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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Report for May, 1931.

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References to the I.L.O.

Considerable publicity has been given in the Indian press to the First Part of the Director's Report to the 15th International Labour Conference. Reneued copies of a communiqué on the Report prepared by this office were sent to all the principal newspapers and Journals, as also to the more important of the representative organisations of Indian employers and workers.

The Hindu of 28-5-31, the Hindustan Times of 29-5-31, the Statesman of 30-5-31, and the Servant of India of 28-5-31 (Vol.XIV No.22) have published the communiqué in full. The Hindustan Times of 30-5-31 published an editorial article under the caption "India and the I.L.O." commenting favourably on the Report.

(Copies of the communiqué on the Report have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/568/31 dated 21-5-31).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times and the Pioneer of 10-5-31 and the Statesman of 13-5-31 publish a communiqué issued by this office on Hours of Work in Coal Mines, which is one of the items on the agenda of the 15th Labour Conference.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/427/31 dated 7-5-31).

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The communiqué issued by this office on the Partial Revision of the Washington Convention on the Employment of Women during the Night in Industry has been published by the Statesman, the Pioneer

and the Hindustan Times of 9-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/427/31 dated 7-5-31. Copies of an earlier communiqué on the same subject issued to the press by this office have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/1824/30 of 4-12-30).

\* \* \*

The Age of Admission of Children in non-Industrial Occupations formed the subject of a communiqué issued by this office on 23-5-31. The communiqué was published in the Hindu of 27-5-31 and the Statesman of 28-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/833/31 dated 18-6-31. An earlier communiqué on the same subject was issued to the press by this office on 11-12-30, and copies of that communiqué were forwarded to Geneva on the same date with this office's minute H 2/1842/30).

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The Hindu of 29-5-31, ~~and~~ the Statesman and Times of India of 30-5-31 and the Hindustan Times of 31-5-31 publish a Reuter's cable to the effect that Mr. R.R. Bakhale, the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 15th Labour Conference, intends moving a resolution asking for an Asiatic Labour Conference. The same cable gives publicity <sup>to</sup> the opinion expressed by M. Sokel, the President of this Year's Conference, that the reduction in working hours in industry would alleviate the present economic crisis by regulating output and combating over-production and unemployment.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 30-5-31 and the Pioneer of 31-5-31 publish a Reuter's cable to the effect <sup>(1)</sup> that <sup>(2)</sup> the Draft Convention on the Hours of Work in Coal Mines prepared by the Office has been adopted by the present session of the Labour Conference as a basis for further discussions, (2) that the employers' representatives from non-European countries have declined to participate in the committee appointed to consider the question on the ground that the question has till then been treated from a purely European view point and (3) that the Conference is considering the extension of limitation of the Hours of Work in Coal Mines to India, Canada, South Africa, China and Japan.

\* \* \*

The April 1931 issue of <sup>the</sup> Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.X No.8 pages 786-787) as well as the printed "Excerpts from the proceedings of the committee of the Millowners' Association", Bombay, during April 1931, publish the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 15th Labour Conference.

The April 1931 issue of the Unionist, Nagpur (Vol. III No.1), and the May 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal (Vol.VIII No.8, pages 181) publish paragraphs announcing the nomination by the Government of India of Mr. R.W.Fulay as one of the advisors to the Indian Workers' Delegate to this <sup>Year's</sup> Labour Conference, in the place of Mr. K.N. Sen Gupta who was prevented by illness from attending the Conference.

\* \* \*

The monthly circular issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association for April 1931 publishes the letter addressed by the

Secretary of the Association to <sup>S</sup>th Wajlehand Hirachand, the Indian Employers' Delegate to this Year's Labour Conference, protesting against the nomination by the Government of India of Mr. Tarlton as an advisor to the Indian Employers' Delegate. The following is the full text of the letter:-

"I am to request you, on behalf of this Association, to protest against the nomination of Mr. Tarlton as an Advisor to the Employers' Delegate and therefore to attend the International Labour Conference as a representative of India. That Mr. Tarlton should by any stretch of interpretation be treated as a "national" of India is a travesty against which India must certainly protest. It is indeed a surprise that the Government of India should have again disregarded public opinion and appointed a non-Indian as a member of the Indian Delegation. Such a protest was lodged by the Indian Employers' representative before the Credentials Committee of the International Labour Conference before. My Committee urge that once again a strong protest be lodged against it. While there are assurances being given of the status of equality to India as a self-governing Dominion in the Empire her sons are denied full direct representation in international assemblies of importance. There would be hundreds of Indians qualified and competent to act as Advisors in place of Mr. Tarlton. My Association urge that your protest be lodged in as emphatic a manner as possible".

\* \* \*

The communiqué issued by this office on the I. L. O. Budget estimates for 1932 have been published by the Pioneer of 2-5-31, the Times of India of 5-5-31 and the Hindu of 10-5-31.

(Copies of the communiqué have been forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/ 410/31 of 30-4-31).

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The Statesman of 5-5-31 publishes an article under the heading "E.I.R. Apply Geneva Convention" regarding the application of the Washington and Geneva conventions regulating hours of work and weekly rest in the East Indian Railway. This scheme is stated to affect the

conditions of work of more than 100,000 workmen. The article explains the provisions of the two Geneva conventions to which effect is now given and explains the difficulties experienced by the authorities to bring the scheme to a working condition.

\* \* \*

The New India of 7-5-31 (Vol. V New Series, No.6) also announces the application of the Washington and Geneva conventions regarding hours of work and weekly rest in the East Indian Railway.

\* \* \*

The April 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. X No.8) reproduces at page 788 the announcement in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 9-3-31 of the ratification by Great Britain of the Geneva Conventions concerning sickness insurance for Industrial workers and concerning sickness insurance for agricultural workers, as well as of Great Britain's acceptance of the Geneva Recommendation concerning the general principles of sickness insurance.

\* \* \*

The replies sent by the Committees of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, to the Government of India's enquiry on the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation adopted by the 12th Labour Conference concerning the Prevention of Industrial Accidents are published in the printed Excerpts of the Proceedings of these two Committees of March 1931.

The committee of the Millowners' Association in their reply stated

that they were of opinion that the Indian Factories Act adequately dealt with the provision of safety devices in hazardous machinery, and that the supervision exercised by the Factory Department <sup>is</sup> had been responsible for <sup>the</sup> a high standard of safety devices maintained in Bombay. It was not considered that an amendment of the Indian Factories Act, as suggested in the Recommendation, was necessary.

The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in their reply pointed out that before satisfactory progress could be made in the examination of the Recommendation, it seemed (to them necessary) that Government should prepare a statement showing clearly how far existing legislation covered the various points and which portions of the Recommendation could be given effect to by administrative orders. The Committee therefore confined themselves to a general expression of opinion on the points raised in the Government of India's letter without examining in detail each of the Articles of the Recommendation.

\* \* \*

The Servant of India of 14-5-31 (Vol.XLV No.20) reproduces the announcement appearing in an issue of the Manchester Guardian of the decision of the British Government to ratify the convention ~~in~~ against Forced Labour and comments favourably on the decision.

