

General.

The capital is now full of politicians and princes who have come to attend the cold weather sessions of the Legislative Assembly, the Council of State and the Chamber of Princes. The two latter bodies commenced their sittings only on the 12th February, but the first has been in session since the 28th January, and already, with the reference to Select Committees of the Public Safety and Trades Disputes Bills, the most controversial items coming up this session have been well started on their way. Though it is difficult to gauge correctly the attitude of the members of the Assembly towards the Government, one seems to sense a certain slackening in the political tension, induced, no doubt, by the conciliatory tone of the Viceroy's opening speech. The non-official members maintain, nevertheless, a certain unity of action in their opposition to the principal measures brought forward by the Government - a unity of action that cuts across party divisions - and it remains to be seen whether the Government will be overwhelmed by the ^aniagra of angry rhetoric which is sure to descend on the House when the above bills come up for final reading. For, the general view of the non-official side is that the Government is making political capital of purely labour troubles which are traceable more directly to economic distress than to the teachings of Moscow; and that both the Public Safety Bill and clauses 15 onwards of Trade Disputes Bill will in their ultimate incidence tend to check political work among the Indian masses and are aimed directly at it. It was curious, but understandable, that capitalists of Indian nationality like Mr. Birla and Sir Furshottandas Thakurdass, were opposed to both bills.

The Geneva organisations have had a fair amount of publicity here during the period under review. There are some occasions when Geneva could do with a little less of publicity. One such occasion is when the Indian Delegations' report on the Geneva Assembly is published in India. Our delegates for the 1928 Assembly have just published their interim report and some Indian newspapers have seized the opportunity to criticise the ~~Geneva~~ Geneva budgets. Their main charges are (1) that the League is a league of Europeans, (2) that so long as India is represented by a non-Indian and an official, she can gain nothing from her association with Geneva, and (3) that there are so few Indians in the Geneva Offices.

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The Afgan troubles are not yet ended, and in the opinion of frontier experts, the situation will worsen before it can improve. There are now two rival kings, Amanullah who has recanted his abdication, and Bachcha Saqao (now called Habibullah Gazi), the rebel leader. Amanullah's elder brother has sought safety in flight. The attitude of the British Government, as enunciated by Sir Denys Bray, the Foreign Secretary, in the Assembly, will be one of complete non-interference.

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The Legislative Assembly.

On the 28th January last, Lord Irwin opened the cold weather session of the Indian Legislative Assembly with a speech which was not on the whole badly received by the public. A cutting of the speech has already been forwarded to Geneva; and there are some points in it which interest the International Labour Office very vitally. Taking them in the order in which the Viceroy dealt with them, the first is the action the Government of India propose to take on the report of the Hilton-Young Commission appointed last year by the British Government to make recommendations as to the future policy in British Eastern Africa. As there are large numbers of Indians permanently resident in these areas, the British Government have agreed that before any decision is taken they will give the fullest consideration to the views of the Government of India on all matters affecting Indian interests. In addition, arrangements have been made to appoint temporarily an Indian Civil Service officer to the Executive Council of Kenya in order that the Indian point of view may have adequate expression in ~~the~~ discussing the recommendations of the Report.

With regard to the Linlithgow Report on Indian agriculture, the Viceroy announced that, though the bulk of the work on the Commission's recommendations must under the existing constitution fall on the provincial governments, there are some items in it for the carrying out of which the central government in India will have to be responsible. Of these, the most important concerns the establishment of a central organisation for research purposes; and the

central government has now decided to create a Council of Agricultural Research "to promote, guide and coordinate research throughout India, ~~to train research throughout India,~~ to train research workers by means of scholarships, and to collect and make available information on research and on agricultural and veterinary matters generally". The structure of this body will be somewhat different from that outlined in the Linlithgow Report. The Governing Body, the principal executive organ of the Council, will be presided over by the member of the Governor-General's Council in charge of agriculture and will comprise seventeen other members. There will also be an advisory council of 39 members whose function will be to give expert advice to the Governing Body, and submit for its approval programmes of research inquiry. It is expected that the major provincial governments will establish committees to work in close cooperation with these two bodies. As ~~REGARD~~ regards finance, the Central Government proposes to make a lump grant of Rs. 2.5 millions, to be paid in instalments, supplemented by annual recurring grants of Rs. 725000. These sums will vest in the Governing Body, who will consider all proposals for research, sanction expenditure and allot funds to meet it.

Turning next to labour disputes, the Viceroy referred to the Trades Disputes Bill now before the House, but considered that a more radical solution was needed if capital and labour were to be permanently reconciled. "I have long felt", said he, "that the best way to secure the interests both of employers and employed is for government, to undertake a review of the conditions under which labour works and to lend such help as it can in the removal of legitimate grievances. This question has for

some time been under the earnest consideration of government, and I am now able to say that His Majesty has approved the appointment of a Royal Commission during the course of the present year to undertake such an inquiry. Our intention is that the scope of this enquiry should be wide and that it should, with due regard to the economic position of industry in this country, explore all aspects of the problem affecting the conditions under which industrial labourers work". The personnel of the Commission has not yet been settled, but it will be representative and Mr. Whitley, lately Speaker of the House of Commons, has agreed to be its chairman.

The Viceroy then made a rapid survey of the spread of communist propaganda in India, and explained why the Government felt it necessary to reintroduce the Public Safety Bill which was rejected by the Assembly last session and to include in the measure power to forfeit or control remittances of money from communist sources abroad.

Addressing himself to the broader features of the political situation, he emphasised the necessity for friendly collaboration between Great Britain and India and, with a veiled reference to Mahatma Gandhi's resolution at the last session of the Indian National Congress (see this office report for January, page 7) declared that "nothing but harm can flow from a threat that, unless a particular condition is fulfilled, which I believe to be mechanically impossible of fulfilment from the outset, an attempt will be made to plunge the country into all the possible chaos of civil disobedience". He reiterated that the declaration of 1917 stands as a solemn pledge of the British people and appealed to all Indians not to lightly impugn the good faith behind that pledge.

