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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December 1940.

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

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Government of India.-

The Explosives Rules, 1940.

The Government of India has notified at pages 673 to 749 of the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 5-12-1940, the Explosives Rules, 1940.

Bengal.-

The Bengal Factories Rules, 1940.

In supersession of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1935, as subsequently amended, the Bengal Government has published a new set of Factories Rules.

(Notification No. 3360 Com. dated 4-10-1940, The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 12-12-1940, pages 3507 to 3563.)

Bombay.-

Proposed Amendment of Bombay Factories Rules:
Safety of Hoists.

The Bombay Government proposes to amend the Bombay Factories Rules, 1935, in respect of wire ropes and chains used in hoists; the amendment proposes that new wire rope or chain shall be used in hoists only after obtaining a certificate of its safe working load; that the maximum working load of every hoist shall be prominently marked on the hoist; and that all hoist ropes and chains shall be periodically examined.

(Notification No. 9073 dated 11-12-1940: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 19-12-1940, pages 1089-1090.)

British Baluchistan.-

Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1940.

The Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan has adopted rules under the Employment of Children Act, 1938; the rules relate to the appointment of inspectors and the form of certificate of age required by the Act.

(Notification No. A./122(39) Tr-12044-G dated 2-12-1940: The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 7-12-1940, pages 1879 to 1880.)

Punjab.-

The Punjab Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 1940: Railwaymen in employ to be eligible for Election to Punjab Legislative Assembly.

The Punjab Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 1940, which received the assent of the Governor of the Punjab on 7-12-1940, declares railwaymen employed in the N.W. Railway to be eligible for election to the local Legislative Assembly ~~to~~ to represent a trade union constituency.

(The Government Gazette (Extraordinary), Punjab, dated 10-12-1940, page 580.)

Sind.-

Adaptation of Bombay Factories Rules, 1935.

The Government of Sind has notified the adaptation of the Bombay Factories Rules, 1935, to Sind with necessary modifications.

(Notification No. 108 M/38 (b) dated 28-11-1940: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 5-12-1940, pages 1870 to 1871.)

Hyderabad.-

Bhagela Agreement Bill (Legislation for Abolition of Forced Agricultural Labour).

On 21-12-1940, the Hyderabad Legislative Council referred to a Select Committee, the Bhagela Agreement Bill which aims at the abolition of the system of forced agricultural labour prevailing in some parts of the State.

(The Statesman, 24-12-1940.) ✓

Labour Member's Meetings with Representatives of Employers and Workers
re. Central Government's Labour Legislation Proposals, Calcutta,
5 and 6-1-1941. ✓

Reference was made at page 6 of our August 1940 report to the decision of the Government of India to meet representatives of employers and workers to consider certain draft Labour Bills. Meetings were held at Calcutta on 5 and 6-1-1940 between the Labour Member, Government of India, and representatives of industrial interests.

Meeting with Representatives of Workers, 5-1-1941.- The Indian Workers' representatives who met the Labour Member on 5-1-1941, included Mr. V.R. Kalappa, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary of the A.-I.T.U.C., Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, ex-President of the A.-I.T.U.C., Mr. R.S. Nimbkar, Mr. S.C. Joshi, Mr. G.M. Khan, Mr. Selvapathy Chetty, Mr. K.S.V. Naidu, Miss Shanta Bhalerao, Mr. M.K. Bose and Dr. Charu Chandra Banerjee. The subjects included in the discussion were: amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, granting of holidays with pay to workers, extension of maternity benefits to women workers in coal mines, legislation regarding shop assistants and amendment of Insurance Act to apply to insurance business conducted by trade unions. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar explained the genesis of the meeting and stated that certain proposals were formulated at the last meeting of the Conference of Provincial Governments, held in January, 1940, at Delhi and that the decision of that conference was to obtain the opinion of the Provincial and State Governments on these proposals, and to have them further considered at the next ~~Labour Members'~~ Conference which would be held in Delhi about the end of ¹⁹⁴¹ January. The Government of India felt that in the meanwhile it would be of advantage if representatives of organisations of Labour and of employers were also consulted on these proposals and their opinions obtained.

Amendment of Trade Disputes Act.- On the proposed amendment of the Trade Disputes Act in order to introduce a method of conciliation first and to prohibit during that period of attempted conciliation, any strike or lock-out, the trade union representatives are reported to have suggested that the period fixed for conciliation should be shortened and that following the precedent of the Bombay Act, employers should notify to the Government standardized conditions of work and any alterations therein from time to time, that victimisation of workers in case of legal strikes should be prohibited and that if possible the scope of legislation on the subject should, in the first instance, be limited to public utility services and might be extended there-after to other organised industries.

Holidays with Pay.- On the question of granting a certain number of holidays with pay for a year's service, the labour point of view, it is understood, was that the number of holidays proposed, which was six at the minimum, should be 14, that these holidays should be given at one stretch and not in instalments, ~~and~~ that if a worker left his employer in the course of a year, he should be entitled to a pre-dated grant of holiday, or pay in substitution thereof, and that the best way of enforcing the scheme of holidays with pay was that Government should constitute a fund with contributions from employers from which Government might disburse to the employers the holiday pay. They are further reported to have suggested that the benefit of holidays with pay should go not only to factory workers but also to workers in other industrial organisations.

Shop Legislation.- As regards the extension of legislation dealing with hours of work to labour employed in commercial establishments and shops, it was suggested on behalf of the Trade Union Congress that the Act should provide not merely a weekly holiday with pay, ~~but~~ but that daily hours of work should also be regulated and provision should be made for prompt payment of wages.

Extension of Maternity Benefit Legislation.- Another proposal before the Conference was the extension of the maternity benefit legislation to women employed in coal mines. It was proposed by the representatives that the benefit of this legislation should be extended not only to coal mines, but to municipal services in which female labour was employed, that the benefit should be extended to 12 weeks instead of 8 and that the minimum benefit payable should be 8 annas a day.

Control of Insurance Business by Trade Unions.- The delegation accepted the principle that schemes based on the "dividing principle" should be made illegal, They did not, however, think that there was a case made out for comprehensive legislation as proposed on the subject. But they suggested that preliminary investigation by Government of the various schemes now being worked out by Trade Unions might be undertaken, that the Trade Union Congress would give its support to such investigation and that any legislation rendered necessary as a result of this investigation might then be undertaken.

Meeting with Representatives of Employers, ⁶⁻¹⁻¹⁹⁴¹ ~~and 1941~~- The Indian employers' representatives who met the Labour Member on 6-1-1941, included Sir Homi Modi, the Hon'ble Mr. J.H.S. Richardson, Mr. V.N. Chandavarkar, Mr. J.B. Ross, Mr. P.J. Griffiths, Mr. D.V. Bullock, ~~Mr~~ Sir F.E. James, Mr. H.A. Wilkinson, Mr. T. Maloney (representing the Employers' Federation of India), Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. A.L. Ojha, Lala Padampat Singhania, Mr. B.M. Birla, Mr. Gurusaran Lal, Mr. Akhil Bandhu Guha, Mr. Karamchand Thappar and Mr. D.G. Mulherkar (representing the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers). The views of these representatives on the various questions discussed with them are summarised below:

Amendment of Trade Disputes Act.- It is understood that regarding the proposal to amend the Trade Disputes Act, the delegates representing the two employers' organisations generally accepted the principles laid down for the resolution of the differences between labour and employe

but suggested several modifications. They thought it desirable to ascertain by secret ballot the opinion of workers when any question of strike arose. Stress was laid on the status of the conciliation officers, and it was suggested that the status should be prescribed by statute or rule made thereunder. The delegates were of the opinion that conditions in plantations being greatly different from conditions in other industrial concerns, the procedure suggested was unsuitable for plantation labour and, therefore, plantations should be left outside the scope of the proposal. It was generally agreed that there should be a penalty prescribed for illegal strikes and that both intimidation of workers and victimisation should be made illegal.

Holidays with Pay.- As regards the proposal for granting holidays with pay to all factory workers, the representatives expressed the view that while this proposal would increase the cost of production, there would be little or no corresponding benefit to labour. They were unanimously of opinion that there should be no legislation for holidays with pay and that the question of sickness insurance was of more practical importance and deserved more urgent consideration.

Shops Legislation.- Regarding the question of extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and shops, the delegates were in favour of Central legislation and they agreed that provision might be made for the prompt payment of wages, that clerical staff engaged in factories should be excluded from the definition of commercial establishments and that the question of excluding steamship companies from the purview of the proposed Bill might be further examined.

Extension of Maternity Benefit Legislation.- On the proposal for the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines, the delegates expressed the view that provision should be made as proposed and on lines analogous to those which applied to women employed in factories. They were also of the opinion that the maternity benefit legislation should be uniformly applicable to all the provinces.

A.R.P. Measures in Industrial Establishments.- The last question discussed concerned air raid precautions in industrial establishments. The opinion of the delegation was invited on the following points: (1) whether it was not desirable to get a certain number of instructors from the United Kingdom with practical experience of air raids and the latest methods adopted for defence against air raids; and (2) whether, when such expert instructors were obtained, a central school should be established for training personnel. The delegates thought that it was highly desirable to get the latest expert opinion on the subject, as also expert instructors, and that a central school would function more satisfactorily, training a number of instructors who, in their turn, would go to the different provinces to assist in A.R.P. work.

(The Statesman, 6, 7 and 10-1-1940 and the Hindustan Times, 10-1-1941.) ✓

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CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work.

Weekly Holidays in Shops, Commercial Establishments, etc.:

Views of Madras and Bombay Chambers and of the Associated Chambers
on Government of India's Draft Bill. ✓

In July 1940, the Government of India submitted to local Governments a draft of an enabling Bill which it was proposed to pass for the purpose of granting weekly holidays to persons employed in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants and theatres, leaving it to the Provincial Governments to apply it to any area they liked within their jurisdiction by notification (vide pages 7-8 of the August 1940 report of this Office.).

Views of Madras Chamber.- In addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India in connection with this and similar draft Bills, the Madras Chamber suggested that the Association should protest against the procedure which had been followed in respect of the proposed legislation in sending out what should be preliminary proposals in the form of draft Bills. In the opinion of the Madras Chamber, if the Government of India wished to undertake legislation on matters of this kind, their draft proposals should be sent for public criticism in the form of a statement of principles and not in the form of detailed draft legislation. The Madras Chamber also requested that representations might be made to the Government of India in connection with a representative conference of employers and employees which it was proposed to hold towards the end of the year in order to discuss the draft Bills and the opinion which might have been received on them, after which legislation was to be drafted for introduction in the Central Legislature next year. The Madras Chamber considered that such a conference was premature and in any case it would be difficult to make it really representative without making it thoroughly unwieldy and cumbersome.

Views of Associated Chambers of Commerce.- The President of the Associated Chambers, in replying to the Madras Chamber, stated that in his view the opportunity to be given to employers and employees of expressing their views before legislation was finally drafted, should not be rejected, even if it only afforded employing interests the further chance of urging the Government of India to slow up the rate of labour legislation or to defer all but essential measures until after the war. He added that to urge indefinite postponement of all progressive labour legislation was again merely to invite independent and widely divergent legislation on the part of the provinces.

Views of Bombay Chamber.- Copies of the correspondence between the Madras Chamber and the Associated Chambers were forwarded to the Bombay Chamber by the latter for comment. In replying to the Associated Chambers, the Committee of the Bombay Chamber stated that they were generally in agreement with the views expressed by the President of the Association as recorded in his letter to the Madras Chamber. In principle the Committee were of opinion that social legislation should as far as possible be enacted at the centre in order that industry in all the provinces would be on an equal footing. Even in cases where legislation had already been enacted in certain of the provinces and not in others before the introduction of central legislation, it would always be possible to bring the provincial legislation already in force into line with the

requirements of the central legislation. It would, of course, be better for central legislation to be ~~inter~~ introduced before any of the provinces took individual action. However, this opportunity no longer presented itself, but the Committee considered that the Associated Chambers should not do anything which would tend to discourage the starting of central co-ordinating legislation and thus leave it open to still more ~~pro~~ provinces to take independent action.

