association. ✓

Under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association and financed by it, an enquiry of an entirely new character is now being undertaken, in connection with India's campaign against tuberculosis, to find out in what way the rural population of India is reacting to infection in industrial areas. The incidence and character of tuberculosis infection, the nature of dust hazards, which cause respiratory or other disabilities, how the disease spreads from the industrial areas to the village homes of the workers, and the degree of hypersensitiveness in them and their contacts are being studied. Attempts are also being made to trace as many of the diseased tubercular workers as possible to their homes to find out the extent of home infection.

Investigation in Jute Mill.- A jute mill with a population of 5,299 workers, located 22 miles from Calcutta, has been selected for the investigation. The jute industry is yet an unexplored subject for study, and is one likely to cause dust and other hazards of which tuberculosis may be one. The mill chosen has, among its workers, 3,980 males, 836 females, and 483 children hailing from all parts of India. Two-thirds of them live in masonry barracks and the rest in crowded, insanitary bustees near the mill, thus offering a representative mixed population in diverse conditions of sanitation and over-crowding. The mill is the only one in the neighbourhood of Calcutta which has X-ray installation. The authorities of the mill are offering valuable co-operation.

Data for Individual Workers to be collected.- Workers are being examined by sections, e.g., batching, preparing, spinning, finishing, etc., according to the degree of exposure to dust inhalation. ^{about} The data collected for each individual include important details ~~from~~ the past life of the worker, previous illnesses, history of contact and industrial hazards, age at entry, nature of work, duration, financial status, housing, etc. It is proposed to examine a number of new entrants to industrial life, and to follow them up, in order to study how they react to the new environment. Home surveys will also be made in mill and rural areas in as many cases as possible. The size, concentration and chemical composition of the dust in the industry will also be determined.

(Statesman 15-1-39). ✓

2nd Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Health - Madras, 10 and

11-1-39: Reorganisation of Public Health Services. ✓ +

The second meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Health was held on 9 and 10-1-39 in the Secretariat, Fort St. George, Madras, with the Hon. Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member-in-charge of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, in the chair. (The Board was constituted in 1937 and its first meeting was held at Simla in June 1937).

All the British Indian provinces, except the Central Provinces and the N.W.F. Province, were represented at the meeting. Representatives from Hyderabad, Mysore and Jodhpur also attended the meeting. Colonel A.J.H. Russel, Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India ^{and} the Secretary of the Board, Mr. M.W. Yeatts, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, and Major-General E.W.C. Bradfield, Director-General, Indian Medical Service, were present on behalf of the Government of India. Below is given a summary of the proceedings:

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in factories.- The meeting considered the report of the special committee on maternity and child welfare work in India. The report extended over 85 pages and contained 53 recommendations of importance. The secretary in his introductory remarks referred to four or five of the more important recommendations. One of them stressed the necessity of appointing properly qualified and experienced women medical officers, one at the headquarters of each province for the organization and control of maternity and child wel-

fare work. He also stressed the part that could be played by women medical officers in the management and supervision of municipal and other local maternity and child welfare schemes. Yet another recommendation emphasised the importance of providing training in pre-natal and post-natal care. The Secretary laid stress on the necessity for continued research into the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity and finally referred to the recommendations contained in the report in respect of grants-in-aid. The report also pointed out that since the employment of female labour was a well-established practice in many industrial concerns in India and ~~in~~ since no legal obligation exists, except in Bombay Presidency, for the compulsory provision of creches for the children of these women workers, the time was ripe for such provision being made compulsory by legislative enactments.

Vital Statistics.- A memorandum on the subject contained a series of recommendations. The most important of these referred to the necessity for additional municipal and local board public health officers and trained staff and the compulsory registration of births and deaths. Mention was also made of the suggestion ~~x~~ in the memorandum that at each headquarters the Public Health Department should have a bureau of vital statistics with a staff of trained statisticians.

Public Health Services.- The memorandum on the subject contained a series of resolutions which were passed at the Rural Hygiene Conference, held at Java, and it drew attention to the necessity for wider employment of public health officers and sanitary staff and the enactment of a Public Health Act in each province. Stress was laid on the desirability of having advisory health committees and boards in provincial headquarters and smaller health committees in the district headquarters.

National Physical Education Committee.- A Note on the formation of a National Physical Education Committee was considered. It was suggested that physical education committees should be formed in each province and State. An account of the work done in Madras and Bombay was given by the respective representatives. The Board generally recognised that India should pay more attention to physical culture, as in its wider aspect, it was intimately associated with health, education, medical inspection of schools, physique of pupils and nutrition. A suggestion was made that individual governments should prepare schemes suited to the population in their territories and for this purpose Physical Education Committees should be constituted, whose function would be to advise their respective governments.

(The Hindu 10 and 11-1-39) ✓

Labour Recreation Centres: Bombay Government's Plans. ✓

With a view to providing social amenities for industrial labour, the Government of Bombay proposes to establish labour recreation centres in the more important industrial areas in the Province. The centres are to be located close to or in the midst of the residential areas occupied by the working classes, so as to enable them to take full advantage of the facilities afforded for recreation at these

centres. A beginning in this direction has been made by building a recreation pavilion at DeLisle Road, Bombay. It is proposed to construct similar pavilions at Naigaum and Worli in Bombay.

(December 1938 issue of
Labour Gazette, Bombay). ✓

Co-operation.