On 29th January 1929 the Assembly took up for consideration Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda's Bill to raise the marriageable age of girls to above 14, and of boys to above 18. The Bill has now been before the House for nearly two years during which period a very large volume of enlightened opinion has expressed itself unequivocally in support of this long delayed measure of social reform. In the course of his speech Mr. Sarda pointed out that there was a remarkable unanimity of opinion among Indian women in support of his Bill, and that the Government had already expressed its intention to support the measure cordially, on the ground that where large communities in varying stages of cultural development were concerned, legislation was the only effective means for ensuring uniform social progress. Some time after this Bill was introduced, the Government had appointed an Age of Consent Committee to report on a closely related subject, and the opinion so far elicited by this Committee have been overwhelmingly in favour of raising the age of consent. In view of this and of the Government's favourable attitude towards the Bill when it came up for consideration last time, it was expected that the Bill would have a smooth passage this time. But on one of the "orthodox" member's moving an amendment for postponement of consideration of the Bill on the plea that the report of the Age of Consent Committee should be awaited, there was a snap division, when the Government members went into the lobby in favour of the amendment. The result is that the Bill has now been laid on the shelf at least for this session by a majority of 53 against 34. The Government have issued a press communique explaining that they adhere to the principle of the Bill and that adequate time should be allotted for its discussion at the next Simla session of the Assembly. The apologia has been very badly received, and a great deal of indignation prevails among reformers' ranks on what they consider the Government's lack of good faith. ^{See} (The Hindustan Times, 8-2-29 for Mr. Sarda's speech: Pioneer and Statesman, 31-1-29 describing scenes in the lobby. Indian Social Reformer 9-2-29 pages 376-378 for a symposium of Indian press comments).

The Public Safety Bill was taken up for consideration on the 4th February. The Bill aims at arming the executive with considerable discretionary powers for the expulsion of foreign communists from India and for the prevention of the inflow of Soviet money which was being used to foment class-war and revolution in India. It has an interesting history. A bill to the same effect was introduced in the last session of the Assembly, which had agreed to refer it to a Select Committee, thereby agreeing to the principle of the Bill. The Select Committee made material modifications in the Bill, but the motion to consider the report of the Select Committee was rejected by one vote, after the longest debate on which the Assembly had ever embarked.

The determination of the Government to resurrect the Bill in the present session met with the keenest opposition from Indian politicians, who saw in the move an intention to introduce "scare legislation" on the strength of the communist bogey. The Government, on the other hand, as explained by Mr. Crerar, the Home Member, in his introductory speech, saw ample evidences of communistic enterprise in India in the prolonged Bombay strikes, in the recent labour disturbances at Calcutta, in the growth of the Workers and Peasants Party in India and in the sinister activities of the Indian emissaries of the League against Imperialism. (A pamphlet dealing with evidences of communistic activity in India circulated by the Government among the members of the Assembly has already been sent to Geneva). The proposals for open revolution recently

mooted in the Indian National Congress and the wild schemes for repudiation of debts and refusal to guarantee rights of private ownership which ^{are} ~~is~~ finding increasing favour with certain extreme sections of Indian opinion and which bear a verisimilitude to communistic doctrines, further steeled Government's resolve to see the proposed legislation carried through.

The result was a heated and acrimonious three days debate in the Assembly at the end of which Government succeeded by 61 votes to 50, to get the Bill referred to a Select Committee. A remarkable feature of the debate was the fact that the leading employers of Indian nationality completely joined hands with the leading Indian politicians in offering determined battle to the measure. The following extracts from the speeches of Pandit Motilal Nehru, the leader of the Congress Party, and Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, an outstanding leader of the Indian commercial world, will reveal the reactions created by the bill among both the political and commercial classes. Pandit Motilal Nehru said : "The creed of the Congress is to subvert this Government, the present system of government by all non-violent means. There is no harm in the practice of communism. I take this Bill as an attack on Indian nationalism and that it is meant for cutting India off from the outside world". Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas said:- "The commercial community in India believes that the measure has been conceived more for political reasons than to give relief to industry, and the Indian commercial community will be prepared to suffer to any extent rather than allow the executive, by their vote, any power of that nature". The impression left by the debate is of a general sense of distrust of the bona fides of the

government, despite the convincing marshalling of telling facts made by government front-benchers. It is particularly apprehended by the nationalists that the present measure against foreign communists is only the thin edge of the wedge and that more legislation will follow in its wake against Indian communists.

The Indian newspapers ask: "why should India alone saddle itself with such rigorous anti-communist legislation when other countries like the United States, Great Britain, Australia and South Africa which are threatened by the same danger are not prepared to initiate such extreme legislation?"

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X The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, after an unsuccessful plea from Chaman Lall and another member to widen its scope by the inclusion of ~~employees of~~ railway contractors' employees among the classes of workers entitled to its benefits. Sir B.N.Mitra on behalf of the Government replied that they had already set the ball rolling in this direction, but that the question of a complete revision of the existing Act may have to be deferred till the Royal Commission on Labour has made its recommendations.

... ..

On the 11th February, the Trade Disputes Bill was referred to a Select Committee after a preliminary skirmish, some members objecting to parts II and III (Section 15 onwards) of the Bill relating to Public Utility Services and the negation of the right to strike. Sir B.N.Mitra was optimistic as to converting the members of the Select Committee to his view.

References to I.L.O.

The Leader of 14th January 1929 publishes the final decisions of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. with regard to the 12th session of the Conference.

... ..

Capital - the leading financial journal of India publishes in its issue of 17th January 1929 a three-column article on "India and the International Labour Office". It appears as a leading article, at the request of the Director of this Office, who wrote it (cutting not sent as it is available at Geneva). The article explains the raison d'etre of the I.L.O., describes its constitution and methods of work and gives in brief outline the main functions of the Correspondent's office in India.