The Committee examined the Bill in consultation with the Labour Sub-Committee of the Chamber and they submitted their comments as under:-

The Committee considered that the weekly holiday should be on a Sunday or on a day in lieu of Sunday to be fixed by the employer and not by the Provincial Government. The Members were also of opinion that, instead of the Provincial Government fixing different days to suit different classes of employers, the employer should fix his own day. The Bombay Act which came into force on the 15th November 1940, had limited the total number of hours which might be worked, and it also fixed a weekly holiday. In the circumstances, the Committee thought that the projected enforcement of an additional half day's holiday was unnecessary. Further, they thought that it would be useless to enforce a half holiday from 1.p.m. when the number of working hours were not fixed. An employee could for instance start work at 5 a.m. on Saturday and close at 1.p.m. and thus evade the Act. Lastly, the Committee point out that if Government desired to introduce what they presumably claimed to be good social legislation, it was not understood why such legislation should not be made to the Government's own employees.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for October 1940.) ✓

Minimum Wage of 6 annas a day in U.P. Sugar Factories:
Government's Decision. ✓

Reference was made at page 16 of our January 1940 report to the decision of the Government of the United Provinces to fix 5 annas daily as the fair minimum in sugar factories. Recently the Government has fixed the minimum for workmen of sugar factories, "whether employed directly or indirectly by the licensee or through a contractor" at 6 annas per day.

(The National Call, 6-12-1940.) ✓

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Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending
30-6-1940. ✓

According to a press note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-6-1940, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of strikes during the period was 101 involving 268,580 workers and entailing a loss of 2,474,263 working days as against 128 strikes involving 273,990 workers and entailing a loss of 4,003,016 in the first quarter of 1940.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 35 disputes in Bengal involving 61,982 workers and entailing a loss of 212,209 working days. Next comes Bombay with 25 disputes involving 163,218 workers and entailing a loss of 1,428,395 working days; Madras with 12 disputes involving 7,711 workers and entailing a loss of 129,268 working days; Punjab with 9 disputes involving 1,019 workers and entailing a loss of 4,293 working days; the Central Provinces and Berar with 7 disputes involving 17,457 workers and entailing a loss of ~~222~~ 238,661 working days; Bihar and the United Provinces with 4 disputes each involving 12,086 and 3,260 workers and entailing losses of 379,381 and 68,060 working days respectively; Assam and Sind with 2 disputes each involving 1,631 and 178 workers each and entailing losses of 10,882 and 2,564 working days respectively; and Orissa with 1 dispute involving 38 workers and entailing a loss of 570 working days.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 38 disputes in the cotton and woollen mills involving 187,495 workers and entailing a loss of 1,715,980 working days; 8 in Jute mills involving 35,046 workers and entailing a loss of 227,007 working days; 4 each in engineering workshops and mines involving 1,470 and 9,969 workers and entailing losses of 4,490 and 254,041 working days respectively; and 2 in railways including railway workshops involving 350 workers and entailing a loss of 12,500 working days. In all other industries together, there were 45 disputes involving 34,250 workers and entailing a loss of 260,245 working days.

Causes and results of Strikes.- Of the 101 strikes, 62 were due to questions of wages, 20 to those of personnel, 3 to those of bonus, 2 to that of leave and hours and 14 to other causes. In 31 cases the workers were fully successful, in 18 partially successful and in 47 cases unsuccessful; 5 disputes were in progress on 30-6-1940. ✓

12th Industries Conference convened by Government of India, Lucknow,
16 and 17-12-1940. ✓

The 12th Industries Conference convened by the Government of India was held at Lucknow on 16 and 17-12-1940, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member with the Government of India, presiding. Besides representatives of the Government of India and Governments of all the provinces, representatives of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Travancore, Kashmir, and Gwalior States and those of ^{leading} industrial organisations ^{in the country} attended the session. The Conference was formally opened by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallet, Governor of the United Provinces.

Presidential Address.- In the course of his presidential address, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar referred to the expansion of Indian industries in war time and appealed to Indian States to level up the present divergence in industrial conditions and to bring Indian States in line with British India.

Proceedings of the Conference.- The following information about the work of the Conference is taken from press reports:-

Industrial Standardisation.- The Conference, first of all, considered the question of industrial standardisation. It had been urged by the representatives of Bombay that something on the lines of the British Standards Institution should be set up in India. The Conference considered, however, after discussion, that so far as technical standardisation was concerned, it was not possible to set up any body during the war. In so far as commercial standardisation was concerned, however, the Conference thought that the matter would be examined in consultation with the industries concerned and the Export Advisory Council with a view to seeing what action might be possible.

Protection of Industries.- The Conference then took up the question of protection to industries which might be set up during the war. The Conference welcomed the statement made on behalf of the Government of India that it was prepared to consider the question of assisting specified industries, the starting of which was considered essential under conditions created by the war, by such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India as might be necessary to enable them to continue their existence. The question of revising the procedure with regard to enquiries on the subject of protection might be considered after the war.

Trade Delegations.- The Conference supported a proposal for sending trade delegations to Africa, South America, Australia and New Zealand and such other countries as might be necessary for the purpose of discovering new markets or expanding the old ones, both in connection with raw materials and manufactured goods. Such delegations would have to be sent under the auspices of the Government of India but it was hoped that commercial interests would give their support to them.

Help to Handloom Industry.- In connection with the problems affecting handloom weaving the Conference agreed with the recommendations recently made in Delhi that a fact finding committee should be set up to make a survey of the conditions of the handloom industry and should report in not more than nine months' time.

Distribution of Dyes to Handloom and Cottage Industries.- After a discussion of the question of supply of dyes for handloom and cottage industries it was decided that such provinces and States as desired to participate in the Government's scheme for distribution of dyes should put their requirements before the Government of India.

Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.- The Commerce Member made a statement concerning the establishment and purposes of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, and it was agreed by the Conference that there was no longer any necessity for the Industrial Research Council to continue its existence.

Stores Purchase Policy.- In considering the question of the Government of India's stores purchases policy, the Conference took note of the desire of the directors of industries in the provinces to be taken into consultation by the Supply Department.

Industrial Museum.- The question of the establishment of a permanent industrial museum at Delhi was postponed until the next Industries Conference when it was hoped more information concerning the views of provincial and State Governments and of industrial and commercial interests would be available.

Other Matters.- The Conference adopted the minutes of the previous meetings of the Imperial Sericulture Committee and the Woollen Industry Committee. A suggestion that the action taken at one Industries Conference should be placed before the next Conference was agreed to.

(The Leader, 14 and 21-12-1940, and the Times of India, 18-12-1940).✓

Handloom Industry Conference, New Delhi, 6 and 7-12-1940. ✓

The problems of the handloom industry engaged the attention of a Conference convened at New Delhi on 6 and 7-12-1940 at which Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, the Commerce Member, Government of India, presided. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Governments of Madras and the United Provinces, as also those of the Bombay, Ahmedabad, Bengal and South Indian Millowners' Associations, the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society and Bihar Handloom Weavers' Society. Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas represented the cotton interests.

The main problem before the Conference was that of allocation of specific counts to the handloom and mill industries so as to prevent competition between the two. The Government of India had circulated various proposals received from the Provincial Governments and other interests involved. The Conference considered the data now available inadequate to arrive at definite conclusions and recommended to the Government the appointment of a Committee to collect relevant data relating to the industry. The committee will investigate the difficulties of the handloom industry in the purchasing of raw materials and the marketing of its products, including the financing of these operations. It will also investigate the possibility of demarcating certain types or styles of cloth for production by the handloom industry alone.

The question of assisting the handloom industry in getting a fair price for its products was further considered by the Conference. It was generally agreed that the levy of an excise duty on cloth produced by mills would have to be at such a high rate for the purpose of equating prices of mill products and handloom products that it would not be desirable to levy it. The suggestion that a cess may be levied on

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the yarn consumed in the mills was also considered and the Conference recommended that the suggestion may be deferred until the report of the fact-finding committee is available.

The decisions of the Handloom Conference were discussed at the 12th Industries Conference held at Lucknow on 12-12-1940 (vide pages of this Report). It is understood that the Government of India will shortly set up the Fact-Finding Committee recommended by the earlier Conference.

(The Statesman, 7-12-1940 and the Hindu, 6 and 10-12-1940). ✓

Possibilities of U.S.A. as market for Indian Goods:

Meek-Gregory Report.

In July 1940, the Government of India had sent Dr. T.E. Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and Sir David Meek, Indian Trade Commissioner in London, to the United States of America to investigate the extent to which it would be possible to find markets there for Indian exports excluded from Europe as a result of the ~~blockade~~^{war}. A brief summary of the conclusions of the Mission, published recently, is given below:-

Economic Conditions in the U.S.A.- The economy of the U.S.A. is at present in the phase of recovery from the depression of 1938. This recovery has been brought about in part by the generally favourable business situation created by the earlier phases of the war, in part by Allied orders and in part by the anticipation that the vast expenditure contemplated under the armament scheme will react favourably on business. It is not unreasonable to assume that, unless some unforeseen setback takes place, the national income of the U.S.A. at present running at some 75,000 million dollars per annum, under the circumstances of full armament activity, will run at the level of some 80,000 million dollars.

Possible market for Manganese and Mica.- Under these circumstances, the normal movement of imports in the U.S.A. should be maintained and there should be some expansion as the aggregate income of the country expands. In addition, under the direct impulsion of the armament drive, there should be an expansion of the demand for products for stock-pile purposes and for armaments manufacture. In this connection, manganese ore and mica are of particular significance, but other commodities (referred to in detail in the report) may also be affected.

Shipping Difficulties.- In considering the export situation from India to the U.S.A. account must be taken of shipping difficulties. In this connection the inauguration of a new line between the two countries has improved matters appreciably, to judge by the opinion expressed in the U.S.A.

Market for Consumers' Goods.- There is a growing interest in Indian consumers' goods, such as cotton prints, druggets, etc. "Made in India" is itself a selling point and the anti-Japanese prejudice on the part of certain consuming section should assist the sale of Indian

products. On the other hand, since a considerable proportion of the total sale of consumers' goods takes place through large-scale organisations it is imperative that Indian producers and merchants should pay regard to the special character of the American market. ~~Market~~ Variety, novelty, strict adherence to the specifications laid down ^{and} promptness of delivery, are essential.

Need for Establishing Personal Contacts and Propaganda.- There is considerable reason to suppose that trade could be promoted if Indian business men were to visit the U.S.A. more frequently and were to make personal contacts with actual or potential buyers. Moreover, in view of the aggressive attitude of the producers of competing goods, such as paper bag makers, it is necessary to promote interest in Indian products by the preparation of pamphlets and other propaganda material setting out the merits of the products it is intended to sell, the terms on which they can be obtained, etc. This is work which must be undertaken by business men themselves and cannot be undertaken by Governmental agencies.

Possibilities of America as a market limited.- Whilst the analysis of the position of individual commodities contained in the report shows that in a certain number of cases expansion of importation is possible, thus providing new markets for products excluded from European markets, and whilst further armament expenditure is certain to increase the demand for certain special commodities, it is not possible for India to look to the U.S.A. as an effective substitute market for the entirety of lost European markets.

The position of all commodities the exports of which to European countries before the war were of any significance was examined. These commodities, it may be pointed out, were primarily raw materials, some of which are largely produced by the United States itself and some of which enter into direct competition with American products. Complete substitution of the American for the European market is thus not easily possible. But a review of the findings on the various individual items make it possible to divide them into three groups. The first consists of commodities of which it can be said that no problem of disposal arises owing to abnormal war demands in India or abroad or to other special conditions. These are tanned skins, raw rubber, pig iron and chromite. The second group comprises commodities of which Indian supplies would have to face competition from production within the United States themselves or in the Philippines or in South American countries, in the welfare of which the United States are specially concerned, as evidenced at the recent Havana Conference, and which apart from this have, in some cases, long-established connections with that country. Commodities in respect of which such competition is so effective as to leave little hope for expansion of Indian exports are: the whole group of oilseeds (including groundnuts) and oilcake; raw cotton and cotton waste; raw hemp; raw hides; wheat; bones; bone manure and bone meal; lemon-grass oil. The third group represents Indian exports the prospects of which in the U.S.A. are such as to warrant special attention being paid to them: these are jute goods, raw wool, raw skins, mica, coffee, tea, lac, coir manufactures, myrobalans, cashewnuts, kepok, cardamons, pepper and ginger.