Progress of the Co-operative Movement in India, 1936-37.* ✓

The Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during 1936-37 give a detailed record of the main statistics relating to co-operative societies in the several provinces of British India (with the exception of Baluchistan, where the co-operative movement has, as yet, made little progress), and in the Indian States of Mysore, Baroda, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Kashmir, Travancore and Cochin for the year 1936-37.

Number of Societies and Membership.- The principal types of co-operative societies in India are (a) Central Societies (including provincial and central banks and banking unions), (b) Supervising and guaranteeing Unions (including Re-insurance Societies), (c) Agricultural Societies (including Cattle Insurance Societies), and (d) Non-agricultural Societies (including other Insurance Societies). The ~~number of~~ number of societies of all kinds increased from 107,957 in 1935-36 to 110,967 during 1936-37. The number of societies per 100,000 inhabitants rose from 32.2 to 33.0 in British India, and fell from 40.5 to 39.2 in the Indian States for which figures are given, and rose from 33.2 to 33.8 for the whole of India. The total number of members of primary societies in India increased from 4,510,774 in 1935-36 to 4,718,141 during 1936-37. The number of members of primary societies per 1,000 inhabitants rose from 13.5 to 14.1 in British India and fell from 16.3 to 16.1 in Indian States for which information is available, and rose from 13.9 to 14.4 for the whole of India. The working capital for all India rose from ~~Rs. 1,001,009,000~~ Rs. 1,001,009,000 in 1935-36 to Rs. 1,015,955,000 in 1936-37 and the working capital of co-operative societies expressed in terms of annas per head of population remained at 51 annas, the same as in 1935-36, in British India, while it fell from 57 in 1935-36 to 36 annas in 1936-37 in the Indian States for which statistics are given. On the whole, the working capital per head of population remained at 49 annas for 1936-37 in the whole of India.

Finances.- In 1936-37, 622 Provincial and Central banks with a membership of 89,022 individuals and 110,527 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 22,354,903, working capital amounting to Rs. 420,780,857 and profits amounting to Rs. 4,960,658. There were 95,989 agricultural societies with a membership of 3,151,822 in 1936-37 having reserve funds amounting to Rs. 73,259,787, working capital amounting to Rs. 345,872,371 and profits amounting to Rs. 7,280,444. Similarly, in the case of non-agricultural societies, 13,417 societies with a

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1936-37. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1938. No. 5407. Price Rs. 1-10-0 or 2s. 6d. pp 21.

membership of 1,547,071 had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 20,890,965 , working capital amounting to Rs. 249,301,727 and profits amounting to Rs. 6,763,333. ✓

Co-operative Farming Colonies: Principles underlying Bombay Government's Experiment. ✓

The Bombay Government has for some time past been considering a scheme for creating a co-operative farming colony on a plot of waste land measuring about 5,628 acres belonging to the Zankharia Forest in the Broach and Panch Mahals district, and has decided to adopt the following principles in disposing of this land for co-operative farming:-

Qualifications of Applicants.- The applicants should in the first instance register themselves into an agricultural co-operative society. Preference will be given to persons who are landless. At least a proportion of the members should be educated persons with some experience in agriculture. They must be ready to cultivate the lands personally and not merely through hired labour.

Assistance from Government.- If Government assistance in the form of loans for bringing the land under cultivation is desired, Government will provide the same if the society is able to satisfy Government that there is sufficient security for the repayment of the loans in agreed instalments at a rate of interest not exceeding 5½ per cent. Government will place the services of an experienced agricultural officer at the disposal of the co-operative colony for free advice and guidance. Assessment will not be levied for the first three years. The colonists will have to pay the same in full or such portion of it as Government may direct after the expiry of that period. In case the land is inferior, the period of complete exemption may at the option of Government be extended to 5 or 7 years.

Repayment of Loans: Occupancy Rights.- When the colonists begin to pay assessment, they will also have to begin repayment of the loan, if taken, in such instalments as may have been agreed to. At the end of 10 years, the colonists will be given full occupancy rights in the lands assigned to them, subject to the condition that the lands will be impartible and inalienable except with the permission of the co-operative society and Government. The lands will revert to Government if the society goes into liquidation.

Economic Holdings: Co-operative Farming.- Each colonist will be assigned so much of the land in the colony as will be deemed by Government to be an economic holding; but the cultivation of the land will be carried on on co-operative lines according to the bye-laws and resolutions of the society.

(Public Information Series (Bombay Government Publication) 1-2-39). ✓

Co-operative Farming in U.P. : Congress to start Propaganda. ✓

One of the resolutions adopted at the United Provinces Political Conference held in the last week of December 1938 at Ajodhya, which was attended, among others, by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Premier Pant and five Ministers, urged the insistent need for the introduction, at an early date, of methods of co-operative farming in the villages of the province with a view to improve the lot of the Kisans. Mr. R.S. Pandit, General Secretary of the U.P. Provincial Congress Committee, has since written to the subordinate committees, drawing their attention to the resolution of the Provincial Political Conference regarding kisans.

Reference was made in that resolution for legislation inter alia to encourage co-operative farming. The General Secretary points out that it is, therefore, desirable that local Congress committees should do propaganda in favour of co-operative farming and extend such propaganda to the villages. After emphasising the facts that the kisan is naturally conservative and that the idea of co-operative farming is new to him, he urges that it should be explained to him that the benefits to be derived from co-operative farming will be immense. It is also pointed out that the poverty of the cultivator and his meagre resources would hamper him from utilising to the full such facilities as Government may be able to offer through the 400 seed stores which have recently been opened unless there is a consolidation of holdings or farming by co-operative effort and method. The district Congress committees are, therefore, requested to do what may be possible to popularise the idea of co-operative farming.