... ..

The Pioneer of 19th January 1929 has an article on Young India at Geneva, dealing with the British and Dominion students' Conference held at Geneva and the course of lectures organised by Professor Zimmermann on the work of the League and the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu of 26th January 1929 and all papers publish an Associated Press interview given by Mr. Narottam Morarjee, Employers' delegate to the I.L. Conference of 1928, in which he strongly advocates the establishment of an Indian emporium at Geneva, to stimulate Indian trade. A fuller account of the interview is given in the Indian Daily Mail of Bombay (26-1-29) where he is reported as being dissatisfied with "the business transacted at the Conference".

The "Forward" of 2nd February 1929 publishes a Free Press telegram from London of 31st January 1929 that Japanese labour has approved the idea of holding an Asiatic labour conference, six weeks prior to the International Labour Conference at Geneva.

... ..

All newspapers give prominence to an Associated Press interview with the Director of this Office on the proposed Royal Commission on Indian Labour (Pioneer and Hindustan Times, 1-2-1929, etc.)

... ..

The Times of India in its issue of 5th February 1929 has ~~got~~ a leading article on "Labour in Russia", based upon the publication of the I.L.O. on the subject.

... ..

The Servant of India in its issue of 7th February 1929 has two columns on the work of the I.L.O., which is in fact a summary of the press communiqué issued by Geneva, though the editor has taken the liberty of publishing it over the name of the Director of this Office.

... ..

The Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 13th February 1929 give prominence to a press communiqué issued by this Office on the "Forced Labour" Report.

The Leader (Allahabad) in its issue of 10th February 1929 has a ~~contribution~~ contributed article (by Debenham) on the same subject. The communiqué appears in condensed form in the Tribune (Lahore) of 12th February 1929. It

is expected that other papers will also give publicity to the communique.

The Forward, Calcutta (9-2-29) in an editorial note, says that the Government of India are considering the decision of the 10th I.L.Conference on sickness insurance, and ~~xxxx~~ urges speedy action.

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Unemployment.

All newspapers reproduce an Associated Press telegram about the "Enquiry into Unemployment among Intellectual Workers" which is now being undertaken at Geneva.

(Statesman and Hindu 18-1-29, etc.).

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 20th January 1929 has a leading article on the subject, contributed by the Deputy Director of this Office.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle of 18th January 1929 publishes an editorial entitled "A Welcome Enquiry" on the Geneva enquiry into unemployment.

... ..

The Madras Mail has an editorial article in its issue of 18th January 1929 commenting rather sceptically on the I.L.O. enquiry into unemployment among ~~the~~ intellectual workers.

... ..

The Indian Daily Mail of 19th January 1929 in a short editorial note comments favourably on the I.L.O. enquiry into intellectual unemployment.

... ..

The Strike Situation.

The concluding stage of the Bombay Mill Strike Enquiry was reached in the third week of January, when Messrs. S.D.Saklatwala and R.R.Bakhale summed up the case for the mill-owners and the workers respectively. On 30th January 1929 Mr. Saklatwala asked for an adjournment of the Enquiry Committee on the ground that private discussions between the representatives of the employers and the workers with a view to arrive at a settlement on the standardisation scheme were making satisfactory progress, and that with some more time they might be able to come to an agreement between themselves. An Associated Press telegram from Bombay of 3rd February 1929 reports that agreement has now been arrived at on many points of the standardisation scheme, particularly with regard to the work in the spinning and weaving departments. The proposed cut of 7½% in wages will be placed before the Enquiry Committee as the workers stoutly oppose it. The proposal for the appointment of a permanent Arbitration Board for settling industrial disputes in their early stages will also be submitted to the Committee for approval. The rules proposed provide that all disputes between employers and workmen should be brought before a joint meeting of equal ~~xxx~~ numbers of representatives of the mill-owners and of registered trade unions before the issue of notices of strikes or lockouts.

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The Bombay Riots.

The Sewree Oil Company strike as also the strike in the New China Mill in the same locality are still continuing. All other mills were reported as working at the beginning

of February, but the opening days of February were once again ominous, on account of the fierce riots that have broken out in the city.

According to a Bombay Government communique of 7th February 1929, the occasion for the riots was the rumour that children were being kidnapped by Pathans, of whom there is a large number in Bombay, some employed as watchmen in the mill areas and others who have been employed occasionally as strike-breakers. There is also another reason why the Pathans are anathema to mill-hands, as the former usually conduct business as money lenders in a small way, charging unconscionable rates of interest. There was therefore no love lost between the Pathans and the labourers; and the mill-hands were, therefore, only too ready to partake in the frays that ensued. For nearly a week certain areas in the city were practically under mob control and the military had to be called in and firing resorted to. The riots would not have assumed such dimensions, but for the fact that they soon changed their character and developed into a fight on communal lines between the Hindus and Muhammadans of the city. In spite of all Government's precautions and the curfew order, stray assaults are still being continued and even at the time of writing (13-2-29) the situation has not thoroughly been brought under control. The Times of India in a leading article of 11th February 1929 advocates the introduction of martial law, if as a result of the emergency measures already taken, peace is not ~~xxxxx~~ restored. A Free Press telegram of 11th February 1929 states that many Hindu mill-hands are leaving the city by special ~~xxxxx~~ trains and seeking refuge in the country. The Pioneer of 13th February 1929 estimates the death roll at 120, and the number of the injured at 1000: and

mentions that for the last three days, the conservancy establishment have been too frightened to work, with the result that large heaps of refuse are lying about the streets and epidemics are likely to break out in the city. The Home Member made a statement on the riots in the Legislative Assembly, the newspaper report of which is included in the cuttings. (Hindustan Times, 15-2-1929).

... ..