Possibilities of Exporting Manufactured Goods also.- The report does not suggest that the potentialities of the U.S.A. as a market for Indian goods is confined either to "munitions" raw materials or to certain staple Indian products. On the contrary, the authors of the report attach much importance to the cultivation of the American consumer market for manufactured goods and in this connection the attention of manufacturers will be drawn to the conditions under which alone, in the opinion of the authors

of the report, contact can be successfully established with American buying organisations.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-12-1940). ✓

B.B. & C.I. and Assam Bengal Railways to be State-managed from January 1942: Government's Decision. ✓

It has been decided to terminate the contracts of the Bombay, Baroda and Central Indian Railway Company and the Assam Bengal Railway Company on 31-12-1941, and notices are being served accordingly. The railways will be taken over for management by the State from 1-1-1942.

(The Statesman, 10-12-1940.) ✓

Industrial Development of Jaipur State: Advisory Committee appointed. ✓

A committee of 3 officials and 3 non-officials, from the Central Advisory Board, has been constituted by the Jaipur State Government to assist the Government with a view to plan and develop suitable industries in the State, which will incidentally provide large opportunities for employment to State subjects. The members of this Committee are the Director of Industries and Commerce, the State Geologist, Principal of the School of Arts and Crafts (officials), and Seths Pirmal Makharia, Surajmal Patolia and Sheo Prasad Khetan (non-officials). This Committee was constituted on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board.

(The National Call, 10-12-1940). ✓

The U.P. Sugar Factories Control (Amendment) Act, 1940. ✓

The Governor of the United Provinces has published an Act to amend the U.P. Sugar Factories Control Act. The statement of objects and reasons for the amendment points out that the sugar industry has passed through an exceptional crisis during the season 1939-40. In view of the importance of the industry in the agricultural economy of the United Provinces, the Government has decided to assume much wider control of the industry. A comprehensive revision of the United Provinces Sugar Factories Control Act of 1938 had, therefore, to be undertaken in consultation with the Government of Bihar primarily with a view (1) to provide for the control of production and sales of sugar; (2) to provide for the realisation of the subsidy given to the industry by means of an advance from the Government of India.

through the imposition of a special cess of six pies per maund of cane for a period of three years; (3) to empower the Provincial Governments to relax the conditions of the Act in certain special circumstances with a view to facilitate the production of sugar for purposes of export.

(The U.P. Gazette Extraordinary, dated 30-11-1940.) ✓

Industrial Census of Burma:
Government's Decision. ✓

The Government of Burma has decided to take a census of all industrial establishments and of selected cottage industries after the general census is taken in March 1941. The census of industrial establishments will be for the whole of Burma, but the census of selected cottage industries will be taken only in the areas where the general census is being taken synchronously. Cottage industries selected for the purpose are cotton-weaving, silk weaving and pottery works.

In the census of industrial establishments, an attempt will be made to collect information relating, inter alia, to the nature of the establishment, ownership, and, in the case of textile establishments, the number of looms. An attempt will also be made to obtain information regarding the managerial, supervising, technical and clerical staff, and the personal occupation and other relevant particulars of the operatives, skilled or otherwise.

(The Times of India, 10-12-1940). ✓

Indo-Burma Trade Talks:
Preliminary Meetings held. ✓

Preliminary conversations between representatives of the Governments of India and Burma for the conclusion of a trade agreement was held at New Delhi from 11 to 13-12-1940. The meeting ~~was~~ intended to give an opportunity to the representatives of the Government of Burma to explain more fully the proposals they have made regarding the treatment of Burmese goods imported into India and indicate what treatment they propose to accord to Indian goods imported into Burma. The representatives of the two Governments discussed the problems likely to be encountered in the course of more formal negotiations. The results will provide a basis for that further examination of these problems which will be necessary on each side before formal negotiations are begun. It is hoped that that stage will be reached before the middle of February 1941. It is pointed out that the Government of India are pledged to consult non-official advisers before an agreement is concluded.

The composition of the two delegations were as follows:-

Indian Delegates: The Hon'ble Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Sir Alan Lloyd, Secretary, Commerce Department, and Mr. M. Slade, Member, Central Board of Revenue.

Burma Delegates: Mr. J. Baxter, Financial Adviser, and Mr. D.B.

Petch, I.C.S., Secretary, Commerce Department. The Burma delegation ~~was~~ assisted by two Advisers: Mr. H.F. Oxbury, I.C.S., Collector of Customs, Rangoon, and Professor Beasley of Rangoon University.

(The Statesman, 4, 11 and 14-12-1940). ✓

Cotton Textile Mills Industry in India during 1939-40. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian textile industry during the year ending 31-8-1940. The salient features of the statement are summarised below:

Number of Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India (excluding Burma) on 31-8-1940 was 388 (excluding 34 mills in course of erection or recently registered) as against 389 on 31-8-1939. The number of mills in Bombay City and Island decreased from 68 in the previous year to 65 during the year under review. The number of mills in Ahmedabad decreased by one to 76 and in Central Provinces by one to 7. There was no change in the number of mills in the Bombay Province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island, Rajputana, Berar, Bihar and Orissa, Hyderabad (Deccan), Central India, Punjab, Delhi, Travancore, Mysore and Pondicherry. The number of mills in Bengal increased by one to 31, in the United Provinces by one to 27 and in Madras by 2 to 60. Of the 388 mills in the country, 23 were partly or completely idle; of these 23 mills, 6 were in Bombay Province, 7 in Mysore and 3 in Central India.

Number of Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles ~~and~~ in the equipped mills of the country stood at 10,005,785 as against 10,059,370 in the previous year. The total number of looms was 200,076 as against 202,464. In Bombay City and Island the numbers of spindles and looms decreased from 2,850,774 and 67,235 in 1938-39 to 2,748,644 and 65,177 respectively during the year under report. In Ahmedabad the numbers of spindles and looms decreased from 1,901,872 and 46,853 to 1,898,530 and 46,278 respectively. In the Bombay Province, exclusive of Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad, the number of spindles increased from 1.264 millions to 1.274 millions but looms decreased from 26,852 to 26,646. In Madras Province, spindles increased from 1,368,309 to 1,406,812 but looms decreased from 6,712 to 6,703. In the United Provinces, spindles and looms increased from 724,688 and 11,532 to 743,702 and 11,739 respectively. In Bengal, spindles and looms increased from 444,196 and 9,940 to 452,672 and 10,259 respectively. In Central India, spindles and looms increased from 389,118 and 10,972 to 391,616 and 11,064 respectively. In the Central Provinces spindles and looms decreased from 323,502 and 5,759 to 300,270 and 5,294 respectively. In Mysore, the number of spindles and looms were 163,312 and 2,734 as against 165,062 and 2,607 respectively; in Hyderabad 120,460 spindles and 2,219 looms as against 124,140 and 2,157 respectively; in the Punjab, 111,980 spindles and 2,581 looms as against 111,264 and 2,647 respectively; in the Delhi Province, 109,556 spindles and 2,878 looms as against 108,634 and 3,112 respectively; in Rajputana, 88,524 spindles and 2,136 looms as against 88,524 and 2,134 respectively; in Pondicherry, 87,824 spindles and 1,946 looms as against 87,824 and 1,946 ~~in Mysore~~ respectively; in Berar, 69,048 spindles and 1,443 looms as against 68,312 and 1,437 respectively;

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Bihar and Orissa, 27,040 spindles and 679 looms as against 27,500 and 269 respectively; and Travancore, 11,680 spindles and 300 looms as against 12,000 and 300 respectively.

Number of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed daily on day-shift work was approximately 430,165 as against 441,949 in the previous year. Particulars of the numbers employed on night-shift work are not available.

Capital Invested.- The total paid-up capital of the industry on 31-8-1940 amounted to Rs.436,222,157 as against 428,128,993 on 31-8-1939.

Activity of Mills.- During the year under review the industry consumed 1,839,937 candies (of 784 lbs.) of cotton against 1,905,367 candies in the previous year. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 8,847,326 out of a total of 10,005,785 erected. In the previous year the corresponding figures were 8,986,371 and 10,059,370. Of the 200,076 looms installed, an average of 178,842 were working daily during the year as against 183,332 in the previous year out of 202,464 looms installed. The above quoted figures of spindles and looms activity do not include night shift working. The figure of cotton consumed, however, includes night and day consumption.

(Summarised from statement relating to the progress of cotton textile mill industry in India for 1939-40 forwarded to the Office by the Millowners' Association, Bombay.) ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres
in India during September 1940.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during September 1940 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 September 1940 declined by 2 points to 112. The average for 1939 was 106 as compared with 105 for 1938.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during September 1940 rose by 1 point to 79. The average for 1939 was 73 as against 71 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during September 1940 declined by 1 point to 75. The average for 1939 was 74 as compared with 72 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in September 1940 remained stationary at 71. The average for 1939 was 63 as against 61 for 1938.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in September 1940 rose by 4 points to 72. The average for 1939 was 59 as against 57 for 1938.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during September 1940 remained unchanged at 108. The average for 1939 was 100.

(Extracted from the September 1940 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business conditions in India) ✓

Control of Insurance Business Carried on by Trade Unions:
Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce. ✓

At page 30 of the Report of this Office for September 1940 reference was made to the steps taken by the Government of India to consult Provincial Governments on the desirability of applying the Insurance Act (Act No. IV of 1938; for text of the Act see pages 27 to 102 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 5-3-1938) with necessary modifications to insurance business carried on by trade unions.

Government of Bombay Consults Bombay Chamber of Commerce: Need for Control of Experts.- In October 1940 the Government of Bombay drew the attention of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to the fact that under the provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, a trade union was allowed to carry on any form of insurance activity without being under any obligation to secure professional advice as to the actuarial soundness of such insurance business. Moreover, by virtue of section 118 of the Insurance Act, 1938, any insurance business carried on by a trade union was not subject to the provisions of that Act. It had been suggested to the Government of India that, in the interests of the trade unionists themselves, it was undesirable that a highly technical business as insurance should be carried on as a side activity by trade unions without the protection of supervision by any Department of Government having the necessary technical staff to exercise it. There was also a possibility that persons who had in the past been carrying on unsound schemes of insurance now banned by the Insurance Act might seek the shelter of the exemption granted to trade unions for the purpose of continuing their unsound methods from within the trade union movement.

Possibilities of Abuse of Privileged Position by Unions.- The most common example of unscientific schemes carried on in the past and prohibited by the Insurance Act, 1938, was what was known as insurance business on the dividing principle. A description of such business might be found in section 52 of the Insurance Act, 1938, which section prohibited insurers from indulging in such schemes. Similarly, section 69 of that Act prohibited provident societies from doing business on the dividing principle. This form of insurance business had no scientific basis, was inherently unsound and had been condemned by the actuarial profession. It offered a large scope for fraud on the part of agents and the persons in charge of the business. Although the business might superficially report progress at the initial stages as long as the membership was increasing, past experience and actuarial considerations showed that when membership fell, as it eventually must, the members existing at the time the decline set in were left with little or no protection to show for their contributions. In the past, many insurers and provident societies carrying on such business had failed, involving a loss of large sums of money to a considerable number of policyholders. There was nothing at the moment to prevent trade unions carrying on insurance business on the dividing principle and some trade unions appeared to be actually doing so. There had moreover been a case of an insurer transferring all his insurance business on the dividing principle to a trade union which was carrying it on unhampered by the restrictions imposed by the Insurance Act in the interests of policyholders.

It appeared therefore that it was necessary to consider carefully the question of controlling the insurance activities of trade unions. It was pointed out that objections might be raised on the ground that

any such control would curtail the privileges of trade unions, but in fact supervision of the business by qualified persons was actually not a curtailment of the privileges of a trade unionist but a benefit conferred on him. In the interests of the members of trade unions and to afford proper conduct of insurance activities, it was proposed to consider the application of the Insurance Act, 1938, with such modifications as might be necessary to insurance business carried on by trade unions.

Modifications suggested by Bombay Government.- The Government of Bombay added that it appeared that the following modifications in the provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, might be necessary or ~~not~~ desirable before applying it to the insurance business of a trade union:-

(a) Deposit provisions might be the milder ones provided for Mutual Companies and Co-operative Societies in section 98 and not the more onerous ones in section 7. This was a concession to the trade unions in view of their financial resources and of the fact that they resembled mutual concerns rather than proprietary ones.