(The Statesman 31-12-38 and the Leader 12-1-39). ✓

Rural Development Department for Bombay: Government's

decision to intensify Co-operative Activities. ✓

In connection with the Rural Development Scheme, which is now engaging the attention of the Government of Bombay, plans have been worked out for the early amalgamation of certain sections of the Agricultural, Industries and Co-operative Departments of the province. It is likely that the Co-operative Department will be improved and expanded, and will, at the same time, absorb the propaganda and field activities both of the Agricultural and Industries Departments, and

that the new Department will be known as the Rural Development Department. The reorganisation is expected to take effect from 1-4-59.

Special Rural Officers.- Rural development work in each district, it is understood, will be entrusted to an Officer, who will be assisted by persons in charge of marketing of agricultural produce, co-operative credit and supply. He will also be assisted by non-official, workers. There will be a specially trained worker appointed on remuneration for each village, or one at least for each of the bigger villages. He will both be the Secretary of the Village Panchayat and Secretary of Co-operative Societies. Workers will be specially trained to look after the secretarial work.

Debt Redemption.- Debt redemption will be one of the important items to be undertaken by the Government. Debt Redemption Boards will be established for this purpose. Those who actually cultivate lands will be assisted in the matter of ~~redeem~~ redeeming of debts. The Boards will take into consideration the paying capacity of the cultivator while adjusting debts. Credit will be given to the agriculturists only through Co-operative Societies. This will necessarily mean that they have to be members of a Co-operative Society before enjoying the benefits of a Debt Redemption Board. According to the Government's scheme it will not be possible for a cultivator to get any credit outside on the strength of his crops. Any purchase of crops by outsiders will be illegal.

Prevention of further Debts.- The Government also proposes to take measures for preventing the agriculturist from contracting further unnecessary debts. Recognising that the debts of the cultivators are not always attributable to spendthrift habits, the Government is also planning to strengthen co-operative societies for the production, marketing and sale of agricultural produce. These societies will supply the funds the cultivator needs for growing his crops, ~~will~~ store his grains after the harvest and sell them when the prices are in his favour. The financial side of co-operation may be strengthened by Government to the extent of making it illegal for an agriculturist to borrow money from any other source except through the co-operative society to which he belongs. And this Society will not be allowed to lend money for any but productive purposes. Wedding ceremonies, special festivals, etc., will, in future, have to be financed from income and not from advances from a "kindly" sowcar with an eye on the land of the agriculturist.

(The Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, 6-1-59). ✓

13th All-India Women's Conference - Delhi, 28-12-38 to 1-1-39. ✓

The 13th Session of the All-India Women's Conference was held at Delhi from 28-12-38 to 1-1-39, Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade presiding. Among those present was Miss P.Hage of the I.L.O., Geneva.

Presidential Address: Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade in her presidential address, pointed out that the activities of the A.I.Women's Conference had passed on from more or less academic discussions over educational and social reform to active agitation and the creation of institutions, funds and working centres, with the result that the Conference had grown into an organisation with 148 branches in British India and the Indian States. While congratulating the Conference on such achievements as the creation of the A.I.Women's Education Fund, and the setting up of the Lady Irwin College, she said that the Conference should, first, be enlarged to include a far greater number of the majority classes, namely, village and city working women, and, secondly, that it should take part in political activities.

Resolutions adopted: The Conference adopted a number of resolutions; the text of the labour resolutions is given below:

Labour Part-owners of Industry: "The A.I.W.C. declares as its considered policy the principle that labour must be recognised as part-owners in industry along with capital, and urges that this ideal be worked for by more co-operation between labour and capital.

Social Insurance for Workers: "The A.I.W.C. urges the Provincial Governments and the Central Governments to enact legislation providing for some suitable scheme of social insurance giving workers in organized industries protection against the risks of sickness, unemployment and old-age, and further recommends that its branches in the various provinces should endeavour to secure such legislation.

Famine Relief and Unemployment Bureau: "This conference deplors the insufficient wages paid by Government to famine relief labour for the heavy work they are doing in Madras and Hissar. To help unemployed women, each branch and the central office should open an Employment Bureau.

Adult Education: The subject of illiteracy and adult education has got two sections: (a) training in citizenship and (b) removal of illiteracy. To remove illiteracy, every member of the A.I.W.C. should make at least one person, if not more, literate every year. She should start with her dependents and those in her immediate surroundings. Employers in Government and other services, in institutions and industrial concerns should be approached with a view to their making special arrangements for teaching their employees.

(The Statesman and the Hindustan Times 29-1-38 to 2-1-39).+

P. T. O.

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Miss P. Hage explains I.L.O's Work.- A public meeting was held at the Y.W.C.A., New Delhi, on 31-12-38 under the auspices of the A.I.Women's Conference, at which several distinguished foreign visitors, including Miss A Mary Dingman, President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organization, Mrs. Harlow of the International Fellowship of Faiths, U.S.A., Mrs. Ali of Japan, Miss P.Hage of the International Labour Office, Geneva, and Miss Agatha Harrison spoke; Miss P. Hage in her speech dealt briefly with the work of the I.L.O. paying particular attention to the Organisation's efforts to improve the conditions of life and work of women workers.