\* \* \*

The May 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol.11 No.3) Bombay, published <sup>the necessity of</sup> the passing of a Bill amending the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923. It is pointed out by the journal that the Bill incorporates



the provisions of various Geneva Conventions and Recommendations concerning the Welfare of Seamen. (The text of the Bill together with the statement<sup>of</sup>/objects and reasons<sup>is</sup>, reproduced at pages 8-19 of the report of this office for December 1930).

\* \* \*

The Monthly Circular for April 1931 issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association publishes the contents of a letter addressed by the Committee of the Association to the Government of India protesting against the refusal of the High Commissioner for India in London to issue laissez passer to Mr. Erulkar, while the latter was acting in the place of Mr. Gemmill in the Governing Body of the I.L.O. The letter points out that Mr Erulkar was able ultimately to obtain laissez passer, but it was through the High Commissioner for South Africa, and states: "It is, indeed, an irony that an Indian representative should be denied a courtesy and a facility by the High Commissioner of his own country, whereas he should be able to receive it at the hands of the High Commissioner of a foreign country". The letter strongly urges the Government of India to take steps to prevent such anomalies in the future.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 6-5-31, in the course of an editorial article based on the forecast by the paper's London correspondent, of the chief recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, states that the Report submitted by the Commission, in addition to improving the conditions of labour in industries in India, will be further valuable as the first complete and authoritative record of

labour conditions in India, which will serve as a satisfactory ~~foundation~~ basis for action by the I.L.O., which according to the paper is " a body whose influence over the Governments of the world is steadily increasing".

\* \* \*

New India, Madras, of 7-5-31 (Vol.V New Series No.6) and the Indian Post, Delhi, of May 1931 (Vol 11 No 5, pages 192-195) publish <sup>an</sup> the article under the caption, "<sup>in the Future India</sup> Labour and the Round Table Conference" and "<sup>and</sup> Labour & the Round Table Conference" respectively, contributed by the Director of this office. The same article was published under the caption "Labour in the New Constitution" in the Indian Review of April-May 1931 (Vol XXXI Nos. 4 & 5) and the Hindustan Times of 27 & 29-4-31 (see page 5 of the report of this office for April 1931). About 100 reprints of the above article from the Indian Post, Delhi, <sup>were</sup> was sent to prominent news papers and journals as well as to the more important organisations of the employers and workers in India. (Copies of the reprint were forwarded to Geneva with this office's minute H 4/485/31 dated 14-5-31).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 21-5-31 publishes a letter dated 8-5-31 from its London correspondent which contains an incidental reference to the attitude of the I.L.O. towards making labour a federal subject in the new constitution for India. The letter says that Geneva is in favour of Labour being made a Central subject and is opposed to it being made a Federal Subject since, in the latter case, India would not probably be able to ratify many Geneva Conventions because of the reac-

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tionary influence of backward Indian States. The Geneva view-point, the letter says, is apparently that it is best to obtain international standards in British India at least, instead of risking the non<sup>H</sup>observance of international agreements over <sup>the</sup> whole country. The letter <sup>also says</sup> ~~continues~~ that Mr. Bakhale, the Indian Workers' Delegate to this year's conference, would probably represent to the I.L.O. the views of Indian labour on the question.

\* \* \*

~~May~~ The May 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol 11 No.3), Bombay, publishes a brief review of the work accomplished by the 6th annual conference of the M & S.M. Railwaymen in the course of which reference is made to a resolution passed in the Conference which declared that no constitution for the future Government of India would be acceptable unless there was a declaration of fundamental rights of citizenship guaranteeing ~~to~~ a living wage, adult franchise and the ratification and enforcement of Geneva Conventions throughout India.

\* \* \*

ç The Pioneer of 30-5-31 publishes the report of a political speech delivered by Subhas Chandra Bose, the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, in Bombay on 27-5-31, in the course of which he made a strong attack on the League of Nations. Mr. Bose is reported to have referred to the League of Nations as "the League of robbers" because, according to him, the countries which constitute the League are working with a selfish motive. He is also reported to have said that Russia kept aloof from the League for the reason mentioned above.

\* \* \*

The May 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Vol.VIII.No.8), Nagpur, reprints at pages 163-165 a further instalment of the article "Labour Legislation in India" by Dr. R. K. Das (published in the November 1930 issue of the International Labour Review).

\* \* \*

The Servant of India of 7-5-31 (Vol.XIV.No.19) publishes a review contributed by the Director of this office of the books "Hand book of the League of Nations Since 1920" by Denys P. Myres, and " Latin American Relations with the League of Nations" by Warren H. Kelehner. The review contains several references to the work of the I.L.O.

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New India, Madras, of 21-5-31 (Vol.V New Series, No.8) publishes a letter from its Geneva correspondent on the activities of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

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11

National Labour Legislation.

The C. P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

At pages 25-28 of the report of this office for March 1929, reference was made to a Bill introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on 22-1-1929 to make provision for payment of maternity benefits to women workers in the factories in that province. The Bill was passed by the C. P. Council on 20-1-1930 and has since received the assent of the Governor General.

It will be recalled that a Maternity Benefit Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N.M. Jeshi in 1924, and that it failed to get through owing to lack of adequate support. The Bombay Legislative Council passed the first Maternity Benefit Act in India in 1929. The Central Provinces is the second province in India to enact a Maternity Benefit Act. The following is the full text of the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930, and of the Rules framed thereunder:-

The Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

Central Provinces Act No. VI of 1930.

An Act to make provision for absence of work during advanced state of pregnancy and to regulate the employment of women some time before and after confinement and for the payment of maternity benefits to women-workers in the factories in the province during such periods.

Whereas it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories and to provide for the payment of maternity benefits some time before and after confinement; and

Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by section 80-A(3) of the Government of India Act has been obtained

to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (a) This Act may be called the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

(b) It extends to the whole of the Central Provinces and applies to factory-workers in all factories as defined in sections 2, 3 (a) and (b) of the Indian Factories Act, 1911:

Provided that the Local Government may exempt factories not working ordinarily for at least nine months in a year from the operation of the Act.

(c) It shall come into force on such day as the Local Government may notify, after the passing of the Act.

2. Definitions. - In this Act -

(a) "Factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

(b) "Benefit" means benefit as provided by this Act.

(c) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or the "Manager" of a factory.

(d) The expressions "Inspector of Factories", "employ" and "employed" shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them under the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

3. Employment of or work by women in factories prohibited during certain period. - After this Act comes into operation. -

(1) no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery; and

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

4. Right to payment of maternity benefit. - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman employed in the factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of her average daily earnings calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding the day of her confinement or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is less, for the actual days of her absence for the period immediately preceding her confinement and for the four weeks immediately following her confinement as mentioned in sub-section (2):

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in the factory of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than nine months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice to her employer under section 5.

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

5. Procedure regarding payment of maternity benefit. - (1) Any woman employed in a factory and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act, •

(a) who is pregnant may, on any day, give notice in writing to her employer stating that she expects to be confined within one month next following.

(b) who has not given the notice referred to in clause (a) and has been delivered of a child shall, within forty-eight hours, give similar notice, stating

that she is confined,

that her maternity benefit may be paid to her, and that she will not work in any employment during the period for which she receives maternity benefit.