(b) The minimum limits prescribed in section 4 might not apply to trade unions which might want to encourage insurance business among the poorer members equally with members who could afford to insure for more than Rs.500.

(c) Section 6 relating to working capital might not apply, which was against a financial concession as (a) above.

(d) The provisions of Part III might apply to the insurance business conducted by a trade union if the limits set in sections 65 and 66 were strictly conformed to. The provision relating to the working capital might, however, be dispensed with. It was suggested that so far as they were not inconsistent with the concessions already proposed in this paragraph the other provisions of the Act, its schedules and the Rules framed under the Act should apply in toto to the insurance business carried on by the trade unions in view of the considerations set out in the previous paragraphs.

Bombay Chamber's Views.- The Government of Bombay requested the Chamber's opinions on the above proposals and suggestions. In reply the Committee stated that they were strongly in favour of the proposals to make the provisions of the Insurance Act, with some necessary modifications, applicable to insurance business carried on by trade unions. The Committee had no modifications in the Insurance Act to suggest other than those mentioned by Government and on these they submitted the following comments:

(a) The deposit required from a mutual insurance company (Rs.200,000) was the same as that to be made by an ordinary insurance company which carried on life business only. The concession to the former was in the method of making the deposits (Sec. 98 (2)). Opponents of the proposals (and there were sure to be some among the supporters of labour) might argue that an initial deposit of Rs.25,000 was too much to ask of a trade union. The amount could be slightly reduced if found expedient.

(b) The Committee agreed.

(c) The Committee agreed, but suggested there should be some provision for minimum working capital. In the case of a mutual insurance company the minimum was Rs.15,000. A minimum of Rs.5,000 might be applied to trade unions.

(d) The Committee agreed, ^{but} ~~that~~ here also they suggested there might be some provision as to the working capital. Part III of the Act provided that in the case of a Provident Society the minimum should be

Rs.5,000. The same figure might be suitable for trade unions.

In conclusion, the Committee stated that it might be contended that trade unions already had the necessary organisation to conduct their own insurance business; but, while the Committee did not wish to suggest a minimum figure for working capital which would make it impossible for trade unions to cater for the needs of the poor man who could not afford to insure in the amounts required by an insurance company, they thought it would be reasonable precaution to provide that working capital for the insurance schemes of trade unions should be specifically segregated from their ordinary funds.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for October 1940.) ✓

Compulsory Life Insurance for Government Servants:
Bengal Government's Scheme.

It is understood that the Government of Bengal is examining a scheme for compulsory life insurance of all Government servants in the Province. Relevant information is being collected at present regarding recruits, appointments, etc., during the last five years in gazetted, subordinate and inferior services and in subordinate offices, with the scale of pay, age, etc.

(The Hindu, 16-12-1940.) ✓

Need for Instituting National Health Insurance:
Please at 17th All-India Medical Conference, Vizagapatam. ✓

At the 17th session of the All-India Medical Conference held at Vizagapatam during the Christmas week of 1940, Dr. K.S. Ray, the President of the Conference, stressed the need for instituting a scheme of national health insurance scheme for India. Relevant extracts from his speech are reproduced below:

"Pressing hard on the attention of our legislators is the question of public health insurance with which is necessarily bound up that of rural medical aid, improvement and extension of hospitals or dispensaries generally. It augured well that as soon as provincial autonomy began to function in the provinces, the attention of those Governments was turned to labour, tenancy, and various other legislations ~~mean~~ meant for improving the economic condition of the people. While therefore there was much to congratulate these Governments on the success of those measures, I cannot but emphasise that there was one aspect of the question that did not unfortunately receive the same attention that its

importance warranted. I am referring to the introduction of a system of compulsory National Health Insurance. In a country like India where malaria, tuberculosis and other endemic and epidemic diseases are so rampant and account so largely for the devitalisation of our people, the question of public health must be given precedence in all efforts to improve the material conditions of the people. We have unfortunately no official statistics to ~~show~~ show the extent ~~is~~ of annual economic loss that the country suffers as a result of these diseases, but if the figures were available, one could assume they would be simply staggering.

"But what is nearer to the point is the institution of some scheme ~~in-the-institution-of-some-scheme~~ in India that at little cost will bring medical aid to all who desire it. I have in mind some such scheme as that of the panel system of England or its French counterpart, some scheme that gives the doctor a living and at the same time is within the means of at least the lower middle class people. It appears to me that a suitable scheme of this nature is not impossible of acceptance in India. If, for instance, in regard to mill-hands and such people the cost is shared between the Government, employers and employees, the share of each will not be found to be prohibitive or burdensome; nor even if the scheme is extended to the rural population. We have discussed various aspects of this question in committees and in our Journal, and Provincial Governments are not unaware of the views expressed. It is not a proposition that a private body can tackle and we can only press the matter again on the attention of the various governments concerned. We had also communicated our views on the matter to the Congress Economic Planning Committee."

(The Indian Express, 28-12-1940.)

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

2nd Madras District Unemployed Conference, Madras, 21 and 22-12-40.

The second session of the Madras District Unemployed Conference was held at Madras on 21 and 22-12-1940, Mr. S.K. Ahmed Meeran presiding. The Conference was formally opened by Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayengar, a former President of the Indian National Congress.

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's Address.- In opening the Conference, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar said that the outstanding national problem facing the country at present was poverty and unemployment. It was the primary duty of the State, not of the individuals however philanthropic they might be, to tackle the unemployment problem. The State should take over the sources of production and start new industries. Unfortunately, the pressure that should have been exerted on the Government to move in the matter had not been exerted. It was not education, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar said, that created the unemployment problem but want of industries and occupations. The present war time was a golden opportunity to provide for the educated unemployed. Huge loans could and should be raised for starting industries. It was ridiculous for the Government to say that private enterprise should tackle the unemployment problem. By such means, ~~industry~~ could not have the necessary capital and organisation. New industries should be started by the State or with State aid; otherwise the profits could not be distributed among the people at large. Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar suggested that the existing industries employing more than 500 hands should be taken over by the State. There was no use asking people to lower their standard of life. He suggested that the unemployed young men should ~~play~~ a part of their own, non-political in character, and should co-operate with the Government, whoever they might be, for the purpose of relieving unemployment.

Presidential Address.- Mr. Ahmed Meeran said that the unemployment problem was becoming severe day by day. Apart from the wastage involved in not making use of available material, the suffering and hunger in which the unemployed found themselves created discontent driving them to paths of conduct fraught with grave consequences to society. It was essential that the State should take steps to tackle the problem. It was difficult ~~xxxxxx~~ for private agencies to take up this task and he added that the Government should enact special taxation for the relief of the unemployed. He urged that in the matter of appointment preference should be given to the educated poor and pleaded for a change in the system of education so as to lay more emphasis on vocational training.

Resolutions: (1) Plea for Vocational Bias.- The main resolution adopted by the Conference expressed the view that the present system of education, while erring too much on the liberal side, did not provide the recipients with the means of earning their livelihood, ~~and holding~~ that the perpetuation of the system would only add to the growth of unemployment, ~~and~~ asked that the system be reformed with a view to make it more utilitarian by including such subjects as military science, aeronautics, the cinema, radio, wireless and photography at suitable stages.

(2) Committee to enquire into the Unemployment Problem.- The Conference ~~was~~ resolved that a standing committee of officials and non-officials, including scientists, industrialists and economists be set

up to inquire into the extent of the unemployment problem, classify the nature of the different groups of the unemployed and devise means to combat the problem. It also asked for the establishment of a separate department of the Government to deal exclusively with the problem and to help the Standing Committee.

3. Other Resolutions.- The Conference resolved to request the Government to implement Mr. B. Gopala Reddi's (Minister in the late Madras Congress Cabinet) scheme for the expansion of the multi-purpose co-operative societies, to conscript educated unemployed for training in educational methods utilising their services for the removal of illiteracy in the countryside; to promote a good scheme of insurance for unemployment; and lastly to levy a special tax on persons earning Rs.5,000 and more per annum and to use the proceeds thereof for the relief of the unemployed.

By other resolutions the Conference requested the Government to publish the colonisation scheme for the relief of the unemployed prepared by Mr. V.V. Giri during the regime of the Congress Ministry, urged trusts and endowments to organise schemes for the relief of the unemployed, recommended the Government to fix the age-limit for retirement from Government service at 50 and to raise the age-limit for entry thereto to 30, appealed to the unemployed to register themselves as such at the coming census and urged the Government to take full advantage of the occasion to take a complete statistics of the unemployed.

It was resolved to wait in deputation on the Advisers to the Madras Government with a view to draw their attention to the magnitude of the problem and to the need to tackle it properly by setting up the Standing Committee asked for.

(The Hindu, 23 and 24-12-1940).✓

Relieving Middle Class Unemployment:
Training Course instituted by Department of Industries,
Bengal. ✓

According to a notice dated 7-12-1940, issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal, in furtherance of the scheme for relieving unemployment among the middle class youths of Bengal, the Department of Industries, Bengal, will enlist fresh batches of students for free practical training in the manufacture of metal casting, cutlery, pottery goods and umbrellas. The full course covers a period of 8 to 9 months. It will be open only to unemployed youths of Bengal who are keen on following the industry as a means of livelihood after the completion of their training.

Further, in connection with the scheme of training for the manufacture of inks, adhesives, disinfectants and sealing wax, the Department of Industries, Bengal, in the Chemical Section is making arrangements for enlisting fresh batch of students for giving them free training in the above subjects. The training class will be held at the Industrial Research Laboratory, Calcutta, and the full course of training will cover a period of four to six months. The minimum qualification necessary will be passing of the I.Sc. Examination, but preference will be given to those who have passed the B.Sc. Examination.

(Communiqué dated 7-12-1940 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal.). ✓

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MIGRATION.

Indians in Ceylon, 1939:

Report of the Agent of the Government of India.* ✓

The Annual Report for 1939 of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon points out that the total area of Ceylon is 16,212,400 acres of which 559,237 acres are under tea, 605,200 under rubber, 1,100,000 under coconut and 1,272,000 under other products. The total cultivated area is 3,536,437 acres. The estimated total population of the Island in 1939 was 5,922,000; of these about 800,000 were Indians.

Indian Estate Population.- The number of Indian labourers and their dependents on estates on 31-12-1939 was 678,908 as against 682,570 at the end of 1938 and 677,987 at the end of 1937. Of the 678,908 persons, 209,718 were men, 202,819 women and 266,371 children. The total number of estates employing 5 or more Indian labourers and paying acreage fees to the Indian Immigration Fund on 31-12-1939 was 1,322 as against 1,325 in 1938 and 1,372 in 1937.

Migration Statistics.- The number of Indian estate labourers who came to Ceylon from India during the year 1939 was 29,259 as against 47,210 in 1938 and 51,427 in 1937. During the year under review 31,714 estate labourers (excluding repatriates) returned from Ceylon to India against 43,803 in 1938 and 37,605 in 1937. There were 2,455 emigrants from Ceylon in excess of immigrants from India. There was a sudden steep fall in the number of immigrants from August due to the ban on emigration ordered in the Government of India notification of the 1st August 1939. The notification of the 1st August 1939 prohibited the emigration of all persons departing out of British India to Ceylon for the purpose of unskilled ~~labor~~ work.

There were 44,134 more departures than arrivals in the unassisted class during the year as against 45,923 in 1938 and 30,810 in 1937.

Labour Position in Estates.- The condition of the tea and rubber industries, with the prosperity of which the welfare of the vast majority of the Indian labourers in Ceylon is bound up, may be said to have been satisfactory during the year 1939, and better than in 1938. The outbreak of war early in September caused a sudden and considerable advance in commodity prices. The average price of tea per pound rose from 73 cents on the 1st August to Re. 1.01 on the 1st November and fell to 92 cents towards the end of December. The exportable quantity of rubber from Ceylon under the International Agreement was 62,275 tons in 1939 as against 45,375 tons in 1938. The total net exports during the year amount to 61,584 tons in 1939 as against 49,282 tons in 1938. The price of rubber continued to be fairly steady during January to August after which it showed a distinct rise during the remaining months of the year.