Education.Employers' Responsibility for Education of Adult Workers:Resolution adopted by South Indian ^{ad} Adult EducationConference - Madras, 11 to 14-1-39. ✓

At the South Indian Adult Education Conference, held at Madras from 11 to 14-1-39, a resolution, among others, was adopted urging the Government of Madras to "so amend the Madras Elementary Education Act as to bring within its ambit the education of illiterate adults" and to "so amend the Factories Act as to make provision therein for imparting education to adults, the employer being called upon to bear his share of the expenditure".

(The Hindu, 16-1-39). ✓

Agriculture.

Debt Conciliation Act Passed in Kolhapur ✓

The Debt Conciliation Act, recently passed in Kolhapur State, has, it is understood, received the assent of the Maharaja and come into force. Under the Act the Government may establish a Debt Conciliation Board to which a debtor or any of his creditors may apply for settlement of a debt not exceeding Rs. 25,000. The Board will call upon every creditor to submit a statement of moneys owed by the debtor and any debt of which a statement is not submitted will be deemed to have been duly discharged. All statements will be verified and the Board will endeavour to induce the parties to arrive at an amicable settlement.

Settlements arrived at are reduced to agreements, and in the event of any defaults, the amount owed is recoverable as arrears of land revenue on application being made by the creditor within 90 days from the date of default.

(The Times of India 16-1-1939) ✓

Report of U.P. Expert Committee on Rural Indebtedness :

Compulsory Adjudication and Conciliation Recommended ✓

Important recommendations of a comprehensive nature are made by the Expert Committee on Rural Indebtedness which was appointed by the U.P. Congress Ministry as soon as it assumed reins of administration late in the summer of 1937. The committee was appointed in view of the acute rural indebtedness which had been further intensified by the slump in agricultural prices, and which is computed to lie in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1860 millions at present. Legislation on very liberal lines was called for. The Government appointed the committee to go into the whole problem and submit their report which would serve the purpose of strengthening their hands to adopt measures of relief. In their report, which contains a solitary dissenting minute, by Mr. A.G.Kher, the members of the committee classify indebted classes under two categories, first, tenants and petty proprietors, and second, larger landlords. Different methods of relief are suggested in regard to each of these two classes, involving the principle of compulsion and conciliation.

Mr. Kher, in his minute of dissent says that he is strongly in favour of compulsory adjudication of debts, while the majority have tied compulsory adjudication to the slow processes of co-operative societies.

Another objection which Mr. Kher raises is in regard to the exclusion of middle class and bigger zamindars from the purview of debt schemes. Mr. Kher also objects to the machinery to be set up for adjudication of old debts, which the majority recommend. A brief summary of the report is given below:

~~Principles~~ Principal Recommendations.— The committee has recommended the following general principles for tackling the problem. Those are:—
The adjudication of existing debts and their reduction to a reasonable figure;

The liquidation on repayment of the reduced debt; and

Provision of facilities for and control of future credit.

Two Methods of Settlement: (a) Compulsory Adjudication.— There are two classes of debtors, namely, (1) tenants and petty proprietors, and (2) the larger landlords. Different methods will have to be adopted in dealing with each class separately. The committee have recommended that in dealing with the tenants and petty proprietors, there should be compulsory adjudication of debts to the greatest extent practicable. Under such a scheme of "compulsion", the creditor would be required to file his claim within a prescribed period, otherwise it would be deemed to have been discharged. There are two suggestions as to the extent to which "compulsion" should be applied. One is that it should be applied in the case of those debtors only who agree in advance to join a co-operative credit and marketing society which would arrange for the replacement of their debt and the supply of future credit. The other is that compulsion should be universal, that is applied to all debtors, and the creditor should be left to recover the scaled down debts.

Principles of Compulsion.— Where the debts are compulsorily adjudicated they should be scaled down according to three principles. One is the principle that pre-slump debts should be reduced at a flat rate for the whole province on account of the fall in prices. The second is that past interest should be reduced to, and future interest calculated at reasonable rates to be prescribed. The third is that where the debt after reduction, under the above two processes, is greater than what the debtor could reasonably be expected to repay, it should be further reduced to the pre-determined "repayment capacity". The "repayment capacity" of a tenant or petty proprietor must, in the main, bear some simple relation to the annual rent or the land revenue as the case may be, for example, twice the rent of a statutory tenant and ten times the revenue, *It is also proposed that the scaling down of debt should be left in the hands of either "panchayats" or special officers or a combination of the two.* But, in every case, the decree or awards should be in instalments of equal amounts repayable over a period of six years for tenants and ten years for petty proprietors; and the period to be extended only on account of agricultural calamity.

(b) Conciliation.— The second method, recommended by the committee in dealing with tenants and petty proprietors, is to adopt conciliation where compulsion is not practicable. In such cases, the principle

applied for the compulsory adjudication of debts, would act as a general guide in determining the suitability of any proposed award, but they need not be strictly adhered to.

Liquidation of Adjudicated Debts.- The Committee made two suggestions for the liquidation of debts after adjudication. The first (supported by a minority) was in favour of State or State-aided banks to take over the debts, issue debentures to creditors and realise by instalments from the debtors. The second (supported by the majority and which had also the support of other members, if State responsibility was not to be directly resumed) was for liquidation through co-operative societies (with a Provincial Co-operative Bank at the head of the organization) which would adopt a similar procedure. Those societies are to be of two kinds - credit and marketing societies and land mortgage societies. Also, the members should not be permitted to borrow from outside sources without the permission of the society.