During the period under review there were considerable evidences of labour unrest in several industrial centres. In the last week of January the tramway workers of Colombo struck work. The stoppage was due to men's demand for a 50% increase in wages and reinstatement of a suspended conductor for which the strikers gave the company a five-minute ultimatum. The strike came to an end on 5th February 1929, when, as the result of an agreement providing for arbitration on the wages demands, the men promised to resume work.

... ..

There was a lightning strike in the Rangopal Textile Mills at Secunderabad (Hyderabad State) when 900 workers suddenly downed tools, On 19th January 1929. As the result of sympathetic handling by the management and a promise to recognise a "union" of the workers the strikers resumed work on 21st January 1929.

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There is considerable unrest among the Tin-plate Co. workers at Jamshedpur, and according to a Pioneer report of 24th January 1929, a strike or lock-out may at any time

come out. Rumours of reduction of numbers, suspension and dismissal of eight machine-shop men and the demand for pay on Christmas day are some of the chief causes of the prevailing unrest. The manager of the company has notified a 50% reduction of workmen on 21st January 1929. The workers have strongly resented the reduction order and are conferring on their future action.

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On 10th January 1929 a labour riot occurred in the Clive Jute Mill at Calcutta, in which the European manager and six Indian watchmen of the mill were killed.

... ..

Successful efforts have been made to organise Delhi labour and in the beginning of January a Mazdur Sabha (Labour Union) was started in Delhi. On 11th January 1929 and 30th January 1929 there were lightning strikes in the Birla Mills at Delhi, which have now been settled as a result of Mr. Birla's sympathetic action.

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The National Christian Council of India, Burma
and Ceylon and Indian Industrial problems.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

It will be remembered that one of the recommendations of the International Missionary Council in its session of March 24, April 8, 1928 held at Jerusalem, urged all Christian Missions to take an active part in combating the evils arising from the penetration of western economic civilisation into countries which have hitherto remained little affected by it. That the National Christian Council of India has determined to translate this recommendation into practice within its sphere of activity is clear from the following account of a conference held under its auspices at Poona on January 14, 15, 1929 to consider Indian Industrial problems. The object of the conference was to consider the proposals of Miss M.C. Matheson, who has made a careful study of industrial conditions in India, and to adopt a plan of action. The Rev. W. Paton, Secretary to the International Missionary Council at London, was in the chair. The main points in the discussion are reproduced below; and I have to repeat that the information is only meant for the Geneva Office as the Indian Council has not yet sanctioned its publication.

"The Chairman made a statement explaining the purpose of the Conference in the course of which he made mention of the investigation made during the past months by Miss Matheson and her colleagues under the auspices of the National Christian Council and said that their report would be of immense use to Missions and Churches in giving

accurate information about the conditions of industrial workers and also guidance as to the lines of work they could undertake for their betterment.

Legislative Action.

I. Amendments to the Factory Act:

Miss Matheson placed before the Conference certain proposals about getting the present Factory Act amended.

(1) One of her proposals was for reduction of hours of work to a 54 hour week and 10 hour day.

After discussion and careful consideration it was agreed that efforts be made for securing a normal 55 hour week and 10 hour day, seasonal industries being considered an exception.

(2) The second proposal was that efforts be made to secure that no spell of work without a pause be longer than five hours. This was agreed to.

(3) The third proposal that was agreed to was that efforts be made to get the multiple shifts abolished.

(4) The fourth proposal was that work places employing ten or more persons be brought under the Factory Act.

After discussion it was agreed that

work places using power and employing ten or more persons on any day in the year should be brought under the Factory Act, bearing in mind that the Washington Conventions have to apply to such places.

II. Legislation about Fines:

It was pointed out that at present there was very little control over fines and deductions in industrial undertakings and that we should attempt to have some legislation to remedy this. After discussion it was agreed that we should press Government to accept the principle that fines and deductions should be fair and

reasonable, that they should be recorded in a register and that the Factory Inspector should have the legal right to inspect this register.

III. Increase of the Inspectorate:

If the proposals made above are to be carried out, it would be necessary to increase the number of factory inspectors. The matter was discussed carefully and it was agreed that Government be urged to increase the inspectorate and that there be a woman inspector at least in each of the large industrial centres.

There was also agreement about using more fully than is done now the clause in the present Act by which "public officers" are empowered to inspect factories.

IV. Miss Matheson brought to the attention of the Conference the practice by which wages agreed upon for working a particular pattern are kept unaffected while the pattern itself is altered.

It was agreed that this matter be investigated.

V. Minimum Wage Legislation:

A memorandum on the subject by Miss Matheson was circulated among the members and she also spoke from her experience of the working of the minimum wage machinery in Great Britain.

After discussion it was agreed that Government of India should be pressed to ratify the Minimum Wage Convention and that legislation along the lines suggested by the Convention be asked for, without stressing the need of applying it to home trades.

It was further agreed that representations to Provincial Governments be made about the industries to which the Act has to be applied when it comes.

It was also agreed that an article on the subject be

secured and published in the N.C.C. Review and be made available to the public.

VI. Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act:

Mr. Varadarajulu Naidu made some proposals showing in what respects the Workmen's Compensation Act needed ~~amendment~~ amendment.

After discussion it was agreed that the points be referred to the Industrial Committee of the N.C.C. and that opportunity be taken to make representations on this matter when the Act will be coming for revision in two or three years' time.

VII. Legislation on Maternity Benefit:

The need for legislation on maternity benefit was considered. It was agreed that efforts should be made to secure such legislation on this matter as would satisfy as far as possible the Washington Convention.

VIII. Sick Leave:

Mr. Varadarajulu Naidu pointed out the need for legislation by which workmen could get at least twenty days sick leave in a year on doctor's certificate on full or half pay.

It was felt by some that experiments along this line should be tried and experience gathered. After discussion it was agreed that efforts be made to secure such legislation.

Tariffs.

Miss Matheson gave some instance of tariffs which impede the educational and hygienic progress of people. Educational films imported into India have prohibitive tariff. This makes the use of educational films in welfare work among workmen very expensive.