No shortage of labour was experienced by the estates during the year. During the first three months of the year many planting districts

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Re.1-10-0 or 2s.6d. pp.51.

were partially affected by drought and work was in consequence short on many estates. The stoppage of recruitment and subsequently the prohibition of emigration from the 1st August 1939 continued to have an indirect but nevertheless substantial and wholesome effect on the general condition of labour on estates and availability of work. In the last quarter of the year, however, labourers thrown out of work found some difficulty in securing new employment. Though the prevailing labour unrest was a contributory factor, this was mainly due to an absence of demand for any additional labour on estates.

Minimum Wages on Estates.- The following rates of wages continued to prevail up to 12-6-1939:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	
Up Country	49	39	29) With issue price of rice not exceeding Rs.4/80 per bushel.
Mid country	43	35	25	
Low country	41	33	24	

The Wages Boards met early in 1939 and made ~~their~~ recommendations that the wages on mid and low country estates should be restored to the levels which prevailed before February 1932. This decision was confirmed by the Ceylon Government and the revised rates came into legal effect from the 12th June 1939. The following were the rates of minimum wages in force on estates from the 12th June 1939:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	
Up country	49	39	29) With issue price of rice not exceeding Rs.4/80 per bushel.
Mid country	47	37	28	
Low country	45	36	27	

The cost of foodstuffs and other articles used by Indian estate labourers has risen since the declaration of war, at any rate since about November. This rise in the cost of living calls for an adjustment of earnings in proportion, and the matter has been brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Housing of Labourers.- Of the 577 estates inspected during the year, overcrowding was noticed on 41 estates of which 20 were only slightly overcrowded. Of the 82,655 line rooms inspected during the year 15,854 were found to be not up to Government standard and 66,801 were up to requirements. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services reports:- "The percentage of non-overcrowded lines was 90 compared to 80 in 1938. Great improvement has also been made in the type of line built."

Maternity Benefits.- Details of an informal "agreement" between the Ceylon Health authorities and the representatives of the planting community regarding maternity benefits on estates were given at pages 54 of our May 1939 report. It was also stated that a draft Maternity Benefits Ordinance had been introduced in the State Council (vide page 2 of our March 1939 report). The question had arisen whether in view of the "agreement", estate labourers should be excluded from the benefits of the Bill. Standing Committee 'B', to which the Bill had been

referred, did not recommend the exclusion of estate labourers from its scope, but added a proviso to section 5 of the Bill prescribing that exemptions from liability to pay maternity benefits, at the cash rate of 50 cents. a ~~week~~ day for two weeks before and 4 weeks after confinement, under the Ordinance could be granted to an employer by the Controller of Labour if the latter was satisfied that such employer had provided such alternative benefits for female labourers resident upon estates as would be prescribed, and had made arrangements to his satisfaction to give effect to such undertaking. The Standing Committee also recommended the deletion of the proviso to section 18 of the draft Bill which, if allowed to remain, would have enabled an estate employer, if he chose, either to decline payment of maternity benefits under the new Ordinance or to avoid the obligation to provide a free lodging under section 12 (1) (f) of Ordinance No. 9 of 1912. The Ordinance as amended by the Standing Committee passed its ~~third~~ third reading in the State Council on the 19th July 1939. The Ordinance was however not brought into force during the year. Statutory regulations under clause 5 prescribing the alternative benefits which would entitle an employer to pay cash benefits at less than the Ordinance rate of 50 cents. a day for 6 weeks have also not yet been framed.

Résumé of Events.- (1) Dismissal of Indian Employees from Government Service.- 1939 has been an eventful year in the history of Indian labour in Ceylon. The Ceylon Ministry's scheme of dismissal of Indian daily paid workers was published early in March 1939. The announcement of this policy provided the occasion for an intensification of the anti-Indian agitation, particularly in Colombo and its neighbourhood. This took the form of an aggressive boycott of Indian shops and demonstrations against the employment of Indians in Colombo. Repercussions of this movement were felt in ~~the~~ the planting areas where a certain amount of uneasiness among Indian estate labour was first noticed. The first strike in the history of Indian estate labour in Ceylon occurred towards the end of April 1939. The ferment gradually increased both in Colombo and elsewhere until about the end of August.

The Ceylon Ministry's scheme for the discontinuance of Indian daily paid staff in Government Departments was brought into effect on the 1st August. Certain modifications in it made by the Ceylon Government did not remove the objection to it on principle and did not satisfy Indian opinion. On 1-8-1939, the Government of India acting under the newly introduced Section 30-A (1) of the Indian Emigration Act published a Notification that in view of the great uncertainty prevailing in Ceylon regarding the employment of Indian unskilled labour in that country, as a result of the policy of the Ceylon Ministry, emigration to Ceylon for the purpose of unskilled work would be prohibited with effect from 1-8-1939.

(2) Organisation of Estate Labourers.- With the outbreak of the war on the 3rd September active anti-Indian boycott movement in Ceylon subsided. The uneasiness among estate labourers however took a new turn. Organised associations of labourers began to be formed on many estates. The movement which was hitherto unknown among Indian estate labourers grew rather rapidly. This was a sign of the times and indicated a rise of a new consciousness; and Indian labourers in Ceylon learned for the first time the value of collective bargaining and the advantage of giving united expression to grievances. A number of strikes occurred on several estates in the last four months of the year. The position tended to deteriorate gradually, though fortunately no cases of violence were reported up to the end of the year. The movement for the formation of labour unions appears to have come to stay.

In some cases employers tried to meet the situation created by the spread of the organisational movement among labourers by trying to get rid of the "leaders" who were canvassing membership for associations. Since August the Agency received 135 petitions alleging victimisation of labourers for no reason except that they worked for the formation of associations. In almost every case it was denied that the associational activities had anything to do with the reason for the dismissal of the particular labourers. It is significant that the number of criminal trespass cases increased with the increase in the unrest on estates and the increasing anxiety of the employers to meet the situation.

(3) Health Conditions. - Health on estates was generally satisfactory. There was a slight rise both in the birth and in the death rates among the Indian estate population and a slight fall in the infantile mortality rates and in the number of maternal deaths. There was also a small increase in the number of midwives employed on estates and in the number of maternity wards. An increase was also shown in the number of estate schools and in the number of children attending them. It is however disappointing that no progress has been made in the matter of replacement of unqualified dispensers on estates by qualified hands. No progress was also made during the year in the spread of co-operative institutions on estates.

(4) New Legislation. - As regards new legislation affecting Indians, the Village Communities Ordinance, to which reference was made in last year's report, became law with effect from 1-1-1939. The Destitute Immigrants' Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance was assented to by His Excellency the Governor on 8-2-1939. An Ordinance to restrict the immigration into Ceylon of members of Indian Criminal Tribes received His Majesty's assent during the year. The Shops Regulation Ordinance came into operation with effect from 1-8-1939. ✓

Conditions of Indians in Trinidad in 1939:

Report of the Protector of Immigrants. ✓

Indian Population and their Economic Conditions. - According to the report of the Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, there were over 161,000 Indians in the colony on 31-12-1939, and they owned nearly 114,000 acres of land. The principal crops grown are cocoa and sugar cane, the largest acreage (50,188) being under cocoa and the next largest (20,125) under sugar cane. Of the area owned nearly 10,000 acres are uncultivated and about 12,000 acres given to mixed cultivation. The rest of the acreage is distributed amongst a variety of crops — rice, corn, provisions, coffee, cocoanuts, limes, etc. There was a further slight decrease in the number of Indian cane farmers during the year, the figure being 9,444 as against 11,245 in 1938 and 13,822 in 1937.

Education. - 26,294 Indian children (16,032 boys and 10,262 girls) attended schools during the year under review while the total number of Indian children on the rolls in 1938 was 24,974 (15,538 boys and 9,435 girls).

Emigration Statistics. - 78 Indians arrived in the colony during the year and 87 left during the same period.

Vital Statistics. - The number of births registered for the year was 5,851, the number of deaths 2,721 and the number of marriages 652. The corresponding figures for 1938 were 6,540, 2,647 and 635 respectively.

Political Status.- Indians enjoy the same political rights and privileges as other sections of the Island population and follow practically the same occupations which include those of landlords, merchants, shopkeepers, dairymen, peasant proprietors, professional men and civil servants. Three Indians continue to be elected members of the Legislative Council. The East Indian Advisory Board established in 1937, to advise Government on matters concerning the community, functioned satisfactorily during the year.

(Press Note issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India: No.F.24/42/40-Pub. dated 4-12-1940.) ✓

Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Conference:
Reasons for Failure.

Reference was made at page 18 of our November 1940 report to the communiqué issued by the Government of India that the Exploratory Conference of the Delegation of the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon which began at New Delhi on 4-11-1940 terminated inconclusively, no agreement being reached on the major issue of the status of Indians resident in Ceylon. Details of the discussions at the Conference and reasons for its failure were disclosed by Mr. D.S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture, Ceylon, who was a delegate to the Conference, at the 21st session of the Ceylon National Congress:

Proposals of the Two Governments.- Mr. Senanayake said that the Ceylon Government Delegation proposed that franchise should be given to all Indians now in Ceylon who have permanently settled down there and full rights of citizenship should be given only to the second generation of such Indians. To make the point clear, Indians now in Ceylon may be divided into three classes: (1) The second generation of Indians who have made Ceylon their permanent home: To them the Ceylon Government gives full rights of citizenship and treats them as Ceylonese for all purposes. (2) Those Indians, who have made Ceylon their permanent home irrespective of ~~xxx~~ who their parents were and have resided at least for five years. To them the Ceylon Government not only offered to give the rights to continue to reside and earn their living, but also to confer franchise rights. Such Indians, however, will not be entitled to certain special benefits namely obtaining crown lands under Government scheme, etc. (3) Those Indians now in Ceylon who have not settled permanently there but continue to have connections with India. They will be entitled to obtain certificates to enable them to continue to reside and earn their living but they will not have any other rights, such as franchise.

Representatives of the Government of India rejected these proposals and made the following counter-proposals: (1) The first category in the Ceylon delegates' proposals: giving full rights of citizenship to second generation of Indians permanently settled in Ceylon, to remain; (2) Full rights of citizenship with exceptions stated below to be conferred on all Indians who can furnish proof (a) of five years' residence and (b) of permanent interest in the Island. The fact that a married person lives in Ceylon with his wife and children should suffice to raise presumption of permanent interest. A similar test

is to be adopted for unmarried persons. The only exceptions from full rights of citizenship applicable to this class are the following:

(1) They may not claim the right for appointment in Ceylon Government service but their descendents are to be entitled to it, (2) they may not claim grants of crown land already set apart for Ceylonese but they are to have equality of rights to all other crown land. (3) The other Indians not coming under the above classes, to be entitled to engage in any lawful vocation or calling which they now exercise or may hereafter exercise without discrimination. These Indians now in Ceylon may, however, qualify in future to come within the second category.

In explaining the implications of the proposals of the Government of India, Mr. Senanayake said: "Their proposals would practically amount to our having to confer full rights of citizenship on the entire 900,000 Indians now in Ceylon, irrespective of the fact that their real home is India and not Ceylon except to those who choose to live in Ceylon. We found it impossible to agree to these proposals and so the conference had to end in an unsatisfactory manner. We suggested that the proposed Indo-Ceylon trade talks be taken up but the representatives of the Government of India said, 'As no mutual goodwill has been established, they were not prepared to discuss the question of trade between the two countries.'"

(The Indian Express, 23-12-1940.)