If no such organisations are established, the creditor will be left to realise his dues through the medium of the court. But the committee recommend unanimously that the agency of co-operative societies should be employed to the greatest extent possible for the liquidation of debts.

Future Credit Facilities.- Future credit, as recommended by the Committee, should be supplied either by a State bank or a State-aided bank or by co-operative societies. It is further recommended that pending the establishment of such agencies, money-lending should be controlled by (a) registration and the licensing of all money-lenders and inspection of their accounts, (b) limitation of the money-lender's power of recovery to the "repayment capacity" in the case of tenants and petty landlord debtors, (c) registration with village panchayats of all loans to tenants and petty landlords, (d) amendment of section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code, so as to include certain essentials in the list of property exempt from attachment, (e) abolition of imprisonment for debts and (f) amendment of the Limitation Act in certain cases in which it appeared to be unduly harsh on the judgment-debtor. In addition, various amendments have also been suggested in the Agriculturists' Relief Act. The Committee emphasised the necessity for a controlled system of rural credit for the future, which they considered can best be effected by the expansion of the co-operative movement in all its branches.

Improving Earning Capacity of Agriculturists.- As a necessary corollary to the above, the Committee urged the necessity of increasing the potential earning capacity of the agricultural classes by the adoption of measures for consolidation of holdings, better marketing facilities, reduction of expenditure on social ceremonies, agricultural improvements and measures of a like character.

Mr. Kher's Note of Dissent.- Mr. A.G. Kher, Parliamentary Secretary, has written a note of dissent. The following are the points wherein he differed from the majority of the members of the expert committee:-

He was strongly in favour of compulsory adjudication, while the majority had tied compulsory adjudication to the slow, chariot wheel of co-operative societies. As regards the exclusion of middle ~~of~~ classes and big zamindars from the purview of the debt scheme, he was of the view that, if the credit system of a village was to be established on sound lines, it was a short-sighted policy to deal only with the poorer people alone who had very little tangible assets and who might generally be deemed to be a financial burden on the state. †

Maritime Affairs.

Demand for Rotational Employment: Deputation of Seamen's Union,
Bombay, waits on Commissioner of Labour. ✓

On behalf of the Seamen's Union, Bombay, a deputation consisting of Mr. S.V. Parulekar, (Honorary General Secretary of the Union) Mr. Dinkar Desai, and three seamen interviewed the Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, on 16-1-39 and placed before him the demand of the Union that seamen should be employed by a system of rotation so that bribery, which is rampant among seamen, could be effectively stopped and an equitable distribution of the available volume of employment could be secured in the interests of all seamen.

The Commissioner promised to consider the demand and assured the deputationists that the various shipping companies would be approached by Government to bring about an amicable settlement.

(The Times of India, 18-1-39) ✓

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Migration.

Negotiation for Resumption of Emigration of Indian Labour to Malayan Plantations: Malayan Delegation's arrival in India.

Reference was made at pages 45 and 46 of the December 1938 Report to the negotiations initiated by the Malayan Government with the authorities in India regarding the conditions under which the emigration to Malaya of Indian labourers - assisted and unassisted - will be permitted by the Government of India. The members of the Malayan official delegation, consisted of the following: Mr. C.D. Ahearne, Federal Secretary; J.M. Barron, Deputy Controller of Labour; S.P. Palmer, Chairman, United Planters' Association of Malaya; and Mr. S.N. Veerasamy, Indian member of the Malayan Legislative Council. The delegation arrived at Madras on 21-1-1939. In addition to this official delegation, the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya, and a non-official delegation consisting of Messrs S.M. Sharma and L.R. Chandran, representing the Central Indian Association, Malaya, are also now in India in connection with the discussion of the question of resumption of emigration of Indian labourers to Malayan plantations.

After a few days' stay in Madras in the course of which they discussed the problem with the Government of Madras, which is vitally interested in the question since the major portion of the emigrants to Malaya are drawn from that province, the official delegation arrived in New Delhi towards the close of January 1939, and negotiations with the Government of India began on 30-1-1939. The discussions will continue during February; the delegation, it is understood, will also meet the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature.

(The Hindu, 21-1-1939 and
The Statesman 31-1-1939).

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General.

Social and Economic Legislation in Bihar: Review of
Congress Ministry's Work.* ✓

The following information about the work of the Bihar Congress Government from July 1937, when it assumed office, to December 1938, is taken from a booklet issued by the Information Officer, Government of Bihar:

Legislative Measures.- Below is given a list of the more important legislative measures which have a bearing on the work of the I.L.O.:

Agrarian.- (a) the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1937; (b) the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1938; (c) the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1938; (d) the Champaran Agrarian (Amendment) Act, 1938; and (e) the Bihar Restoration of Bakasht Lands and Reduction of Arrears of Rent Act, 1938.

Social and Economic.- (a) the Bihar Prohibition Act, 1938; (b) the Bihar Money-lenders' Act, 1938; and (c) the Bihar Money-Lenders (Amendment and Application to Pending Suits) Act, 1938.

Industrial.- The Bihar Sugar Factories Control Act, 1937.

Forced Labour.- The Bengal Troops Transport and Travellers' Assistance Regulation (amendment) Act, 1938.

Miscellaneous.- (a) the Ministers' Salaries Act, 1937; (b) the Legislature (Officers' Salaries) Act, 1937; (c) the Legislature (members' Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1938; (d) the Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Act, 1937; and (e) the Bihar Famine Relief Fund (Expenditure) Act, 1937.