So also tariff on scientific instruments especially microscopes is retarding medical treatment.

It was further mentioned that the special kind of cloth needed for working embroidery and lace was subject to high tariff. If such cloth coming from foreign countries could be imported on less tariff or a rebate allowed on re-import it would help greatly the lace and embroidery industry.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Christian Medical Association be requested to take up the question of tariffs on scientific instruments with a view to get them reduced.

It was further agreed that more evidence on the other matters mentioned be gathered before any action could be taken.

An Industrial Welfare Society for India.

Miss Matheson in introducing the subject spoke about the absence in India of any kind of co-ordination in welfare work. For instance, in some places housing plans are worked out; but those in other centres know nothing about them. We in India need an Industrial Welfare Society (on the lines of the one there is in England) to collect information and advise as to welfare matters. The Industrial Welfare Society of England was started by a clergyman, Mr. Hyde, soon after the war. He got several employers interested in it. The society has a staff of experts and any firm which wants information or help can get it. The firms pay a certain contribution for the upkeep of the Society. The standard of welfare work in England has been considerably raised by this Society. It may be possible to have a branch of this Society in India but organised as an autonomous body.

In the course of the discussion the following points were brought out:-

- (1) that Mr. Hyde if invited might be willing to come to India and help in organising a Welfare Society for India:
- (2) that workpeople should be made to feel more and more that they have a share in welfare work:
- (3) care should be taken that welfare work is not used as a rival to trade Union and in this connection it was pointed out that the name "Welfare Society" might be a handicap.

After consideration it was generally agreed that it would be an advantage to have a Welfare Society on the lines outlined above with a clearly defined objective for India and that the question of its affiliation to any outside organisation should only be considered later.

It was further agreed that Miss Matheson and Mr. Nasir be requested to enlist the support of bodies like the Mill Owners' Association and Trade Union organisations for bringing out Mr. Hyde to India for a short period to render help in organising such a society and in discovering suitable men and training them for carrying on the work.

Welfare or Labour Supervisors.

Miss Matheson proposed that every effort be made to promote the appointment of Welfare or Labour Supervisors to undertake among other things:

- (1) Direct engagement of labour:
- (2) Property management of lines or chawls:
- (3) Health, educational and recreational work, always safeguarding the direct access of labourer to management as it exists in many places at present.

It was also pointed out that such Welfare supervisors might handle advances to workmen now given through jobbers and that they could also develop adult education activities and the Committee or Panchayat system.

After discussion it was agreed

- (1) that every effort be made to promote the appointment of Welfare or Labour Supervisors as outlined above and that where firms are found willing to co-operate in the appointment of such supervisors, the facts be recorded and definite schemes for promoting such appointments be submitted to the firms concerned:
- (2) that the International Missionary Council and the National Christian Council may be requested to recruit suitable persons for such work:
- (3) that when the proposed Industrial Welfare Society is started in India, one of its functions should be the promotion of the appointment of Labour and Welfare Supervisors in Indian Industrial centres and rendering them help and guidance in their work.

A Training Scheme for Welfare Work Supervisors.

Miss Matheson placed before the Conference the outline of a scheme for training welfare work supervisors, Indian and European, both to meet immediate needs and possible future development of educational facilities in India. This scheme contemplates cooperation between the economics department of some of the Indian Universities with the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester.

Recorded.

The place of Christian Agencies in voluntary work for industrial population.

After a full discussion of this subject the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :-

Resolved

That the Executive of the N.C.C. be requested to appoint a Committee of the N.C.C. which shall work in co-operation with similar committees of the Provincial Christian Councils, to have charge of Industrial Problems in their relation to the Christian Church and Christian Missions. The duty of that Committee shall be to bring to the attention of the Church and of Christian Missions the

urgency of the Call to the Christian forces in India to undertake new types of service in relation to the needs of the rapidly growing industrial population in this country especially as these needs are presented in the report that has been prepared by the Industrial Survey Group of the N.C.C.

That some of the ways in which that Committee would discharge its task are the following:-

(1) that by means of public meetings and Conferences of Indian Christians at various centres especially in the industrialised areas, this Committee with the co-operation of the Provincial Councils and of local Christian leaders in the various areas, shall press upon the Church the call that the needs of the Industrial population bring to every Christian to seek to help these people in the temptations and hardships of their lives by friendship, by an understanding of their needs and difficulties, by voluntary service along educational, recreational and health lines, through the establishment of adult and other schools, by means of lantern and general lectures, by establishing libraries and reading rooms, as also hostels for young people among such workers: also by giving them training in committee work, by the inauguration of Infant Welfare and health education, by the establishment of creches, of troops of Scouts and Girl Guides and similar organisations, by helping to form clubs, by organising games, and musical and other entertainments, by carrying on temperance work, and, in these and other ways, by engaging in voluntary Christian service in the behalf of these classes of the community:

(2) that the claims of this Industrial population and the call to the Church to help them be brought by this Committee to the attention of students in theological and

other Colleges, and in Student Camps and that they be urged to consider how they can give their lives to service of these classes and cooperate with others in such voluntary service whatever their own future careers may be: that at the same time this be brought to the attention of the non-Christian students and that they be invited to cooperate in such service and their responsibility be similarly pressed upon them:

(3) that the authorities in such theological and arts colleges be urged to give an important place in their curriculum of studies to subjects relating to this type of service and that some Arts Colleges be urged to consider whether they can institute courses of training for workers in this department of service:

(4) that arrangements be made for the production of literature in English and the vernaculars, drawing attention to this type of service - especially of study books for young people's classes: and

(5) that the Churches be urged to recognise it as their duty to follow their members to the Industrial areas, and, either by their own efforts or through some other Church or Mission, to endeavour to discharge the responsibility for their instruction in Christian truth and their up-building in general ~~character~~ character in these new and difficult circumstances.