The U.P. Debt Redemption Act, 1940. ✓

The Governor of the United Provinces has promulgated the U.P. Debt Redemption Act, 1940. In the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Act, it is pointed out that experience has shown that the provisions of the Acts which were passed for the liquidation of agricultural debt in 1935, have failed to reduce debts to a level which would enable any measures which may be passed to put agricultural credit on a sound basis in future, to be effective. Before therefore such measures can be effective it is necessary to pass an Act which will effectively reduce agricultural debt. This is the main object of this Act which applies only to loans incurred before 1st June, 1940. Under the Act, debt is reduced by the application of low rates of interest - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. - per annum simple interest in the case of secured debt and 6 per cent. per annum simple interest in the case of unsecured debt, where the contractual rate is greater than these rates. The Act also provides for the application of the law of damdupat in the form in which it applies to unpaid interest. The Bill does not provide for the application of the principle of damdupat to paid interest as this in many cases amounts to a reduction not only of accumulated interest but even of the principal of the loan, and would mean the extinction of a large number of usufructuary mortgages without any payment by mortgagor. Decrees passed under the provisions of the Act will be executable under the ordinary law except as regards execution against land and agricultural produce. If such decrees are sought to be executed by sale of land the court will transfer the necessary amount of land at a valuation to the decree-holder; but if at any time before such land is transferred the debtor expresses in writing his desire to have the land put to sale, the court will sell it. Furthermore, a portion of the debtor's land will be altogether protected from sale or transfer in execution of a decree for debt. A decree can, however, be executed against this protected land by the grant of a self-liquidating mortgage for a period not exceeding ~~xx~~ twenty years. As regards execution against agricultural produce, only one-third of the agricultural produce of the debtor will be liable to attachment at any one time and the period of limitation for the execution of decrees against such produce is reduced to six years.

The provisions of the Act regarding the reduction of undecreed debt are also made applicable to debt which has been decreed before the Act comes into force. The provisions of the Act relating to transfer of land at valuation and the protection of a portion of the debtor's land from transfer in execution of a decree for debt, apply to almost all agriculturists irrespective of the amount of rent or revenue or income-tax paid by them. The Act will not apply to proceedings for the recovery of debt from an agriculturist if the creditor declares that he will not proceed against the land, agricultural produce, or person of the debtor in execution of his decree. When such a declaration is made the debtor ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ will not be entitled to claim any reduction of debt under the provisions of the Act and the creditor will not be entitled to proceed against the land, agricultural produce or person of the debtor in realization of his decree. Loans advanced by scheduled banks are excluded from the scope of the Act. ✓

The U.P. Regulation of Agricultural Credit Act, 1940. ✓

The Governor of the United Provinces has promulgated the U.P. Regulation of Agricultural Credit Act, 1940, with a view to prevent excessive borrowing by agriculturists. The Statement of objects and reasons points out that the Act deals with debt that may be contracted on or after 1-6-1940. It is concerned only with the debts of agriculturists and only with the extent to which decrees based on such debts can be executed against agricultural produce and land. It provides that no decree can be executed against agricultural produce after six years have expired from the date of the passing of the decree and that not more than one-third of an agriculturist's crops can be attached at any one time in satisfaction of any decree or any number of decrees. The effect of these provisions is that the amount that will be lent to a borrower, whose only security is his crop, will be limited to an amount that he can pay without undue hardship. At the same time any credit that he may have by virtue of any other security which he may be able to offer will not be interfered with.

In the case of proprietors the Act provides that the land of a proprietor who does not pay more than 25 rupees local rate or 250 rupees land revenue, is protected and cannot be sold in execution of a decree for debt, unless the court is satisfied that sale would not be adverse to the interest of the judgment-debtor, and his heirs, and that the judgment-debtor has other sufficient means of livelihood. All that the creditor can obtain is a self-extinguishing usufructuary mortgage for twenty years. At the expiry of that period the land reverts to the judgement-debtor, without any payment by him. In order to prevent evasion of this Act the Bill provides that this protected land cannot be permanently alienated except with the sanction of the Assistant Collector-in-charge of the sub-division.

(The Government Gazette of the United Provinces
Part VII-A, dated 28-12-1940, pages 27 to 31.) ✓

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.
Employers' Organisations.

8th Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of India,
Calcutta, 17-12-1940. ✓

The 7th annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 17-12-1940 with Mr. J.H.S. Richardson, Deputy President of the Federation in the chair, in the absence of Sir H.P. Mody, the President.

Presidential Address.- In the course of the presidential address, Mr. Richardson referred to the impact of the war on Indian industries and expressed satisfaction that a great deal of possible unsettlement was obviated by the large orders in India for war supplies which counter-balanced the ill-effects of the war. Mr. Richardson said it would be foolish for employers to relax in the slightest degree their interest in the present activities of the Government of India in regard to the impending labour legislation. The question of technical training was of tremendous importance. Referring to the first batch of Indians from workshops in India who would be leaving India next month, he said that it would give them an opportunity of studying the trade union movement and other labour organisations in England. Mr. Richardson said that these men when they returned to India would be pioneers of a better and more responsible trade union movement.

Sir H.P. Mody's Message.- In the course of a message to the Conference, Sir H.P. Mody, the President of the Federation, pointed out that the war has brought many problems in its train for the employers. They have adjusted themselves with expedition and efficiency to the new conditions which have been created and have throughout adopted a helpful attitude towards the common task of prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion. Many new departments of Government have been created for handling the situation and naturally enough, in the initial stages, a certain amount of dislocation and confusion has been in evidence. Things are now being better organised, however, and if the authorities concerned will make it an article of faith to keep in close and constant touch with industrialists, the war effort of the country will be greatly accelerated.

Subjects Discussed.- The proposed amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, Holidays with Pay, the extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines were among the subjects discussed at the meeting.

Office-bearers for 1941.- Sir H.P. Mody was re-elected President and Mr. J.H.S. Richardson, Mr. G.B. Gourlay and Mr. R. Menzies were appointed Deputy Presidents of the Federation.

(The Statesman, 19-12-1940.) ✓

22nd Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of
Commerce of India, Calcutta, 16-12-1940. ✓

The 22nd session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 16-12-1940, Mr. J.H.S. Richardson presiding. The meeting was formally opened by Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. Richardson surveyed the Indian political and world war situations and dealt at some length with the repercussions of the war on Indian industry generally and the export trade in particular; he also referred to the contribution that Indian industry would be able to make towards the accentuated production of war supplies, provided industrialists were given sufficient encouragement by the Government. The main points in the address are briefly noticed below:-

Dwindling of Export Trade.- Directing attention to the dwindling export trade of India, he said: "A study of the pre-war sea-borne trade accounts of British India shows that the increasingly growing number of countries with whom we have ceased to trade entails a loss of exports to the value of something over Rs.260 millions. In addition, exchange difficulties, shortage of shipping, increased railway freight and taxation all show the extent to which the commercial community has to bear the brunt of the war."

Work of Supply Department.- Referring to the many criticisms of the Department of Supply made by the business community, he said, that it would be surprising if the formation and development of such a colossal organisation, which has placed orders from the beginning of the war to the end of September 1940, amounting to some Rs.565 millions, did not in its early stage breed a variety of defects which quite rightly appear to industrialists, who are eager for their services to be utilized to the full, as serious impediments to the war effort, and made it clear that they were made only with a view to promote more effective co-ordination of industrial effort for the prosecution of the war.

Viceroy's Address.- The address made by the Viceroy on the occasion comprehensively reviewed industrial, economic and political conditions in the country, and their bearings on India's war effort. The points of interest to the Office in the address are briefly noticed below:-

Stimulating War Production.- Detailing the steps taken to accelerate and augment war production in India, he said that the matter was engaging the constant attention of the Government of India. "The National Service Ordinance recently enacted aims at securing that the skilled labour at present available in this country shall be put to the most efficient use, and the technical training scheme that we have devised (and which is estimated to cost very nearly Rs.10 millions) is designed to increase in a year our supply of such labour by no fewer than 15,000 men. Those measures are designed not only to assist the war effort. They have in view also the avoidance so far as possible of dislocation in those industries which in the main subserve civilian needs.... I hope that by far the greater proportion of the instructors we need will be found in India. But this country cannot meet the whole demand,

and I appealed therefore to His Majesty's Government to help us by lending us a small number of men trained in the latest methods now in use in the United Kingdom." He added that Mr. Bevin, the British Minister of Labour, cordially acceded to the request, and further initiated a scheme for training a number of artisans in factories in the United Kingdom.

Contraction of Exports.- The policy of economic warfare followed by the Government of India entails unquestionably hardships on the commercial community and the only justification for it can be that that policy is designed to expedite the termination of the war. But while pursuing that policy, the Government is concerned to mitigate as far as possible the injurious effects which it inevitably involves. It is with that object that the Export Advisory ~~Committee~~ Council has been established.

Alternative Markets.- The Government of India has had under investigation the possibility of alternative markets for products the export of which has been curtailed and for increasing India's exports to countries with which normal trade relations continue. A Trade Commissioner has been appointed for Australia and New Zealand, and that appointment will assist the growing trade between India and those two Dominions both now and in the post-war period. Consideration is being given to appointing Trade Commissioners elsewhere and to deputing Trade Missions to some of the countries in which there is a prospect of increased trade either in raw products or in finished goods.

War Industries.- The impetus given by the necessities of the war has resulted also in the establishment of certain new industries, and one may look as time goes on for still further development in that direction. The researches of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, with which leading scientists and industrialists are associated, have already borne good fruit, and the problem of utilizing their result so as to enable industries to be started is under active examination. The prospects of one industry in particular, the aluminium industry are excellent. The raw material is available in large quantity in this country. The facilities that are now being afforded by the Government are calculated to result in early production of this commodity which is most necessary and important for purposes of the war, and which will be of equal value after the return of peace. And the aluminium industry is only one of many others which have a bright future.

Work of Department of Supply.- Despite the admitted limitations upon many of the activities of the Department of Supply, its record stands scrutiny. The business done by the two purchasing organisations under the Department amounted in the first year of the war to ~~it~~ no less a figure than Rs.565 millions. By the end of 1940 India shall have supplied for war purposes 280,000 tons of Indian timber at a cost of just over Rs.27.3 millions, cotton canvas and cotton jute union canvas valued at Rs.27 millions; 12 million garments costing something like Rs.70 million, and tents costing over Rs.52 ~~million~~ ^{Rs. 52 million}. The labour force employed on the making of Army clothing (to take one item alone) has risen from 750 before the war to about 18,000 to-day. Those are a few typical figures on the General Stores side. On the munitions production side, India has supplied to His Majesty's Government 120 ~~million~~ million rounds of small arms ammunition, nearly 400,000 filled shells of various calibres, large quantities of explosives, and very large quantities of engineering stores. India is also procuring naval crafts at an estimated cost of Rs.7.4 million. The Viceroy made no attempt to justify any failure there may have been to keep pace with

the requirements of the situation. , but he hoped that as both the Department and Industry settle down to the programme of forward production, the complaints will disappear.

Roger Mission and Eastern Group Conference.- There have been two events of great importance, for both of which India can claim to have been very largely responsible. The first was the arrival in India of the Ministry of Supply Mission under Sir Alexander Roger which will enable India to make much more rapid progress in the supply of munitions. The idea that such a mission should be sent to India originated in India many months ago. The arrival of the Mission preceded by a few weeks the opening of the Eastern Group Conference. This Conference was called to consider the war supply problems of the Empire countries east of Suez. The suggestion that it should be held was sent from India, again, many months ago. Indian industrialists took part in the Conference as Advisers. For reasons that would be appreciated, he said, he could not enter into the conclusions and the recommendations of the Conference. But it was generally agreed by the visiting Delegations, the Ministry of Supply Mission, and the Indian Delegation, that the Conference accomplished what it set out to do, and laid the foundations of a sound co-ordinated War Supply policy. The Government of India had no hesitation in accepting its recommendations and it is hoped that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the other participating Governments will find it possible to do the same; and that ~~the Government will~~ to settle down without delay to give effect to its proposals.

Political Situation.- The Viceroy concluded his address with a review of the political situation in the country. He pointed out that ~~an~~ offer which he had ^{been} made on the 8th August ~~last~~ which affirmed that the accepted goal of the British Parliament was the attainment by India of free and equal partnership of the British Commonwealth, that the responsibility for framing the future constitution of India, subject to certain fundamental obligations of Great Britain, rested with Indians, that the rights of minorities should be adequately safeguarded, that immediately after the war a body representative of all the principal elements of Indian national life would be set up to devise the framework of the new constitution, and that in the meantime they proposed to expand at once the Government of India by the inclusion in it of Indian political leaders and to set up a War Advisory Council which should contain representatives of the Indian States as well as of British India. He invited the various Indian political parties to unite and work out the offer which was still open.

(The Statesman, 17-12-1940.)

Resolutions Adopted.- The following were ^{among} the resolutions adopted:

(a) Distribution of War Supply Contracts to include Smaller Concerns.- "The Associated Chambers wish that in the granting of Contracts by the Supply Department the interests of small established and reliable concerns should have 'special consideration'".