Rights of Landless Labourers.- Before the passing of the new ~~tenancy~~ tenancy legislation, under-raiyats (landless agricultural labourers) had no right to acquire occupancy right in their raiyati holdings. The new Act enables them to acquire occupancy rights if they have cultivated the land for 12 years as an under-raiyat, and an under-raiyat having such occupancy rights enjoys rights similar to those of an occupancy raiyat in respect of trees, bamboos and use of and succession to and eviction from his land.

Social Measures: Prohibition.- The Government is committed to the policy of prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs even at the expense of excise revenue which forms the bulk of the revenues of the province. In order to implement this policy a Prohibition Act has been passed. It enables Government to introduce prohibition in selected areas and go on gradually extending it to other parts of the province, so that in the course of a few years the whole province may go dry. Prohibition has already been enforced in the district of Saran and the reports which have so far reached Government of its working are encouraging and show that the scheme has had a successful start.

Economic Measures: Relief to Debtors.- The Bihar Money-lenders' Act, 1938, is designed to give relief to debtors generally by regulating money-lending transactions within the province. Provision has been made for the registration of money lenders on payment of a small

* The Bihar Government and its Work - Review of past 18 months - Published by the Information Officer, Govt. Of Bihar, Printed by Supdt. Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1939 pp 67.

fee. No one who is not a registered money-lender can institute any suit for the recovery of his dues from the debtor. All money-lenders are bound to maintain proper accounts and give receipts to their debtors for all payments made. The rates of interest have been fixed at not more than 9 per cent per annum in the case of secured loans and 12 per cent per annum in the case of unsecured loans. But in no case can a decree on account of interest (accrued or realised) be passed for an amount which exceeds the amount of the principal loan. In certain cases courts have been given the power of reopening transactions and relieving debtors in respect of interest in excess of the rates mentioned. Courts have also been given the power of permitting judgment-debtors to pay up the decretal amount by instalments.

Abolition of Forced Labour.- Section 8 of the Bengal Troops Transport and Travellers' Assistance Regulation of 1806 empowered police officers to impress labour and transport for civil officers and private travellers journeying in the Mofussil. Though the Regulation contained adequate provision to guard against any abuse of the power and to ensure payment of proper wages, the very idea of compulsion is repugnant to modern notions. Moreover, under the conditions now prevailing, it was no longer necessary to retain the power conferred by section 8 of the Regulation which is inconsistent with the International Convention on forced labour. For these reasons section 8 of the Regulation has been repealed by the Bengal Troops Transport and Travellers' Assistance Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1938.

Legislation to be undertaken.- The programme of legislative work which Government propose to complete in the first-half of 1939 ranges over a large field and includes ameliorative measures, both economic and social, such as the Agriculturists' Relief Bill, the Debt Conciliation Bill, the Kosi Diara Settled Rent Reduction Bill, the Markets and Dealers' Bill, the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Bill, the Public Health Bill, etc.

Administrative Action :

Mass Education.- The Mass Literacy movement which was inaugurated by the ~~Minister~~ Minister of Education, at the end of April 1938 for eradicating adult illiteracy and spreading enlightenment among the masses has made good progress during the past few months. With the help of about 14,000 volunteers drawn from the student community, teachers, the inspecting staff of the Education Department and other public-spirited workers, more than 12,000 literacy centres were started with an average attendance of about 150,000 per term of six weeks. The figures received till August 1938 show that over 300,000 have been made literate during the first four months of the campaign. The movement has now entered on its second phase whereby intensive work in two subdivisions and one police station in each district has been started. The idea is to make all illiterate males between the ages of 15 and 40 living in these areas literate within the next six months. Along with the teaching of 3 B's efforts are being made to provide visual instruction on subjects useful to the adults in their everyday life.

Cottage Industries.- For the improvement and development of hand-spinning and hand-weaving, Government have sanctioned a grant of ~~Rxxxxx,50~~

Rs. 12,500 and Rs. 17,500 during 1937-38 and 1938-39 respectively to the Bihar Branch of the All-India Spinners' Association. With a view to revive the manufacture of hand-made paper as a cottage industry, a paper-making class has been started at the Cottage Industries Institute at Patna. To help women workers of the Jharia coal-fields, who have been excluded from underground work as a result of recent legislation, two handicrafts institutes have been started at Jharia and Kustore. It is now proposed to train these women workers in hand-weaving and basket-making at an estimated ^{yearly} cost of Rs. 9,720 recurring and Rs. 840 non-recurring. With a view to removing unemployment among the professional class of mochis and chamars and to train middle class boys in improved method of leather tanning and leather work, two peripatetic demonstration parties have been started at a cost of Rs. 6,766 recurring and Rs. 1,400 non-recurring.

Industrial Planning.- For the industrial planning of Bihar, a conference of experts and industrialists was convened at Ranchi. The conference has formed three separate committees for the detailed investigation of the mechanical industries, the chemical industries and the cottage industries that can be suitably developed in the province, and to make their recommendations at an early date for the consideration of Government. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been contributed to meet the incidental expenses in connection with the National Industrial Planning Commission.

Unemployment Relief.- The present Government have strengthened the existing Employment Bureau attached to the Industries Department with a view to explore avenues of employment for young men of the province and to put suitably qualified candidates in touch with employers. An Employment Board has been constituted with the Hon'ble Minister for Development as Chairman to devise ways and means to help the Employment Bureau in finding employment for educated young men and to consider and advise Government in all measures necessary for relieving unemployment.