(2) The employer shall thereupon permit such woman to absent herself from the factory from the day following the date of the notice in the case mentioned in clause (a) of sub-section (1), and from the day of delivery in the case mentioned in clause (b) thereof, until four weeks after the day of delivery.

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

6. Payment of maternity benefit in case of a woman's death. -

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

7. No notice of dismissal to be given to a woman during period of maternity benefit. - When a woman absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

8. Forfeiture of maternity benefit. - If a woman works in



any factory after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 5, she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of the maternity benefit to which she is entitled

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

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

11. Cognizance of offences. - (1) No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the Inspector of Factories.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) The power to make rules under this Act shall be subject to the condition of previous publication.

14. Copies of this Act and rules thereunder to be exhibited.

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

Rules framed by the Central Provinces Government under section 13 of the Act

1. These rules may be cited as the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Rules, 1930.

2. In these rules

(a) "Act" means the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1930.

(b) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Factories appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

3. Delegation to District Magistrate. The powers and duties of an Inspector may be exercised and performed by a District Magistrate within his own district.

4. Muster roll. • The employer of every factory in which women are employed other than a factory in which no woman is employed for more than nine months in a year, shall prepare and maintain a muster roll in Form A attached to these rules. The names and record of employment of all women employed in the factory shall be entered therein and also the other particulars prescribed therein. All entries in the muster roll shall be maintained up to date and it shall always be available for inspection by an Inspector.

5. Inspections. - The Chief Inspector of Factories shall be responsible for the administration of the Act in the province, and every Inspector officially subordinate to him shall be responsible for the administration of the Act within such area as may be assigned to him by the Chief Inspector.

6. Powers of Inspector. - An Inspector may examine the muster roll maintained under rule 4 and shall have power to make such enquiries and to require the production of such papers or documents as he considers necessary for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the Act and of these rules are properly carried out in any factory or not:

Provided that he shall not require any employer to answer any question or to give any evidence tending to criminate himself. -

7. Performance of duties by an Inspector. - (1) An Inspector shall at each inspection of a factory satisfy himself -

(a) that the provisions made in the Act and rules to secure adequate maternity benefits to women workers are observed;

(b) that due action has been taken on every notice given under sub-section (1) of section 5;

8. (e) that the muster roll prescribed by rule 4 is correctly maintained.

(2) An Inspector shall enquire into all cases of maternity for which benefits have been claimed since last inspection, and initial the muster roll in Form A after examination of the same.

(3) An Inspector shall issue orders in writing to the employer to remedy all irregularities under the Act noticed by him, and shall, after consulting the Chief Inspector of Factories, if he is not himself the Chief Inspector of Factories, institute prosecutions for breaches of law whenever deemed necessary.

8. The method of payment of maternity benefit. - For purposes of the payment of maternity benefit, the average daily earnings of a woman worker shall be calculated on the total wages earned during the three months preceding the day of her confinement divided by the actual number of days on which she worked during that period.

9.(a) The payment of any amount against the claim of maternity benefit shall be made to the claimant or to her duly authorised agent, and a receipt obtained from her or the agent in Form C.

(b) A copy of the receipt shall be duly forwarded by the employer to the Chief Inspector of Factories.

(c) All such receipts shall be maintained as record of payment by the employer, and shall be available to an Inspector on demand.

10. Penalties. - (1) Any employer who contravenes the provisions of rule 4 shall, on conviction, be punishable with a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

(2) Any person who wilfully obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of his powers or the performance of his duties, or who

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fails to produce on demand the muster ~~roll~~<sup>or</sup> notices given under sub-section (1) of ~~sub-section (1) of~~ section 5 of the Act, or receipts for maternity benefits paid, or other documents necessary to enable an Inspector to ascertain whether the provisions of the Act and these rules have been complied with, or fails to submit the return or preserve the records referred to in rule 11 shall, on conviction, be punishable with a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

11. (1) Returns. - Every employer of women in a factory in which no woman is employed for more than nine months in a year, shall furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories by the 15th January in each year a return in Form B attached to these rules, for the previous year ending on the 31st December.

(2) Records relating to the payment of maternity benefit under the provisions of the Act or these rules shall be preserved for a period of two years from the date of their preparation.

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The Railway Servants' Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

The rules issued by the Governor General in Council in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 71 E of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as amended by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930 (the text of this is given at pages 9-12 of our January 1930 report) were given at pages 13 to 15 of our January 1930 report under the heading 'The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930! A new set of rules entitled 'The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931,' has been issued by the Governor General in Council on 31-1-31. On 6-5-31 the Railway Board has issued a number of subsidiary instructions to Section 71-A to 71 -H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, referred to above. The Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, are substantially the same as the Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, the only material difference being the inclusion of an additional clause (d) to subsection to Rule 3 (1930 rules) excluding "persons employed in a factory ~~within~~ within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or employed in a mine within the meaning of the Indian Mines Act, 1923", from the application of Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930. It may be pointed out here that these classes of railway workers are excluded as they come under the administration of the Indian Factories Act and the Indian Mines Act, which secure for them equally favourable and in some respects better, conditions of hours of work and rest than those secured by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930. Below is reproduced the full text of The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931. (Alterations from the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, given at pages 13 to 15 of our January 1930

report are typed in red)

The Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

No. 40-L.- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 71-E of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (1X of 1890), as amended by the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act 1930 (XLV of 1930) the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules for the hours of employment and periods of rest of railway servants, namely:-

1. These rules may be called the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Short title. ] Rules, 1931.

2. In these rules, "chapter", "section" or "sub-section" means a  
Definition. chapter, section or sub-section of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

3. (1) The provisions of Chapter VI-A shall apply to the following classes of railway servants, namely:-

Extent of appli-  
cation of Chap-  
ter VI-A.

- (1) Operating staff.
- (2) Transportation staff.
- (3) Commercial staff.
- (4) Traffic staff.
- (5) Engineering staff.
- (6) Mechanical staff.
- (7) Shed staff.
- (8) Watch and ward staff.
- (9) Staff of the stores department or branch.
- (10) Staff of the medical department or branch.
- (11) Staff of the accounts department.
- (12) Office staff.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, these classes shall be held to exclude-

- (a) running staff, viz., drivers, shutters, firemen, guards, brakemen, travelling van porters, travelling van checkers, travelling ticket examiners, travelling stores delivery staff and other staff who habitually work on running trains;
- (b) those chowkidars or watchmen, watermen, sweepers and gate-keepers whose employment is declared by the Head of the Railway to be essentially intermittent and of a specially light character;
- (c) persons who hold positions of supervision or management, or

are employed in a confidential capacity; and

- (d) persons employed in a factory within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or employed in a mine within the meaning of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

(3) If any question arises as to whether a person holds a position of supervision or management, or is employed in a confidential capacity, the matter shall be referred to the Railway Board whose decision thereon shall be final.

4. The power of declaring that the employment of a railway servant is essentially intermittent, within the meaning of section 71-A, shall vest in the Head of a Railway.

Power to Head of Railway to declare employment essentially intermittent.

5. (1) Power to make temporary exemptions of railway servants from the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 71-D, of sub-section (1) of section 71-D, and of rule 6, shall vest in the Head of a railway.