In moving the resolution, Mr. P.H. Guest (Northern India Chamber) pointed out that this resolution has emanated from a feeling that, with the transfer to Calcutta of many of the offices of the Supply Department and particularly the offices of Munitions Production and the Contracts Directorate, there will be a tendency for a centripetal force to operate with the result that those areas most remote from the centre will tend to be forgotten or neglected.

Industrial concerns may be grouped into three classes: (a) Those first-class firms of large size found in Bengal and Bombay who will contribute mostly to equipping the armed forces; (b) Firms of much smaller capacity but capable of contributing in the aggregate very considerably to the war effort; and (c) Petty firms who can only be brought into the productive orbit by the co-ordinating efforts of the firms of the first and second class in their respective areas. The resolution implies that there is a danger, not only of the petty concerns but also the provincial firms, being drawn under the control of the Bengal and Bombay concerns. At present in the Punjab much machinery is either idle or only being utilized to a small extent because its peace-time work has been severely restricted due to causes originating from the war.

The resolution was adopted with the amendment that the words "not be overlooked" be substituted for the words: "have 'special consideration'" at the end of the resolution.

2. Need to Amend Workmen's Compensation Act to exempt Employers from Liability for War Injuries. - "This Association urges upon the Government of India the advisability of enacting without delay legislation with a view to relieving employers of their liability to pay compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in respect of injuries that may be caused to operatives by the acts of an enemy or acts done in repelling an enemy; and providing for the payment by the State of compensation to such operatives."

In moving the resolution, Mr. C.P. Bramble (Bombay Chamber of Commerce) pointed out that so far as injuries resulting from war are concerned the present position is by no means clear. It would seem to be that an employer is liable for all injuries received indirectly by his workmen, while in the course of their employment. It is true that the employer can at present pass on his ill-defined and nebulous liability to the assurance companies, but for how much long that would be possible, one does not know.

The Government of India has already taken satisfactory action to cover the case of sea-faring men. There is also the experience of the compulsory insurance of commodities on land undertaken by Government at the cost of the merchants.

(The Statesman, 17-12-1940,)

and the text of resolutions adopted, forwarded to the Office by the Secretary, Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta.) ✓

The Delhi Provincial Shop Assistants' Conference, Delhi, 29 and
30-11-1940. ✓

The Delhi Provincial Shop Assistants Conference was held at Delhi on 29 and 30-11-1940, Nawabzada Mahmud Ali presiding. Resolutions adopted by the Conference, inter alia, requested the Local Government to enforce the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act in the Delhi Province, urged shopkeepers to fix an eight-hour working day and allow one month's leave in a year or pay one month's extra salary. The conference ^{also} demanded 25 per cent. ^{increase in wages as} war allowance on account of the increased prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-12-1940.) ✓

Trade Unionism in Hyderabad State:
Labour Leaders' Protest against Government's Opposition. ✓

Several labour leaders in India, including Messrs. V.R. Kalappa (President, All-India Trade Union Congress), Jamnadas Mehta and S. Guruswami (President and General Secretary respectively, All-India Railwaymen's Federation) and Aftab Ali (President, All-India Seamen's Federation) have issued a statement protesting against the attitude of the Government of Hyderabad State towards trade unionism; relevant extracts from the Statement are reproduced below:

"It is disconcerting to note that the hitherto liberal policy of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government in respect of trade union movement in the State has changed of late. The withdrawal of the 12 years' uninterrupted recognition of the State Railway Employees' Union on personal grounds and the Administration's insistence on highly retrograde and unheard of terms of recognition for the Union to agree to without question are facts in evidence. So far as we can see, the differences between the Union and the Administration are capable of adjustment to mutual satisfaction. Any prolonged tension is neither desirable for Government nor conducive to the welfare of the workers, and the impasse should therefore be ended."

(The Hindu, 13-12-1940.) ✓

24th session of Indian Economic Conference, Mysore,
28 to 30-12-1940. ✓

The 24th session of the Indian Economic Conference was held at Mysore from 28th to 30-12-1940, Mr. D.R. Gadgil, ^{Director, Lokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona,} presiding. The Conference was formally opened by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Address of the Maharaja of Mysore.- In opening the Conference, the Maharaja referred to the present political and economic ills of the world which have resulted in the present war and to the suffering of the masses on that account. He said that unless the masses were assured that a new order would be established in harmony with their hopes and needs by peaceful and constitutional means, the millions who were bearing in patient hope the uncertainties and the horrors of the present war, would turn to those who made insidious promises of a short cut to Utopia through revolution. Concluding, His Highness opined that the task of those who would build a new world from which war and poverty should be banished was two-fold. They had to prepare plans for the new order of things, political and economic, which could be demonstrated to be possible ~~as well as urgent and desirable~~. The other part of the task was to enlist the feelings of men and women on their side, to make them willing and eager to adopt their proposals. In these tasks the economists had a great part to play.

Presidential Address: Rural Indebtedness.- Mr. Gadgil took up the question of the manner in which the economic policy of the State in India should be modelled as the theme of his Presidential address. Referring to the operation of laissez faire policy in Indian economic policy, he drew attention to the development and the working of the rural credit system in India as offering a specially instructive ^{example.} One witnesses the results of a rapid transition from conditions of restraint imposed by laws and by social conventions to a state where there was complete liberty for the borrower to ruin himself and for the creditor to exploit him mercilessly. The fundamental factor in these relations is the great disparity in knowledge and economic power between the two parties, so that, where the disparity is the greatest the results are the worst. It is in the more precarious and poverty-stricken tracts that the money-lender is decisively dominant; and where, as in the case of the aboriginals, these conditions are accentuated by habits born out of a traditional primitive life the borrower is often no better than a serf. The failure of a policy of laissez faire to generate corrective forces, even in the very long term, is only too obvious over the whole field of Indian rural credit.

Wages of Labourers.- Another large field in which the failure of the usual 'laissez faire' assumptions may be shown to be markedly evident is that of the wages of industrial labour. The traditional market analysis yields the result that payments for similar services will be the same and it has been usually taken for granted that payments to the various types of workers in given occupations or industries in a locality or a region will tend to uniformity. This trend should further be specially marked among workers in modern large-scale industry who are concentrated in a

few important centres. The data regarding wages paid to industrial workers in India reveal a state of things which is at considerable variance with the results of this market analysis. Except where some measure of collective bargaining or external regulation is present, large differences are found to exist between the scales of payments to workers engaged in even contiguous establishments and no trend can be observed towards the disappearance or reduction of such differences. The forces which are usually said to make for a disturbance in the working of a free market for labour in other countries have mostly been absent in India. Trade unions have been either absent from large parts of the field of industrial labour or, where present, have been mostly ineffective; employers' organisations have also not usually paid any attention, till very recently, to the regulation of wage rates and the State has done nothing. And yet in this market, subjected to almost no influence or interference from outside, one finds conditions which can only be described as chaotic. In India industrial labour grew up mostly in new cities and was recruited from diverse regions, diverse occupations and from all strata of society. This heterogeneous mass was again not stable in its composition for any long period. Hence it, and in a somewhat similar manner the class of employers also, ideally fulfilled the requirements of free market analysis. The result lends support to the view that except under appropriate social conditions 'laissez faire' does not lead to order but, as one would naturally expect it to do, to chaos.

Technological Unemployment.- Referring to the problem of technological unemployment, the resident pointed out that it is only recently that the spread of modern industry and the continued progress of invention have brought home the difficulties of industrialisation acutely. That is why there has been in recent years more consideration given to the immediate unemployment caused by the progress of technology, as apart from the larger employment it may ultimately create; and in this latter respect also the verdict is not so emphatic as it used to be once. Even so the industrial countries of the West have experienced nothing like that entire upsetting of the traditional economy without compensating alternatives which has been the experience in India for a century. The nearest to this experience that the West has approached has been in the field of agriculture, where the technological changes in Colonial agriculture have impinged disastrously on the peasantry of many European countries. Even the modern refinements in the analysis of technological unemployment do not take into account the large variations in the incidence of this unemployment as between country and country. And yet in India these differences are the most striking feature of the situation. Here the technological revolution has meant chiefly the successive loss of avenues of employment. And this experience must continue with the constant progress of technology as long as the ~~deperate~~ position continues. Wherever either social, political or geographic factors prevent the wide adoption of modern technology the impact from outside of its products must lead to unemployment without necessarily resulting in sufficient compensatory action. These aspects of the question rarely receive their due attention and the analysis is carried on on the hypothesis of universalism, because its postulates fit, approximately, or used to fit the facts in the Western countries.

Landlord System.- All these considerations emphasize the fundamental importance, in ~~data~~ determining economic policy, of the social environment within which the economic problem is posed. In the field of applied economics the social background is all-important, especially

when there is an attempt, as has happened throughout the last 150 years ~~in India~~, to apply the theoretical analysis formulated and the lessons of experience gained in one country to another very differently circumstanced. In illustration of this, Mr. Gadgil referred to the development of the landlord system in India. While the peculiar character of the system introduced in Bengal was no doubt the result of particular local and historical circumstances, men like Lord Cornwallis may well have thought of the great benefits that the landlord system would confer on the land. Their policy was mainly based on the result of experiments in England. The result of the experiment in India was that the landlords, either in the permanently or the temporarily settled provinces have not functioned as pioneers of agricultural improvement,

Unemployment Insurance.- In most countries of the western world poor relief has been traditional and unemployment insurance in one form or another covers an ever widening field in recent years. In India the only measure of this character adopted has been the opening of famine relief works by Government at times of widespread failure of crops. The incidence of this relief is, however, occasional and it is further available only in times of failure of crops due to natural causes and not in other times of agricultural distress as, for example, that brought about by a collapse of prices. It is unnecessary to argue the case for the urgent need for the introduction of some general system of poor or unemployment relief in India. There should be no dearth of suitable items for a public works programme. The extent of the construction of roads, embankments, wells, tanks, or works of afforestation, etc., that could be usefully undertaken in rural India is very considerable and this is work that will enlarge in a productive manner the country's capital equipment. Obviously, the scale on which these annual works are provided would be very much smaller than is usual in a year of famine; they would also not be large concentrated works but local works scattered over the district. Their cost, too, would not prove them uneconomic. In other countries where the policy of relief through public works has been found costly that has been largely because of the need of adapting labour, which was mainly industrial, ~~and~~ to work to which it was unaccustomed and in some respects unsuited. In India, however, labour seeking work on relief works would be accustomed to the work it would have to do. The provision of work along these lines would obviate many of the difficulties in the way of the administration of relief or insurance schemes on the western model; and this seems the best way in which to begin to tackle this problem. It is conceded that the cost of such a continuous public relief-works policy would be considerable; but whatever the cost, it must be borne. For, this is a primary responsibility which the society must recognise and the State should take upon its shoulders.

Control of Investments.- The chief type of control exercised at ~~present~~ present over the introduction of new inventions is that by the activities of various types of vested interests. If the State itself controls investments likely to be affected by new inventions it is usually prompt in controlling them. The best instance of this is, of course, the attitude adopted by all Governments which own railway systems towards the extension of mechanical road transport. The Indian Government, faced with the new means of transport, talks of the danger to public investment; but it does not yet recognise the corresponding responsibility where the traditional mode of living of millions of people is similarly endangered. The extent of the suffering involved in the process of transition is yet very inadequately realised. The artisans and the agriculturists have undoubtedly suffered the most. The history of the fortunes of the handloom industry is a continuous record of

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partial stabilisation followed by ever fresh periods of disaster. He said that detailed studies of conditions in centres like Sholapur and Poona had revealed the precariousness of the equilibrium in the industry and the appalling conditions of work and living obtaining within it. And yet Governments have attempted little to remedy or to alleviate the situation.

Location of Industry.- Lastly, Mr. Gadgil referred to the problems created by the location of industry. India is a vast country and the problem of location is of particular importance in it. In recent years there has been a controversy regarding the location of sugar factories and the permissible extent of the development of the sugar industry in the country. The report of the Tariff Board on the heavy chemicals industry pointed to the great advantages of a concentration of that industry. But its purely negative policy would not allow the Government to do anything in this regard. Attention was also drawn in this connection to the claim made by the iron and steel industry in India in respect of 'freight advantages'. This claim was allowed by the Tariff Board but it raises an important question of principle which needs careful consideration. The claim of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., in effect means that even a single monopolist concern, wherever situated, ought to commandeer the whole of the Indian market. At the same time, under the present policy, such a monopolist concern would be under no obligation not to indulge in rate-cutting to prevent the emergence of a competitor even in a distant part of the market.