Rehabilitation of Co-operative Movement.- With a view to rehabilitating the co-operative movement in the province as early as possible and ensuring its future expansion on sound lines, an intensive enquiry into the assets, liabilities and repaying capacities of societies and banks has been undertaken. Enquiries have, so far, been taken up in thirteen banks.

Labour Policy.- Attempts are being made to improve the lot of both industrial and agricultural labour. The committee appointed by Government to investigate the condition of industrial labour and to make recommendations for the purpose of improving the level of wages, conditions of work, employment, etc., has commenced its labours. A Labour Assistant has been appointed to investigate the conditions of labour and assist the Ministry in tackling labour problems arising from time to time. Considerable progress has been made in the settlement of important labour disputes and three such disputes, namely, ^{the} at the Indian Copper Corporation, Mosaboni, the Tinsplate Works, Golmuri, and the Tata-nagar Iron Foundry have been satisfactorily settled by the Conciliation Board appointed by Government. The efforts of Government Officers and arbitrators have also been successful in settling strikes at Dehri-on-Sone and at Baulia in the Shahabad district. Government are now arranging for the appointment of a Labour Commissioner with a view to improving the relations between the employers and labour. +

Prison Reform.- Government has tried to introduce reforms in the jail administration to convert jails from places of punishment into reformatories and work-shops. Hand-spinning industry on charkhas has been introduced in all the Central Jails. Jail industries are being re-organised on a large scale. Degrading forms of labour, such as ghani (oil pressing) by prison labour has been abolished. The diet of ~~prisoners~~ prisoners has also been improved and arrangements have been made for the education of all illiterate prisoners. Instructions have been issued to jail authorities to consider cases of release of long-term prisoners on the recommendation of the Board of Visitors, as also the release of old, infirm and decrepit prisoners by liberal application of the rules.

Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose re-elected President of Indian National
Natta Congress for 1939-40: Drift of Congress towards
Left Anticipated.

On 30-1-1939 the result of the voting for the Presidentship of the Indian National Congress for 1939-40 was announced. The candidates for the Presidentship were Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the present President (standing for re-election) and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. Mr. Bose was re-elected securing 1,575 votes, against Dr. Sitaramayya's 1,376 votes.

A feature of the election was the open opposition to Mr. Bose's re-election from leading members of the Congress Working Committee, like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, and Seth Jammalal Bajaj, as also from Mahatma Gandhi. The re-election of Mr. Bose is interpreted as symptomatic of the waning influence of the right wing leaders headed by Mahatma Gandhi and the swing of the organisation towards the Left to which Mr. Bose belongs. Commenting on the election, Mahatma Gandhi makes the following observations in the course of a press statement issued on 31-1-39:

I must confess that from the very beginning I was decidedly against his (Mr. Bose's) re-election for reasons into which I need not go. ... Nevertheless, I am glad of his victory, and since I was instrumental in inducing Dr. Pattabhi not to withdraw his name as a candidate the defeat is more mine than his. And I am nothing if I do not represent definite principles and policy. Therefore, it is plain to me that the delegates do not approve of the principles and policy for which I stand. If they (right wing) cannot keep pace with it, they must come out of the Congress. If they can, they will add strength to the majority. Those, therefore, who feel uncomfortable in being in the Congress, may come out, not in a spirit of illwill, but with the deliberate purpose of rendering more effective service.

(The Hindustan Times
 1-2-1939).

P.T.O.

Another interpretation of the election is that of the Times of India, which in an editorial says that Mr. Bose's success was in a large measure due to "the revolt against what are regarded as the Fascist tendencies of the small group of leaders who have been manipulating the controls in the Congress mechanism".

(The Times of India, 31-1-39).✓

Resolution recommending India's Withdrawal from League of Nations: Debate in Central Assembly.

On 4-2-1939 Mr. T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Congress) moved the following resolution in the Central Assembly:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that immediate steps be taken under Article 1(3) of the Covenant of the League of Nations to give notice of India's intention to withdraw from the League, among others, for the reason that the League has failed to implement the provision of Article 16 of the Covenant against Covenant-breaking members of the League."

Moving the resolution, Mr. Chetty said that never had the League failed more grievously in its purpose than in recent years when a number of nations like Germany, Italy, and Japan had taken the law into their hands and set at nought the League's pious notions of collective security. India paid nearly Rs. 1,000,000 to the League annually and the return she got for it was very little indeed. It was really money wasted. He also said that Sir N.N. Sircar during the last session of the League had virtually spoken in support of the resolution before the House when he used words which he (Mr. Chettiar) could only interpret as meaning that as ~~xxx~~ soon as the present irresponsible executive was removed, India would secede from the League; such was the strength of the dissatisfaction in India with Article 16 and other articles of the Covenant.

Mr. Joshi's Amendment.- Mr. N.M. Joshi moved that for the original resolution the following be substituted:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to convey to the League of Nations India's dissatisfaction that in major political issues it has so far failed to achieve its purpose of bringing about international peace and protecting the interests of smaller nations, to put forward before the League proposals for making it a better and more effective instrument for accomplishing its aims and objects by strengthening the Covenant of the League and otherwise and for India's more effective participation in its work and also recommends to the Government of India to take such steps, as are necessary to secure the acceptance of its proposals by the League."