Power to make temporary exemptions.

(2) The Head of a Railway may delegate his powers under this rule to such authorities subordinate to him as he may, by order, prescribe.

6. (1) The following classes of railway servants may be granted periods of rest on a scale less than that laid down in sub-section (1) of section 71-D, namely:-

Grant of periods of rest on less than the normal scale.

(a) Artizans and unskilled labour employed on lines under construction;

(b) Artizans and unskilled labour employed for temporary purposes on open lines; and

(c) Mates, keymen, and gangmen employed on the maintenance of permanent way.

(2) Such railway servants shall enjoy in every calendar month at least one period of rest of not less than 48 consecutive hours or two periods of rest of not less than 24 consecutive hours each.

7. A railway servant exempted under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 71-D from the grant of periods of rest shall not be required to work for 21 days without a rest of at least 24 consecutive hours.

Compensatory periods of rest.

8. A railway administration shall furnish for communication to the International Labour Office such information concerning the application of the provisions of Chapter VI-A or of these rules as may be called for by the Railway Board.

Supply of information.

9. A railway administration shall make known either by duty lists, rosters, or other documents placed in conspicuous places, the duration of hours of employment and the incidence of periods of rest.

Display of hours of employment.



10. A railway administration shall keep in a conspicuous place at each station of its railway a copy of Chapter VI-A and of these rules.

Affixing of  
rules.

(The Central Provinces Gazette. 16-5-31.  
Part I, pages 542-543.)

~~Simla, the 6th~~

Subsidiary Instructions to Indian Railways (Amendment)  
Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931.

Simla, the 6th May 1931.

Subsidiary Instructions to sections 71-A to 71-H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, published in the Gazette of India of the 31st January 1931.

No. 40-L. The following subsidiary instructions to sections 71-A to 71-H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, and the Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, published in the Gazette of India on the 31st January 1931, are made by the Railway Board.

1. For the purpose of section 71-A, the work of a railway servant shall not be regarded as essentially intermittent unless his <sup>daily</sup> periods of duty includes (a) two or more periods of inaction of not less than half an hour each, aggregating not less than two hours in all, or (b) periods of inaction aggregating not less than 4½ hours. The term "sustained attention" used in the same section involves mental effort. Thus a pointsman waiting for the arrival of a train, after setting points, is required to give sustained attention; so also is a station master after, but not before, giving line clear.

2. With reference to rule 3(2)(a) it may be noted that running staff have only been excluded from the scope of the regulations pend-

ing further investigations.

3. With reference to rule 3(2) (b) although chowkidars or watchmen, watermen, sweepers and gatekeepers, whose work is declared to be essentially intermittent and of a specially light character, are excluded from the scope of the regulations, it is desirable that their present hours of duty should be scrutinized with a view to making such changes as may be necessary on humanitarian grounds.

4. For the purpose of rule 3(2)(c) the classes of staff detailed in the Annexure to these instructions are to be regarded as persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity.

5. The maximum hours of employment, stipulated in section 71-C, do not include the time taken by an employee in going to and from his place of residence.

6. Exceptional pressure of work caused by sickness is to be considered as coming under the provisions of clause (b) of section ~~71-C~~ 71-C (3).

7. The minimum overtime rate of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the ordinary rate prescribed in section 71-C is only admissible when the maximum limits, i.e., a monthly average of 60 hours a week in the case of continuous workers and 84 hours a week in the case of essentially intermittent workers, are exceeded. These regulations, however, are not intended to affect any overtime, more favourable to the employee, admissible under existing rules or orders.

8. In preparing duty rosters, care should be taken to avoid, as far as possible, rosters which require employees to perform continual night duty especially if any portion of the period of such duty falls between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

9. Authorized periods of rest will not affect the title of

any employee to wages under existing pay regulations for periods when he is not actually on duty.

10. It is not desirable that rosters should be continually revised in respect of individual employees. If, therefore, a rostered weekly period of rest occurs while an employee is absent for any reason, he may be considered to have availed himself of that period. On the other hand, if the absence occurs at other times, the employee should not necessarily be deprived of his rostered period of rest on that account.

11. Where the exigencies of the service permit, there is no objection to the periods of rest, stipulated in section 71-D and rule 6, being combined with any other leave to which the employee may be entitled.

12. Although essentially intermittent workers are excluded from the weekly rest proviso under section 71-D, it is intended that the case of these employees should receive adequate consideration and every effort should be made to limit, under normal conditions, their daily hours of duty to 12. Further, their applications for leave, under the Leave Rules, should receive special consideration.

13. Although neither the Act nor the Rules stipulate a minimum period of daily rest, it is intended that the railway servants to whom they apply should, as far as possible, be given in every period of 24 hours a minimum rest period of not less than 8 consecutive hours

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Annexure.

(a) Supervisory staff:-

(1) Gazetted officers on State-managed railways and officers of corresponding rank on other Railways. (2) Inspectors (all branches).

(3) Sub-Engineers. (4) Supervisors (all branches). (5) Superintendents (all branches including officers). (6) Foremen. (7) Yard Masters. (8) Head Train Controllers. (9) Head Train Examiners. (10) Storekeepers (11) Assistant Surgeons.

(b) The following are to be considered as Supervisory staff when they are definitely employed in a supervising capacity:-

(1) Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors (all branches). (2) Overseers and Sub-overseers. (3) Deputy Superintendents (all branches). (4) Assistant Foremen (all branches). (5) Assistant Yard Masters. (6) Train Controllers in charge. (7) Train Examiners in charge. (8) Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters not actually engaged in train passing duties. (9) ~~Fix~~ Power Controllers. (10) Junction Rolling Stock Verifiers. (11) Sub-Storekeepers and Depot Storekeepers (all branches). (12) Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Health Assistants. (13) Matrons. (14) Chargemen. (15) Shedmen in running sheds. (16) Head Signallers. (17) Head Train Deppatchers. (18) Head Fitters. (19) Head Boilermakers. (20) Goods Clerks and Coaching Clerks. (21) Head Ticket Collectors. (22) Head Number Takers. (23) Head Trains Clerks. (24) Head Watchmen and Caretakers.

(c) Confidential staff -

(1) Clerks and stenographers employed in a confidential capacity.

Conditions of Labour.

Quarterly Strike Statistics, Period ending 31-3-1931.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in a press communique dated 4-6-31, has published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31-3-31. During the period under review there were 52 disputes involving 103,507 workers and entailing a loss of 731,223 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bengal Presidency where 21 disputes were recorded involving 72,632 workers and entailing <sup>a</sup>the loss of 542,022 working days. Bombay comes next with 11 disputes, involving 6,122 workmen and entailing a loss of 15,544 working days. There were 8 strikes in Madras involving 11,614 men and entailing a loss of 83,410 working days; 4 in Burma involving 2,297 men and entailing a loss of 5,056 working days; 3 in the United Provinces involving 4,282 men and entailing a loss of 22,032 working days; 2 each in the Central Provinces and Assam involving 1,970 and 2,090 men and entailing losses of 4,599 and 3,360 working days respectively; 1 in Behar and Orissa involving 2,500 men and entailing a loss of 56,200 working days; while no strikes were recorded in the Punjab and Delhi.