Further (6) that the Committee take measures to bring to the attention of Missionary Societies the need that some at least of them, especially those which have work in areas where large industrial populations are gathered, should appoint members of their mission staff who shall be specially qualified to take charge of work of this kind and to give guidance to the Indian Church, and that in seeking

to arouse interest in this matter in the older churches of the West they invite the co-operation of the I.M.C.:

(7) that such Societies be urged to consider the establishment of centres for the industrial population similar to the Neighbourhood House of the A.B.C.F.M. at B. culla in Bombay where practical instruction shall be given in this type of work to Indian Christian and other young people: and

(8) that plans be made for the establishment at different industrial centres of training schools for workers similar to the Social Service Training Centre in Bombay where men and women, Christian and non-Christian, both those who are themselves actually artizans and others shall be trained for service of the Industrial population.

It was further resolved to recommend to Churches and Missions that, in undertaking and discharging this service of the Industrial population, they should seek in every way possible; consistently with their Christian motive and aim, to co-operate with non-Christians who are actuated by a similar desire to serve and help the Industrial Community.)

... ..

Industrial Organisations.

Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Conference.

The fourth session of the above Conference was held at Perambur under the presidentship of Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary of the Railwaymen's Federation. Mr. Giri, it will be remembered, was the workers' representative of the 1927 session of the I.L. Conference. The occasion was remarkable for the notable pronouncement made by Mr. Giri, regarding the Trades Disputes Bill which is at present engaging the attention of the Assembly. Mr. Giri's criticism of the provisions of the Bill is the best answer that has yet been made from the workmen's side to the official presentation of the case.

Mr. Giri said that the Bill rightly evoked opposition, as while it pretended to set up a machinery for inquiry and conciliation of trade disputes, it really aimed at penalising strikes in public utility services, encouraging blacklegs and preventing successful strikes by requiring the employees to give sufficient notice to employers to recruit blacklegs. He ridiculed the argument that the bill was unobjectionable as there were similar provisions in the present English laws on the ground that conditions in India were not analogous and cited in support the absence in India of institutions corresponding to Whitley Councils, wages boards, unemployment, old age and other benefit systems and a strong labour party to influence the policy of the Government. In Mr. Giri's opinion, the Bill to be acceptable must be shorn of the provisions penalising strikes, and amended so that on the application of either of the parties to the dispute, courts of inquiry should deal with trade disputes after the manner of the law courts and give ~~their~~ their opinion on the merits of the case.

Besides, the public should have full access to the proceedings of the courts so that public opinion may influence the attitude of the employees and employers properly.

According to Mr. Giri the immediate task before Indian labour was to put forth a vigorous fight for the recognition of the fundamental rights of the worker, the right to combine, to be granted living wages, and to have decent conditions of service. All service conditions of the employees had to be governed by definite and clear regulations and Mr. Giri insisted that before issuing rules for granting of leave, passes, discharge from service, working hours, promotions and increments, the representative registered trade unions should be consulted. Mr. Giri argued that the guiding spirit of all international labour conventions emanating from Geneva conferences has been that the service conditions of the employees should in all cases be fixed in joint consultation with the employees' organisation and the Government of India, which is a member of the League of Nations, would be failing in its duty if it does not imbibe this spirit of the Geneva conventions and demonstrate it at least on its own concerns such as the railways in dealing with labour problems.

(Times of India, 27-1-1929).

... ..

The Times of India of 25th January 1929 publishes a message to the effect that the plans for holding the next Pan Asiatic Conference at Kabul have been upset owing to the unsettled state of affairs there. It is reported that the sanction of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress has, therefore, been obtained to make arrangements for holding the Pan Asiatic Conference in India.

... ..

Annual meeting of Indian Merchants Chamber.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber was held ~~at~~ Bombay on 26th January 1929. The occasion was utilised by Mr. L. R. Tairsee, the president of the body, to make a comprehensive survey of the outstanding questions which affected the trade of the country as a whole during 1928.

A large part of Mr. Tairsee's speech was devoted to consideration of the present labour situation. He strongly deprecated labour excesses, condemned leaders of ^{the} Tammany Hall type who, in his opinion, were responsible for the undesirable deflection towards violence observable in the labour movement at present, and took to task "the Joshis, Boles, Syed Munawars and Ginwallas" for their apathy in the face of labour's murderous methods. Mr. Tairsee made a strong appeal to the better instincts of leaders of opinion on both sides to come to a reasonable settlement on all outstanding points of difference.

Other points of interest in his speech were his emphatic condemnation of the 1s.6d. ratio, which in his opinion contributed largely to the precipitation of the labour crisis afflicting the country and his unqualified approval of Mr. ~~Maji's~~ Coastal Reservation Bill.

... ..

Native and Colonial Labour and
Migration.

The Hilton-Young Report is attracting a good deal of attention. Reference is made in the section of this report dealing with Assembly matters to the decision of the Government of India to accede to the request of the Kenya Government to appoint an Indian to the Kenyan Executive Council to safeguard Indian interests in any legislation that may be initiated in this connection. The Hindu's leader in its issue of 2nd February 1929 is representative of well-informed Indian criticism of the Hilton-Young recommendations. Objection is taken in the first instance to "The Young Committee's treatment of mandated areas like Tanganyika as though they are mere colonies of Britain". It is emphasised that such treatment "constitutes a clear violation, of the implied, if not express, terms of the mandate; and India, as a member of the League, cannot be a consenting party to the adoption of the Hilton-Young report". Indian papers as a rule urge that the Government of India should "emphatically repudiate the new move in East Africa as an insult to them, because it involves a monstrous piece of injustice to the nation".

... ..

Agriculture.

The agricultural problems of the country have been receiving a fair share of attention in the Indian press. During the period under review two conferences dealing with agricultural and allied questions, were held, the Malabar Tenants' Conference held at Pattambi in South India (Hindu 22-1-29), and the Mirasdars' Conference held at Adu~~l~~thurai (Hindu 21-1-29) both on 20th January 1929.