Sir Syed Raza Ali's Amendment.- Sir Syed Raza Ali moved the following amendment:

(a) That after the words "Governor General in Council That" the words "unless the League of Nations agrees to reduce India's contribution to 2,00,000 francs with effect from 1941" be inserted;

(b) that the word "immediate" occurring in the first line be omitted; and

(c) that all the words occurring after the words "to withdraw from the League" be omitted.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's Amendment.- The following amendment was moved by Mr. Abdul Qaiyam:

That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:-

"and also for the reason that Great Britain has persisted in following an utterly wrong policy with regard to Palestine, in contravention of Article 22 of the Covenant, and in open disregard of the feelings of the Indian Nation in this matter."

General Discussion: Mr. N.M. Joshi.- Mr. Joshi said that he shared the dissatisfaction expressed by the mover of the resolution, but that the failure was not of the idea of the League but of the members of that organisation, and disappointment with such failure should not induce despair. While agreeing that on major political issues the League had failed, he held that in economic and social spheres, in the matter of public health, international communications, conditions of women and children, refugees, collection of statistics regarding economic and social matters and, most of all, in bringing into existence a body of international-minded public servants, the League had proved its worth.

Sir Syed Raza Ali.- Sir Syed Raza Ali was opposed to India's withdrawal in view of the international contacts India gained by her membership. All the same, there was a large disparity between the huge contribution she made and the advantages she secured thereby. India should make it clear that her contribution should not be more than 200,000 francs, and if the League hesitated to entertain that proposal, India should withdraw.

Government's Attitude.- Mr. G.H. Spence, Secretary, Legislative Department, indicating the Government's attitude on the question, referred to the new allocation committee which would present its report shortly. This committee, he said, would consider the question of a reduction of India's contribution. But a reduction as suggested by Sir Raza Ali was not one within practical politics. To ask for a reduction from 49 units to seven or eight was not substantially different from the unqualified demand for withdrawal.

Turning to the original resolution, Mr. Spence asserted that it would be a grave mistake to carry this resolution. Government maintained that leaving the League was to ignore vital considerations. Membership of the League was of value because of its useful technical and humanitarian activities. The present ineffectiveness of the League was due to the world conditions prevailing now, and it was quite possible that with a change in this situation the League might attain universality.

The membership of the League had given India an international status. Government therefore found themselves in closer accord with Mr. Joshi's amendment than with the original resolution or the other amendments.

Dealing with the argument about the paucity of Indians on the League Secretariat, Mr. Spence said that this was being borne in mind by Government. At the same time the position was not as bad as it had been depicted. Apart from two collaborators, there were four permanent Indian employees in the International Labour Office. This did not compare unfavourably with the position of other countries. Further, India was one of the countries in which a branch of the League and another of the International Labour Office were maintained.

Mr. F. E. James.- Mr. F.E. James analysed the criticisms made against the League and suggested that it was unwise to concentrate on the political aspect of that body. He expressed agreement with Sir Raza Ali that India's contribution to the League was out of proportion to her financial resources and that that contribution should be reduced. Mr. James asserted that the Government of India themselves had blown hot and cold with regard to representation in the League. It was wrong for India to be represented at the League by delegates who were not resident in this country and who had ceased to have connections with her. Nor had Government treated the work of Indian representatives there seriously. Nevertheless, what would India gain by leaving the League? As a country outside the League she would not be able to make any contribution to the important epoch of world reconstruction that would be bound to come soon.

Voting on Resolution postponed.- Mr. Joshi's amendment was put to vote and declared lost by 57 votes to 43. Voting on the other amendments and the resolution was postponed to 15-2-1939.

(The Hindustan Times 5-2-39).→

N.H.A.
List of More Important
Publications received in this Office during January 1939.

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National Labour Legislation.-

- (1) The Indore Payment of Wages Bill (No. II of 1938).
- (2) The Indore Trade Unions Bill (No. X of 1938).

Conditions of Labour.-

- (1) "Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1937" (Orissa).
- (2) "Madras Labour - July 1937-October 1938".
- (3) Questionnaire issued by the Khaitan Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government to enquire into the working of the Sugar-cane Rules and the conditions of labour employed in sugar factories.

Industrial Organisation.-

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the province of Bihar for the year 1937-38.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1937-38, by S.L.Mehta, Esq., I.C.S., Director of Industries, Assam.
- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the year ending 31st August 1938.
- (3) Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, 1936.

Social Conditions.-

- (1) Report of the Criminal Tribes Committee appointed by the Government of the United Provinces on 28-3-1938.
- (2) Annual Report on the Reclamation Department of the Punjab for the year ending 31st December 1937.
- (3) "Economic Results of Prohibition in the Salem District" (October 1937-September 1938) by P.J.Thomas, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.) M.L.C., Professor of Economics, University of Madras.

Co-operation.-

Statistical Statement relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during 1936-37 (Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India).

Education.-

The General Education Tables for Ajmer-Merwara for 1937-38.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Agricultural Statistics of India, 1935-36, Vol. II.
- (2) Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency, for the year 1937-38.
- (3) Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31-3-1938.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) The Central Provinces and Berar Government at Work (from 15-3-1938 to 15-7-1938) Vol. I - No. 2.
 - (2) The Central Provinces and Berar Government at Work (from 15-7-1938 to 15-10-1938).
 - (3) "The Bihar Government and its Work" Review of the past 18 months, by the Information Officer, Government of Bihar.
 - (4) Proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways Vol. XV, No. 3 (dated 10-12-1938.)
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