Of the 52 disputes during the quarter under review, 18 were due to questions of wages, 16 to those of leave and hours, 13 to those of personnel, 2 to those of bonuses and 4 to other causes. In 6 disputes the workers were successful, in 9 partially successful, and in 21 unsuccessful; 16 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

Classified according to industries, there were 17 disputes in

Cotton and Woollen mills involving 19,600 men and entailing a loss of 115,357 working days; 16 in Jute mills involving 69,013 men and entailing a loss of 478,666 working days; 1 in railways, including railway workshops, involving 3,002 men and entailing a loss of 3,002 working days; 1 in mines involving 583 men and entailing a loss of 1,058 working days; 1 in Engineering workshops involving 134 men and entailing a loss of 2,546 working days and 16 in other industries involving 11,175 men and entailing a loss of 130,594 working days.

(The statistics of Industrial disputes for the quarter ending 31-12-1930 <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ summarised at pages 18 & 19 of the report of this office for February 1931).

#### Rules of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund.

At pages 13-15 of the report of this office for January 1931 the draft rules framed by the Government of India, for the constitution of a new fund on State-managed Railways, to be called the "Railway Staff Benefit Fund", with a view to providing certain amenities and affording relief of distress to non-gazetted employees of Railways, <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ reproduced.

The Rules authorising the replacement of the existing Fine Funds, on State-managed Railways by Staff Benefit Funds with effect from 1-4-31, as finally adopted by the Governor General in Council, <sup>now</sup> has/been published as an annexure to Resolution No.61-L dated 1-4-31 of the Railway Department (Railway Board). Hitherto the expenditure on such objects has been defrayed from the Fine Funds under the authority of the Agent of a Railway, but as the income <sup>from</sup> ~~of~~

these funds was of an uncertain amount, the Government of India decided to add to it a contribution from the railway revenues calculated to ensure that a suitable sum is available each year for such expenditure. It will be observed that under these Rules the Staff is to be associated in the management of the new Fund.

The Rules are not reproduced here as they do not differ from the draft rules given at pages 13-15 of our January 1931 report except on the following two points:

(1). After sub-section (iii) <sup>of Section 8,</sup> setting forth the objects of the Fund, the following has been added as sub-section (iv).

"(iv) relief of distress amongst the members <sup>or</sup> ~~ex-members~~ of of the Staff or their families not provided for under the regulations in force on the Railway"

(2). The new section 12 reads as follows:-

"12. The Agent shall submit annually a report to the Board of Directors on the working of the Fund during the Railway Board previous financial year".

## Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. & Berar, 1930\*

The following details about the conditions of mining labour in the Central Provinces and Berar are taken from the Annual Report for 1930 on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar published by the local Government.

Supply of labour.— The depression in the coal and manganese markets continued throughout the year under review, and in spite of the continuance of the temporary reduction of dead rent sanctioned by the local Government and the reduction of railway freights on low grade ore allowed by the railways, the mining industry of the province made no headway. The number of mines worked during the year fell from 161 to 117 owing to the closure of one coal mine, 34 manganese mines and nine ~~mines~~ mines for other minerals. As a result, a large portion of the labour force was discharged from several mining centres of the province, the fall being no less than 22 per cent ~~in the districts of Nagpur and Balaghat~~ in the Bhandara district and as much as 34 and 35 in the districts of Nagpur and Balaghat. In consequence, the supply of labour was plentiful everywhere except at the Kabakali coal mine in the Chanda district where some difficulty was experienced in obtaining skilled labour owing to the inadequacy of the housing accommodation, and at the Bharwelli manganese mine in the Balaghat district which is the only manganese mine with underground working; here in consequence of the restrictions on females working underground, the Kols, who are a hereditary caste of miners and earth workers, did not present themselves for employment. The number of labourers employed in coal mines increased slightly owing to a greater demand from the Ballarpur and Chaugus collieries. Of the total labour force employed in coal mines, about 22 per cent were females.

Wages & Relations between labourers and management.— Despite the reduction in the demand for labour, there was no appreciable change in the rates of wages. The average earnings of a male labourer employed in the coal mines varied from Re. 0-8-6 to Re. 0-11-0 per day for underground and from Re. 0-8-0 to Re. 1-8-0 for surface work, while those of female labourers ranged between Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-9-0 per head both for underground and surface work. In manganese and other mines, the daily earnings of an unskilled labourer averaged between Re. 0-5-0 and Re. 0-8-0 for a male and Re. 0-3-6 and Re. 0-6-0 for a female, whereas skilled labourers earned from Re. 0-6-0 to Re. 1-14-0 per day. These rates are slightly higher than the wages earned in agricultural pursuits and local industries and, with the all round fall in the prices of food stuffs and other commodities, the remuneration of labour was adequate for its needs.

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\* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1930. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press 1931. (Price. Five Annas) pp. 8.



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The relations between the employers and employees remained cordial, and the year was marked by a complete absence of strikes, disputes or any indication of dissatisfaction in any of the mining centres in the province. The labour in mines is, however, still unskilled, illiterate and unorganized.

Health of labourers. - Mining camps were not altogether free from epidemics; small-pox, influenza, cholera and dysentery broke out at several labour camps during the year under review. The following are the mortality rates: there were 67 attacks of small-pox resulting in 7 deaths, 1376 attacks of influenza resulting in 24 deaths, 97 attacks of cholera resulting in 32 deaths and 333 attacks of dysentery resulting in 6 deaths.

In all important mining camps labourers are reported to be generally well cared for in respect of their health and hygiene. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company opened a new dispensary during the year under review at their Gumgaon mine in the Nagpur district. They have also inaugurated a Maternity Benefit Scheme for women who continue in service for more than nine months, under which a woman gets average wages of 6 annas per day for a total period of five weeks, viz., two weeks before and three weeks after confinement.

Sanitation and housing accommodation. - The sanitary condition of the labour camps in the province during the year is reported to be satisfactory. In all important mines sweepers were employed both underground and on the surface. The water supply was ample and was drawn from fresh springs and wells. Government notes with satisfaction the progress made by some mine owners in regard to the housing of their labourers. Besides quarters of an approved type already provided at the Kandri, Mansar, Beldongri, Gumgaon and Ramdongri mines, the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company constructed 40 additional houses at Kandri and 19 at Mansar and built model residences for its imported labourers at the Dongri Buzurg and Sitasaongi mines in the Bhandara district. The permanent quarters constructed at the Ballarpur and Ghagus collieries in the Chanda district were all occupied during the year and the management had to provide temporary huts for additional labourers. The housing arrangements at the Mahakali and Hindustani Lalpeth collieries were reported to be less satisfactory and those at the Majri colliery wholly inadequate.

Prices of food stuffs and clothing. - The abnormal fall in the prices of food stuffs proved beneficial to labourers as it was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in wages. In Yeotmal, juar, which is the staple food, was sold as cheap as 23 seers <sup>(nearly 48 lbs)</sup> per rupee. The prices of clothing were also cheaper than those of the previous year. In most camps mine operatives draw their supplies from the neighbouring markets and weekly bazars. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company's labour camps in the Bhandara district have established weekly markets of their own.