Malabar Tenants' Conference.

The Malabar tenantry had already ventilated their grievances against the oppression of the landlord classes in a memorandum to the Governor of Madras, copious extracts from which are published in the Hindu of 9th January 1929. The main contentions of the Malabar tenants with regard to ~~curtailment~~ curtailment of the landlords' powers for arbitrary eviction and arbitrary increases of rents and renewal fees were fully explained in the Round Table Conference held at Madras on 9th January 1929 between the jenmies' (landlords) and tenants' delegates held under the presidency of Sir Norman ~~Mart~~ Marjoribanks. At the Pattambi Conference of Malabar tenants the following resolution was passed on the main points at issue.

"This Conference requests the tenants' representatives at the Round Table Conference to bring the following points to the attention of the Government:-

(a) in fixing ~~the~~^a fair rent, a certain reduction should be made for the labours of the tenants:

(b) with regard to the landholders' right of ouster, it is desirable that a period is fixed within which he ~~should~~ ~~be~~ exercise his right of bona fide cultivation:

(c) the prior tenant should have a right of pre-emption even if the land is let out after the six years specified in the draft bill:

(d) it is desirable that ~~the~~ renewal fees are spread throughout the twelve years instead of being paid in a lump sum".

(Hindu, 22-1-1929).

... ..

Dairy Farming Problems.

The Pioneer of 14th January 1929 publishes extracts from the report of the year 1927-28 of Mr. William Smith, the Imperial Dairy Expert at Pusa. The steady deterioration of the cattle-breeds of India has been engaging the earnest attention of the Government and the cattle-breeding farms at Karnal and Bangalore are doing useful work in this connection. The report stresses the great need for a scientific staff of trained chemists and bacteriologists to cope with the increasing demand made on the Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa for information and advice on matters connected with dairying and cattle-breeding. The crux of the problem, according to the report, is the inability of the Indian cow-owner to sell milk and milk-products at some figure corresponding to the world-value for the same. The report cites for instance that "ghee produced by wasteful and obsolete methods is sold in India at twelve annas per pound, when the world-value of butter fat, which after all is pure ghee, is 250 per cent above this figure. The remedy suggested is the organisation of the Indian ghee and milk-selling industry on cooperative lines so that the milk producer may realise the full economic value of the good milking-cow as a profit-earner. The report states that India is crying out for information on all matters connected with ~~matters~~ of agricultural policy. "The harvest truly is plenty, but the labourers are few".

Small Holdings Bill.

"Back to the land" is the underlying principle of a Bill which Mr. M.R.Karant, M.L.C., is proposing to introduce in the Madras Legislative Council to provide small holdings for persons, especially of the educated unemployed and of the depressed classes, who desire to buy or lease, and will cultivate, the holdings. The idea is to combat unemployment by the creation of a sturdy class of peasant-proprietors imbued with a strong sense of the dignity of manual labour. It is proposed that a small council for each district appointed by the Government should see to the free distribution of small holdings to deserving applicants with the prescribed educational qualifications. The Council will help the holders of lands with technical advice and repayable financial loans. To maintain the integrity of the peasant-proprietor ^{class} ~~class~~ thus created the Bill stipulates ~~that~~ the holdings cannot be alienated, nor partitioned.

(Hindu, 30-1-1929).

... ..

Co-operation.

The Statesman of 13th January 1929 publishes a statement regarding the success of the cooperative movement in Bengal by Mr. S.K.Lahiri, Secretary, Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society. According to Lahiri the number of co-operative societies of all kinds in Bengal rose from 15000 to 18000 with a corresponding increase in membership. A remarkable feature emphasised by Mr. Lahiri is that "the establishment of co-operative societies in a locality has been immediately followed by a lowering of the rates of interest". The spread of the co-operative ideal and a better appreciation of the economic principles underlying it by the Bengal villager has brought about a number of reforms in the village polity, not within the scope of work of the societies. Thus it has been noticed that there has been a marked decrease in civil litigation among members of societies. Other incidental benefits are the lessening hold of the habits of drinking and smoking on rural populations. Several night schools have been started by societies organised by the rural reconstruction department of the Vishwabharati at Shantiniketan of which Dr. Rabindranath Tagore is the founder-President. During 1927-28 considerable headway was made in connection with the cooperative marketing of agricultural produce with the help of Sale Societies. Considerable quantities of jute and paddy are marketed in this way to the great advantage of agriculturists living in villages far off from central markets. In Western Bengal there is a growing demand for co-operative irrigation societies.

... ..

The Times of India of 18th January 1929 publishes a summary of the report issued by the Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Provinces, with regard to the working of Cooperative Societies in that province for 1927-28. The Frontier Province is among the most backward provinces of India and the progress of the cooperative movement in the province can be regarded as a fair test of the general progress achieved. At the end of 1928 the total number of societies in the province was 60 ~~and~~ as against 34 in the last year and the membership had also increased from 884 to 2236. In the same period the working capital rose from Rs. 1,32,722 to Rs. 3,57,036. The Pathan population of the province is noted for its money lending proclivities and the progress of cooperative societies have succeeded to a considerable extent in checking their fell grip on the agricultural classes.

... ..

The work of Cooperative societies in the United Provinces was reviewed by Sir Lalubhai Samaldas in the presidential address that he delivered at the 14th session of the United Provinces Cooperative Conference. (Pioneer 27-1-1929). The address refers to the note of pessimism observable in the Reports of registrars and the special committees appointed for inquiry into the working of co-operative societies in the United Provinces and sounds a note of warning against such excessive pessimism. Sir Lalubhai pleads for an extension of the work of rural credit societies and affirms that the complete programme must include the objective of the liquidation of the existing debts of the peasantry. Sir Lalubhai thinks the cooperative system "is the only movement that can solve the problem of the great struggle between the classes and the masses - the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots'."

Education.

Hartog Committee Report.