While vested interests in India are too ready to seek support of arguments that would obtain for them a field free from external competition they often show themselves extremely impatient of the logical extension of these arguments, viz., internal regulation. An undue concentration of industries in one region is bound to accentuate the difficulties in other regions and a pure laissez faire attitude towards internal financial and industrial exploitation is likely to give rise to forces making for economic and social disintegration over large areas. What Indians have still to fight for is the recognition of the fundamental claim that the concrete facts of the situation shall be allowed to shape an appropriate positive economic policy for the country; and what is to be emphasised is that in the shaping of this policy the legitimate claims of the major geographical and social regions in the country should be given due weight.

Several papers on current economic problems were read at the Conference. Dr. J.P. Neogi, Minto Professor of Economics, Calcutta University, has been elected President of the 25th session of the Conference to be held at Bombay in December 1941.

(The Indian Express, 30-12-1940, and the Hindu, 3-1-1941.) ✓

The ~~2nd~~ 22nd session of the National Liberal Federation was held at Calcutta from 28 to 30-12-1940 under the presidentship of Mr. V.N. Chandravarkar, ex-Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University. A brief summary of ^{the} passages in the Presidential address and resolutions which are of interest to the Office, is given below:

Presidential Address: Plea for Industrial Planning.- After reviewing the political and war problems in India, the president urged the need for large-scale industrial planning. The Roger Mission and the Eastern Group Conference that met at Delhi only recently will do all that is needful for purposes of war-time industry and for correlation on that account between countries and interests with kindred aim. But this is only a temporary phase. What Indians ought to press upon the attention of the Government as also upon the attention of all businessmen in India is that a temporary alignment and co-ordination of effort are not enough. What India needs most is a definite and large-scale planning which will unmistakably provide for clear-sighted industrial prosperity of India after the war. And the task should be a joint consultation and effort between officials directly concerned and businessmen in the country as well. In all fields of industry, India is pushing ahead since the last war and there is no dearth of non-official talent and capital in this country, provided one knows how to harness it to this planning of industry and to the successful orientation and carrying out of the plan.

Resolutions: (1) War and Industrial Development.- Dr. P. Neogy moved the following resolution on war and industrial development:

"The National Liberal Federation of India strongly protests against the virtual exclusion of Indians from higher positions in the Supply Department in connection with its recent reorganisation and urges its Indianisation in order to win the confidence of Indians.

The Federation presses on the Government of India and the provincial Governments the importance of taking advantage of the present conditions to foster the industrial development of the country. It is necessary in its opinion for this purpose that the fiscal policy of the Government should be suitably changed and that special efforts should be made to secure the establishment or expansion of the basic chemical and other industries and the establishment of new industries under Indian control and management,

The Federation is of opinion that national interests require that special attention should be paid to the establishment of small-scale industries.

The Federation urges the taking of all possible steps to develop shipbuilding, aircraft and automobile manufacturing industries in the country.

The Federation appreciates the decision of the Government of India to appoint more trade commissioners with a view to finding new markets for Indian products, but in view of the magnitude of the interests involved is of the opinion that vigorous efforts should be made to find new outlets for such commodities the marketing of which has been adversely affected by the war."

(2) Indians Overseas.- The following resolution on Indians overseas was moved by the President:

"The Federation reaffirms its resolutions about the injustice to Indians overseas and calls upon the Government not to relax its efforts to remove the cause of their just complaints. The Federation welcomes the firm attitude adopted by them to take such further steps as may be necessary to protect the interests of Indians.

The Federation welcomes the raising of the status of the representative of the Government of India in South Africa from that of an Agent to the High Commissioner and wants the Government of India to appoint high commissioners in other Dominions. The Federation disapproves the appointment of officials to such posts and is of the opinion that all such offices should be held by Indians selected from the public life of the country".

(3) Reforms in Indian States.- "The National Liberal Federation expresses its full sympathy with the natural and perfectly legitimate aspirations of the people of Indian states for civil and political liberties.

The Federation urges that the rulers of states should without further delay concede to their subjects the rights of security of person and property, liberty of speech and press, freedom of association as well as representative government as a prelude to responsible government."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-12-1940, and Leader 1-1-1941.) ✓

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Meetings Announced

19th Half-Yearly Meeting between the Railway Board and the

A.I.R.F: Items on the Agenda. ✓

A Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India announces that the nineteenth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation will be held in New Delhi on January 8, 1941, and if found necessary on the 9th also. The following subjects are to be discussed: (1) alleged grievances of employees of the Bengal Dooars Railway on their transfer to State Railway Service; (2) alleged grievances of ex-apprentices and retrenched employees of State-managed railways; (3) working of the rules regulating discipline and right of appeal of non-gazetted railway servants on State-Managed Railways and (4) the age of compulsory retirement for inferior servants employed on State-managed railways.

(The Hindu, 24-12-1940.) ✓

Second Conference of Labour Ministers to meet on 27 and 28-1-1941:

Items on the Agenda.

The second conference of Labour Ministers will be held at New Delhi on 27 and 28-1-1940. The agenda will include: amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929; holidays with pay, extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and shops, amendment of Section 5 of the Factories Act, recognition of trade unions, sickness insurance, and the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines.

(The Statesman, 20-12-1940.) ✓

Technical Institute for Delhi:
Decision of the Government of India. ✓

The Government of India has decided to convert the existing Government High School and Commercial Institute at Delhi into a Technical Institute, in pursuance of one of the main recommendations of the Abbott-Wood Report. (A brief summary of the main recommendations of the Abbott-Wood Report was given at pages 84 to 86 of our July 1937 Report). The proposed Institute will contain, in addition to an experimental Technical High School, provision for courses or classes in technical, commercial and art subjects for students already in or preparing to enter employment. The Technical High School will provide for an annual intake of 60 pupils. The minimum age at entry will be 11 and the normal length of the course, six years. The school will thus contain about 360 pupils and no reduction in the total facilities for higher education in Delhi will be involved. It is hoped to start the new venture in the school year 1941-42.

The general aim of the Technical High School will be to offer to pupils of the normal high school type an alternative form of higher education of a less academic character which will allow a greater freedom of choice both to pupils and teachers and will comprise, in the later stages, grouped courses incorporating the principles of technology and of commerce. Technical skill and manual dexterity will not be pursued merely for their own sake. The object will be to cultivate an interest in the wider problems of modern industry rather than in the technical difficulties of particular processes, so that the pupil upon entering employment will have an interest in his trade or profession not confined only to the office or workshop but embracing its more comprehensive aspects, whether economic, technical or sociological.

(The Statesman, 7-12-1940.) ✓

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME. ✓

Wages.

War Allowance for Railway Employees:
Court of Enquiry Submits Report.

Reference was made at pages 49 to 50 of our August 1940 report to the appointment of a Court of Enquiry by the Government of India to go into the question of the need for the grant of war dearness allowance to railway workers. It is understood that the Court has submitted its report and that it will be published in January 1941.

(The Statesman and Hindustan Times,
14-12-1940.)

Grant of Grain Allowance to Low-Paid Central
Government Employees in Orissa.

The Central Government has decided to apply to Central Government servants in Orissa, except those in railways, the provisions of the scheme of grain compensation allowance adopted by the Orissa Government (vide page 29 of our November 1940 Report).

(Notification No. F-44(4)-R.II/40: dated
19-12-1940: The Gazette of India, Part I,
dated 21-12-1940, page 1750).

Industrial Development.

Plans for Construction of Air-Craft and Ships in India:
Government's Announcement.

The Government of India ^{regarding} issued a statement on 16-12-1940 on the Government's policy ~~of~~ the development of air-craft, shipping and automobile industries in this country; a brief summary of the Statement is given below:

Air-Craft Industry.- The statement points out that the Government of India has been most actively interested in a scheme for establishing an aircraft factory in India with American technical assistance. All assistance in obtaining the necessary plant and raw material from America when it cannot be obtained in this country has been given, and it has given such assistance as was needed to secure a suitable site for the factory in India. The Government of India has now entered into a contract under which it will buy aircraft to be produced in India by a company to be formed under the auspices of the promoters of the scheme.

Ship-Building Industry.- The Government of India has also been sympathetic to a scheme for establishing a shipbuilding yard, a site for which has been finally decided upon at Vizagapatam. Land has been leased to the promoters for the purpose in the Port Area and they have actually taken possession with a view to starting construction of the shipbuilding yard. There are considerable difficulties in starting a ship-building project in time of war such as procuring the necessary ship's engines which cannot be constructed in India and securing steel for the ship's hulls. The Government of India has used its good offices with the British Government to obtain the necessary assistance from the United Kingdom and will continue to do all in its power to help in overcoming difficulties.

Automobile Industry.- The Government of India shares the public's desire to see the manufacture of automobiles established in India, and it is willing to do all that is practicable to assist this development. The only private scheme which has been put before the Government contemplates the collaboration of Indian interests and American manufacturers in a plan which is confined to the assembly of imported parts in the first instance and later partial manufacture, relying largely upon the use of imported semi-manufactured parts. The wisdom of proceeding by stages is fully appreciated but the stages so far envisaged by the promoters will leave India still dependent upon foreign countries for essential supplies and the Government has had to bear this in mind when considering the proposition in the light of certain peculiar difficulties of the moment connected with the release of dollar exchange, the acquisition of machinery and other material, and the availability of skilled labour. The conclusion is that, so long as these difficulties remain, the Government would only feel justified in giving active support to the scheme in its present phase if it could be shown that its operation would constitute a direct and immediate measure of assistance to India's war effort; but after a careful examination of the position it has been forced to the conclusion that this would not be the case.

(The Statesman, 17-12-1940.) ✓

List of more important publications received in this Office during
December 1940.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Interim Report of the Riot Enquiry Committee, Burma. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1939. Price Annas 7 = 7d.
- (2) Final Report of the Riot Enquiry Committee, Burma. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1939. Price Rs.2 = 3s.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Department of Development (~~of~~ Industries) Orissa:
 - (a) Bulletin No.2 of 1940 - Sal oil as an Economic Product of Orissa;
 - (b) Bulletin No.3 of 1940 - Raw Materials for Soap in Orissa; and
 - (c) Bulletin No.4 of 1940 - Permanent Writing Ink from Local Tanning Materials;
 By K.C. Sen, M.Sc., (Industrial Surveyor, All-India Village Industries Association, Orissa). Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. 1940. Price Annas 2 each.
- (2) The Lessons of Tariffs in India. III. - Tariff in Relation to the Indian Cotton Industry, by N.G. Abhyankar, M.Sc.(Lond). Reprinted from "the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber", December 1940.
- (3) Government of Burma; Reports of the Fiscal Committee:-
 - (a) Interim Report on Local Taxation (price Annas 2 or 2d.);
 - (b) First Interim Report of the Fiscal Committee (price Annas 3 or 3d.)
 - (c) Second Interim Report of the Fiscal Committee (price Rs.2-8-0 or 3s.9d.).
 Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1938.

Agriculture.-

1. Report of the Land and Agriculture Committee, Burma:-
 - a) Part I - Tenancy;
 - b) Part II - Land Alienation (price annas 6 or 7d.);
 - c) Part III - Agricultural Finance, Colonisation, Land Purchase (price Re.1 or 1s.6d.); and
 - d) Part IV - Regulation of Money Lending (price annas 6 or 7d.).
 Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1940.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) The Seventh Biennial Report of the National Council of Women in India. April 1938-October 1940.
- (2) National Council of Women in India, VII Biennial Conference, 27th November-1st December 1940. Resolutions.

Annual Report on the Progress of Education in the Delhi Province,
for the year 1938-39. Printed by Manager, Government of India
Press, Calcutta. 1940.

Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial School, Matunga, 1939-
40. Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and
Stationery, Bombay. Price annas 2 or 3d. 1940.

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon
for the year 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi.
1940. Price Re.1-10 or 2s.6d.