Education. - The year under review recorded an advance in respect of the facilities afforded to mine labourers for the education of children at the mines. The Independent Mining Local

Board opened one more school in <sup>the</sup> Pench coalfield, increasing the total number of schools managed by the Board from 10 to 11. The attendance in these schools is reported to be fair. The free schools maintained by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company as well as those run by the Mahakali and Ballarpur collieries in the Chanda district are reported to be working well. At all other places the children of mine workers attend neighbouring schools managed by local bodies. The report notes, however, that the benefits of education are still insufficiently appreciated even by the better paid operatives.

Crime and moral condition.— With the exception of a few cases of ordinary theft, house-breaking and burglaries, no serious outbreak of crime was reported in any of the mining areas. In the Chhindwara district there was a noticeable decrease in the number of burglaries from 52 to 32 as a result of introduction of a beat system and a closer check on suspected burglars.

Accidents.— There were 91 accidents during the year under review against 99 in the preceding year. Out of these, 10 were fatal and 81 serious, causing injuries to 83 persons. Medical help was promptly afforded in all cases and, in some, compensation was granted to the injured persons. 59 of the accidents were due to misadventure and the remainder were due to the negligence of employees.

Prosecutions for offences under the Mines Act and Mining Regulations.— There were 5 prosecutions during the year under report, 3 in Chhindwara, 1 in Nagpur and 1 in Chanda. In one case a mine <sup>owner</sup> Sardar was prosecuted for the removal of the fencing of a prohibited area whereby four deaths and two serious injuries resulted. In two cases the managements of two collieries were prosecuted for failure to submit annual returns.

Hours and limitations of employment and employment of women and children in mines.— The hours of employment in surface workings varied from 6 to 10 and those for underground work from 7 to 8 per day. In the Pench coalfield in the Chhindwara district the percentage of women on the total labour force employed below the surface was about 22 as a result of the introduction of the regulations restricting their employment underground. The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, however, reports that in his district the regulations were not fully carried out and the attention of the mine owners concerned was drawn to this fact. No children under 13 years of age were employed in any mine.

Receipts from mines.— In spite of a rise of Rs.11,054 in the income from coal mines, the provincial receipts dropped down from Rs.3,93,025 to Rs.353,643, the decrease being mainly due to the slump in the manganese and limestone markets and the consequent suspension of operations at a number of mines and ~~quarries~~ quarries. Of the total revenue, Rs.214,586 was received from Manganese mines, Rs.126,055 from coal mines and Rs.23,002 from other mines. The pit's mouth value of coal increased from Rs.4-3-5 to Rs.4-5-2 per ton in the Chhindwara district, while in the Chanda district a decline of six pias per ton from Rs.4-1-10 to Rs.4-1-4 was recorded.

(The annual review on the working of the Indian Mining Act, in the C.P. & Berar for 1929 is reviewed at pages 30-32 of the May 1930 Report. Attention is also directed to the summary of the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1929 given at pages 19-26 of the November 1930 Report of this Office.)

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Fire in Nundydroog Mine, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore.

A disastrous fire occurred in the Nundydroog Mine, Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore on 24-5-31, causing a total of 52 deaths (The Hindustan Times 29-5-31). The fire is characterised as the most terrible disaster in the history of Indian mining. Smoke from the fire which began at the 41st level, spread to other levels where coolies were working and several deaths from asphyxiation resulted, while work was completely suspended in the Balaghat and Gergaum Mines. About 300 coolies were trapped underground where the utmost confusion prevailed. Two Italian miners were among those who succeeded in fighting their way to the top and escaped without injury. The local fire brigades were called out immediately the outbreak occurred and succeeded in holding the flames in check, operations being conducted from both the Gergaum shaft and the Nundydroog main shaft.

The origin of the fire is unknown but the theory is advanced that it was due to the carelessness of a coolie who placed a lighted candle on some timber. An inquiry will be held by the Chief Inspector of Mines.

(The Nundydroog Mine, which covers an area of 2,608 acres, lies in the Kolar Gold Fields and yields an annual output of about 80,000 ozs. of fine gold. The property is held by a company on lease from the Mysore Government and has been worked for approximately 50 years.)

(The Pioneer 28-5-31).

Wages of Indian Labourers in Ceylon;Protest against attempt at Reduction.

At page 18 of the Report of this Office for November, 1930, reference was made to the intervention of the Government of India in the question whether the minimum wages of estate labourers in Ceylon should be reduced in view of the serious economic depression prevailing in the plantation industries of Ceylon. The proposals which were then afoot for effecting a reduction in the minimum wages have now advanced a step further. Ceylon papers of the second week of May 1931 publish a communiqué of the Government of Ceylon to the effect that the Government of India had agreed to a proposal made by the Ceylon Government that no action should be taken against estates in Ceylon which reduced the minimum wage by 5, 4 and 3 cents for men, women and children respectively, while simultaneously reducing the issue price of rice from Rs. 6.40 per bushel, the rate fixed under the Minimum Wage Ordinance, to Rs. 4.80 per bushel. This was said to be a temporary arrangement pending a readjustment of the minimum wage by regular action under the Ordinance which requires that six months' notice should be given to the Government of India of any proposal to reduce the wages fixed under the Ordinance. The Times of Ceylon, in publishing the communiqué, stated that the Ceylon Wages Board would meet ~~in~~ soon to revise wages in accordance with the fall in the cost of living and observed, "it is possible that the rates announced in the telegram may be still further revised." There is considerable dissatisfaction in India over the attempt to reduce minimum wages ~~of~~ in Ceylon, which would substantially lower the wage-earnings of the large body of Indian labourers working in

the plantations of Ceylon. Indians in Ceylon number nearly one million out of an estimated total population of 5 1/2 millions. The vast majority of Indians in Ceylon earn their livelihood by working on estates. The average numbers of Indian labourers reported as working on estates during the quarter ending the 31st December 1929 was 742,297, of whom 243,335 were men, 234,390 women, and 264,572 children. (For further particulars about Indians in Ceylon vide pages 11-16 of our November 1930 report).

Commenting editorially on the proposed reduction of wages, the Hindu, Madras, writes:-

In order to understand the significance of the proposal it is necessary to set out the provisions of the Ordinance briefly. This measure, was passed in 1927 after a long period of agitation. It fixed the minimum wage for estate labourers at rates varying between 50 and 54 cents for men, 40 and 43 cents for women and 30 ~~to 32~~ and 33 cents for children according to the locality. It also stipulated that good unblended rice should be sold to the labourers by their employers at a price not exceeding Rs.6.40 per bushel, which was about a rupee less than the market price then prevailing. The intention behind this stipulation presumably was to secure the labourers a slight additional benefit at the then falling prices and to safeguard that the labourers were not adversely affected by fluctuations of the rice ~~mar~~market in the future. In the past year or two the price of rice has, contrary to expectations, fallen considerably, and stood at about Rs.3.50 per bushel; but the estates have gone on selling rice to their labourers at the price of Rs. 6.40 fixed in 1927, thus making a very handsome profit on every bushel sold and thereby automatically reducing the effective wages paid by them. This was clearly in contravention of the spirit of the Ordinance which had fixed an upper limit for the price of rice sold to the labour force, certainly not with a view to enabling the estates to profiteer. The workers could, of course, buy their rice elsewhere, but this theoretical liberty was largely curtailed in actual practice by pressure of various kinds brought to bear on the labourers to buy from the estates only, though the price was almost double the market-rate. Latterly such pressure seems to have been not on the whole successful and the Ceylon Government have therefore hit upon the device of reducing the price of rice to Rs.4.80 per bushel (which is still, it will be seen, appreciably above the market rate) and at the same time reducing the minimum wage by five, four and three cents for men, women and children respectively. The Government of India have shown undue complaisance in agreeing to a manipulation of wages which is gravely detrimental to the Indian labourer in the Island. They should ~~in~~ sift with extra care any proposals that may be made for a permanent revision of the minimum wage, and if they find that Ceylon is anxious

to secure a perennial supply of semi-starved labour, tell it that it must look elsewhere than to India for such a luxury. (The Hindu 25-5-31).