The Times of India of 19th January 1929 says that the Hartog Committee appointed to investigate, on behalf of the Statutory Commission, the educational progress of India has concluded its inquiry and submitted a draft report. There was a prolonged conference between the Statutory Commission and the Hartog Committee on 16th January 1929 at Calcutta during which Sir Philip Hartog explained the main conclusions arrived at by the Committee. The report is to remain confidential until its publication along with the report of the Statutory Commission and no authoritative information about it is available under the circumstances.

... ..

Education of Anglo-Indians.

The impending constitutional changes portended by the appointment of the Statutory Commission are occasioning great anxiety among the members of the Anglo-Indian community (Eurasians) in India, particularly with regard to the future of European education in this country. The reply of the Secretary of State for India to the Anglo-Indian deputations that approached him on this matter has not been very encouraging (Times of India, 23-1-29). What the Anglo-Indian community resents is the prospect of European education being treated as a transferred subject and being submitted to the "tender mercies" of provincial governments (Times of India, 23-1-1929). According to the Pioneer of 6th February 1929 the Association of Headmasters of European Schools in India submitted a memorandum to the Simon

Commission urging that European education should be made a central subject under the Government of India, and that a special inspecting staff should be appointed for its supervision. Indian opinion is strongly against any such favoured treatment of European education and even the Times of India in a leader of its issue of 23rd January 1929 says: "We want the age of privilege to give place to the age of opportunity, and in the competition for places in the world of commerce and industry, and in the professions, the Anglo-Indian should take his chance with the Indian". The problem is continuing to exercise the mind of the Anglo-Indian community.

... ..

Physical Education in Madras.

The Committee appointed by the Government of Madras to examine the question of physical education in secondary school^s for boys have submitted their report. The main recommendations of the Committee are reported in extenso in the Hindu of 25th January 1929. Among the important recommendations are the following :-

- (1) Formal physical training and games should be made compulsory for all boys except such as are declared medically unfit.
- (2) Absence from games and physical training without leave should be treated as the same as absence from school for the whole day.
- (3) Instead of physical instruction being given once a week, such training should be given to each boy at least 15 minutes every day.
- (4) The "house" system should be established and inter-house competitions should be encouraged to stimulate healthy competitions and such groupings are to be entirely irrespective of caste, creed and community.
- (5) All schools containing 250 boys or more should have at least five acres of land for playing fields and middle schools should not have less than three acres.

(6) Special grants-in-aid should be given to municipalities and district boards for the provision of open spaces for use as public play-grounds.

(7) Health instruction is to be accorded a recognised place in the syllabus of studies.

(8) Special attention should be devoted by all teachers to the posture of boys in class rooms and radical changes should be introduced in the design of school furniture.

(9) A more rigorous system of medical inspection of school boys should be introduced.

... ..

A Mysore Educational Experiment.

The Hindu of 23rd January 1929 publishes details of a new educational experiment contemplated by the Government of Mysore. The scheme in brief is that middle schools in rural areas should be given an agricultural bias by including agricultural training in its curriculum, thus bringing it into closer relation with the environment of the pupils. The scheme is to be given effect to in certain select schools to start with, situated in areas where conditions are specially favourable. The experience of the past has shown the futility of making such courses of study optional and, therefore, it has been decided that the new course be treated as a compulsory subject for all pupils.

... ..

Secondary Education in Bengal.

According to the Times of India of 24th January 1929 a Draft Bill for the appointment of a Board of Secondary Education for Bengal is ready for submission to the Bengal Legislative Council. The fundamental principle of the Bill is the creation of a Board with a considerable non-official majority which shall be responsible for the control

and welfare of all secondary schools in the presidency. The dual control previously exercised by the university and the Government will disappear. If the scheme is finally passed it will mean a great step forward in democratic control of the educational system of Bengal.

... ..

Maritime

Maritime questions are looming big at present as one of the most controversial measures scheduled to come up for discussion in the present session of the Indian legislature is the Coastal Reservation Bill (see January report, p.45) sponsored by Mr. S.N.Haji, who it will be remembered, had come to Geneva in 1926 to challenge on behalf of a certain section of Indian employers, the credentials of Sir Arthur Froom, whom the government had nominated as the employers' delegate for the two conferences of the year. The Bill has for its aim the creation of a purely Indian mercantile marine by the reservation of coastal shipping to vessels owned by Indian companies and financed by Indian capital. There is acute division of opinion on the desirability of such legislation. Indian interests and organs of public opinion unanimously support the principle of reservation, while European interests have already taken alarm and are raising the cry of "expropriation" against the Bill. The leading articles in the Hindu of 17th January 1929 and the Hindustan Times of 23rd January 1929 ~~ix x xxxxx xxxxxxx~~ sum up the Indian case, while the Pioneer's leader on the same subject of 12th January 1929 is a sober and well-reasoned out presentation of the non-Indian point of view. The controversy has had its repercussions in England. The Hindu of 31st January 1929 publishes a Reuters' telegram from London in which pointed mention is made of the fixed resolve of British shipping interests to fight Mr. Haji's Bill tooth and nail. Added interest is lent to the forthcoming Assembly debate on the subject by the cautiously worded warning uttered recently by the Viceroy against attempts at discriminatory legislation.

Mr Haji now informs us that the Bill is not likely to be taken up this session. ...

Workmen's Compensation Act.

The following notification is published by the Government of India extending the benefits of the Act to canal workers :-

Notification No. L.-1440 dated 24-1-1929.

In pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 2 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to give notice of his intention to declare that the following occupations, namely :-

- (a) the work of boatman on canals and their connected works, and
- (b) the work of the regulation establishment on canals and their connected works,

are hazardous occupations and to direct that the provisions of the said Act shall, subject to the provisions of the said sub-section, apply in the case of any person who is employed in any such occupation.

Any suggestions or objections with reference to this notification should reach the Government of India not later than the 3rd May 1929.

A. C. McWatters,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.