Resolutions passed at a mass meeting of Indian Labourers in Ceylong held at Hatto<sup>71</sup>, Ceylon, on 3-5-31 directed attention to the following grievances:-

Any attempt at reducing the Money Wages of the labourers by the Estate Wages Board without previously consulting the Government of India, will be one-sided and will not be binding on that Government.

The agreement that unblended rice of good quality should be supplied to the labourers at a cost not more than 6-40 a bushel does not mean that rice could be supplied above the market rate and thus deprive the labourer of his lawful wages.

Truck system is prohibited by law in Ceylon but an exception is made in the supply of rice to the Estate labourers; it was, however, never the intention of the framers of law that the employers should be allowed to supply rice at fancy prices and rob the labourers.

~~It further has to be submitted that the supply of rice is not at all in accordance~~

The money wages of Indian labourers were fixed at 54, 52 and 50 ~~cents~~ as the case may be subject to three conditions; viz. (1) that rice is supplied at a price not more than Rs. 6/40 (2) that one 1/4th bushel of free rice is supplied to every male adult working on the Estate and a working widow with a non-working child and (3) that every woman labourer giving birth to a child is given Rs. 8 and a bushel of rice free for a month. On every bushel of rice supplied to the labourer the employer has been making a profit of about Rs. 3 for the past two years; (2) by changing the free issue of rice into child feeding they have been making Rs. 1 million a year for the past 3 years and by non-compliance with item 3 due to the evasion of the passing of the Medical Wants Ordinance they have been making a profit of about Rs. 250,000 a year for the past four years.

The employers have been evading the minimum wages ordinance (of course with some honourable exceptions), by various means; viz., (a) by not giving 26 days work as required by law; (b) by giving work for 26 days but marking for less number by days on the check-roll; (c) by increasing the task work; (d) by making the labourers work more than 8 hours. These evasions are practised with impunity as the labourers are in no way able to prove their claims with documentary evidence.

The depression has not prevented the employers from further recruitment and the statistics would clearly show that there are about 200 to 300 immigrants coming into this island every day. (The Hindu, 21-5-31).

Workmen's Compensation Claims Bureau, Calcutta:

Report for 1930.

The following details about the work of the Calcutta Claims Bureau are taken from the Report for 1930 of the Bureau:-

Total Claims dealt with. - During the year ended December 31, 1930, a total of 6,847 claims was dealt with arising under their Workmen's Compensation Insurance Policies, by the Calcutta Claims Bureau on behalf of its members. Of the total claims reported and dealt with during the year 1930, no less than 6,076 were settled and disposed of, leaving a balance of only 771 claims, or 11 per cent. of the total claims reported, pending at the close of the year. On December 31, 1930, only one claim was outstanding for more than 2 years and 12 claims for more than one year. A factor of extreme importance in the rapid settlement of claims in this country is the existence in the Act of a special Schedule (Schedule 1) under which the more common permanent injuries are assessed in terms of loss in earning capacity.

Proportion of Fatal Cases. - Of the total cases reported to the Bureau during the year referred to above, 205, or 3 per cent of the total, were fatal accidents and, as hitherto, the largest number of such accidents occurred in colliery risks, the balance being mainly those of the Gold Mines of the Kolar Gold Field. There was little delay in the payment of compensation in respect of fatal accidents in Bengal, the Jharia Coal Field and the Kolar Gold Field, but delay is still experienced in the disposal of such cases in other areas where District Officials are Commissioners appointed under the Act.

Delay in Disposal of Claims. - ~~Some~~ delay is occasioned largely because the cases have to be dealt with in ordinary Civil Courts where they are not given special preference but take their turn with ordinary suits. Considerable improvement in this respect would be experienced if a single Commissioner were appointed for the whole of each province, as in the case of Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

Changes & Extension of the Act. - The underlying principle inculcated in the Workmen's Compensation Act at its inception, viz., that it should apply only to occupations which are both organised and hazardous, has remained unaltered in the last 7 years and the Act at present applies only to British India. Similar Acts have, however, recently been introduced into the Indian States of Mysore, Hyderabad and Baroda. The Government of India have also extended the scope of the Act to include the occupation of all persons engaged in constructing, maintaining, altering or repairing aerial ropeways and such employees are now covered under the Act. Certain slight changes in the rules framed under the Act were also made during the year 1930 by the Government of India but these concern the procedure for disposal of claims.

Probable Amendments by Whitley Commission: - It is extremely unlikely that any material changes will be made in the present extent and scope of the Act until the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India is available. It is practically certain that the Commission will recommend the extension of the Act to all forms of labour in the country which is organised, but not necessarily haggardous, among which may be mentioned labour employed on tea, coffee and rubber plantations, employees of "unregistered" factories, dock workers and warehouse hands not at present covered; those employed in connection with organised rail and road transport; and certain other classes of labour not at present covered.

Scales of Compensation & Waiting Periods. - Whilst these proposed changes in the scope of the Act may be expected to create an additional demand for insurance, the most important changes likely to be made in the Act are in the scales of compensation payable and the "waiting period". It is probable that the scales for fatal, permanent and temporary disablement will all materially be increased and that the present "waiting period" of 10 days will be reduced, probably by one-half.

Effects of Changes: Increased Demand for Insurance Cover. - These changes will undoubtedly increase the present burden upon employers and create an increased demand for insurance cover, especially in the case of smaller employers of labour. In addition, it is practically certain that other measures will be introduced into the Act to ensure that employers do not evade their responsibility in the payment of compensation of which practice, unfortunately, abundant evidence is at present available.

Evasion of Liability. - It is obvious that there is no evasion of liability on the part of insured employers; in fact, such employers usually pay great attention to this matter and are not reluctant in urging immediate payment of full compensation in every case where due, in return for the premia paid by them, but it is an indisputable fact that employers in out-of-the-way places in the mofussil, who have not effected insurances of their liability, do not pay compensation as laid down in the Act and, owing to ignorance on the part of their workmen, claims to compensation are not made in the Courts. The number of cases reported by Commissioners as having been disposed of and in which full compensation has been paid, appears, in some districts, to have decreased rather than increased and the too facile explanation for the reduced number of cases coming before the Courts being due to closing down of factories as a result of trade depression, does not appear to be correct.

Need for Further Insurance. - It appears that at present only the larger employers of labour have protected themselves by effecting insurances of their liability under the Act. A large number of small industrial concerns are, however, still uninsured and the proprietors of such concerns would do well to take out this form of cover, the advantages of which cannot be over-estimated.



Forced Labour in Balasinor State.

According to the Hindu of 21-5-31, the Paditars, a depressed class community of Balasinor State, who had emigrated from the State and settled outside the limits of the State, waited in deputation on the Nawab of Balasinor on 21-5-31 to secure redressal for their grievances. The deputation of Paditars was led by the presidents of the Modasa and Kapadwanj Taluka Congress Committees. The deputationists stated that the officials of Balasinor State exacted various kinds of forced labour from them and that such exactions, especially during the rainy season, interfered very much with the carrying on of their own agricultural operations. They added that they had to remove in their carts even street-refuse collected by the Municipal sweepers, and that was the reason they were excommunicated by their caste. For refusing to do such work, they were insulted and abused and assaulted by State servants.

According to a news item published in the Hindu of 22-5-31, the Nawab, in response to the demands of the emigrant Paditars, has agreed to abolish forced labour during the rains. He has also agreed to announce on his forthcoming birthday the total abolition of forced labour. The emigrants however are refusing to return to the State till the total abolition of forced labour.

(The Hindu, 21 & 22-5-31).

Balasinor, is a small state belonging to the States grouped under the Rewa Kantha Agency in the Bombay Presidency. Its area is 189 square miles and it has a population of 44030.

Sporadic Strikes in Textile Mills, Bombay.

During May 1931, the labour situation in the textile mills of Bombay was disturbed owing to the occurrence of a series of strikes in several textile mills of the city. The workers of the Madhaji Dharamsi Mill struck work on 28-4-31 owing to certain unspecified grievances. The strike ended on 7-5-31, an amicable settlement having been arrived at between the management and the workers (The Hindu 8-5-31). About 3500 workers of the Khata Mankanji Mills struck work on 7-5-31 for alleged non-redress of certain grievances and for the dismissal of one of their spokesmen on 6-5-31. The management declared a lock-out on 13-5-31, which was called off on 16-5-31. The strike terminated on 26-5-31, the management having agreed to redress all the alleged grievances and to reinstate the dismissed worker (The Hindu 26-5-31). About 1600 workers of Bradbury Mill struck work on 12-5-31, complaining that they were getting less wages than they were entitled to (The Hindu, 13-5-31).

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Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme:

Millowners' Co-operation.

At pages 21-24 of the report of this office for September 1930, reference was made to a scheme which was under the consideration of the Ahmedabad City Municipality for the sanitary housing of the workmen of the City. A further step towards the attainment of the object was taken by Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, the Secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, by appealing to the Millowners'

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Association for the provision of more suitable quarters for the workmen. Mr. Nanda is of the opinion that the construction of a better type of houses for the working classes, would be greatly stimulated by the organisation of co-operative housing societies, but the government, he observes, owing to its present financial stringency, would be unable to advance any loans and the working classes also were not in a position to supply their share of one-third or one-fourth of the total cost. He has, therefore, requested the local Millowners' Association to arrange to advance the amounts required for the purpose of erecting better houses, to duly formed and registered societies. He suggests <sup>that</sup> the money may be recovered by instalments directly from the wages of the workers concerned. The matter was discussed between the representatives of both the millowners and the Labour Association and a joint committee has been appointed to frame a tentative scheme for the purpose.

According to the Times of India of 21-5-31, the millowners have decided to wait till the result of Mr. Nanda's efforts in the Municipality, where, he has proposed that a loan should be raised for providing 5,000 sanitary tenements to the poor of the city at a modest rent, is known. If his scheme is approved by the Municipality, it would, the millowners hold, result in an increase in the duty on cotton and iron, and they do not wish to pay twice for what they themselves can do without the aid of the Municipality. ~~xxxx~~ If, however, the Municipality does not favour Mr. Nanda's proposal, the millowners are prepared to launch a huge co-operating housing scheme by constructing a number of houses at their own cost and handing them over to the workmen on the hire-purchase system.

(The Times of India, 15 & 21-5-31).

Working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the  
Bombay Presidency during 1930\*.

According to the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1930, submitted to the local Government by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence with the Government of Bombay, ~~There~~ there was only one case of application by a Union for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation.

The Tramwaymen's Union, Bombay, made an application on the 10th April 1930, for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in connection with a dispute apprehended between the Union on the one hand and the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company Limited on the other. The application was forwarded to Government who, after having given the matter full consideration, proposed not to appoint a Board of Conciliation. The statement of cases referred to Courts of Inquiry or Boards of Conciliation, for the year 1930, is therefore blank.

The report further states that during the year/<sup>under report</sup> no prosecutions were launched under sections 15 and 17 of the Act.

(The Working of the Trade Disputes Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1929 was reviewed at pages 33-34 of the June 1930 Report).

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1930. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price - Pies 6 or 1d. pp.1.

Conditions of Work in the Indian Posts &  
Telegraph Department - 1929 - 30\*

The following information about the conditions of work of Indian postal and telegraph employees is taken from the annual report of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1929-30 issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs:-

According to the statistics published in the Report, the Department employed during 1929-30 a staff of 131,917 employees, as against 129,902 employees in the previous year. Out of this number, 28,958 employees were sub-postmasters and clerks in the time scale, 22,242 were urban postmen, 9,176 were village postmen, 1,432 were branch postmasters (Departmental), 17,704 were branch postmasters (extra-Departmental), 14,813 were runners and 14,041 were inferior servants. The Department consists of three branches <sup>the</sup> -/postal, the telegraph and telephone, and <sup>the</sup> wireless branches.

Magnitude of Postal Business. - At the close of 1929-30 there were 114,812 postal officials, 23,888 post offices, and 168,114 miles of mail lines. During the year 1,391.8 million articles, including 55.8 million registered articles, were posted; stamps worth Rs.66 millions were sold for postal purposes; over 40.5 million money orders of the total value of 940.7 millions of rupees were issued; ,

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\* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, Annual Report for the year 1929-30. Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press: 1931. Price Rs.2 As.4 or 4s. pp.99.

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a sum of over Rs.287 millions was collected for tradesmen and others on value-payable articles; over 5.6 million insured articles valued at 1,599 millions of rupees were handled. Customs duty aggregating over 8.4 million rupees was realised on parcels and letters from abroad; pensions amounting to Rs.15.8 millions were paid to Indian Military pensioners and 14,592 lbs. of quinine were sold to the public. On the 31st March 1930, there were 2,304,904 savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs.371 millions and 71,479 Postal Life Insurance policies with an aggregate assurance of Rs.136.8 millions.

Air Mail Services. - On the 6th of April 1929 the first aeroplane from London with mails for India arrived at Karachi, and the return aeroplane left the following day with mails for Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Great Britain. The service was subsequently extended for the conveyance of air mail articles for most of the countries in Europe, and for Persia. 26,746 lbs. of outward and 29,528 lbs. of inward mails were carried during the year. The number of aeroplanes arriving at and leaving Karachi was 53 and 51, respectively. The Indian State Air Service, a State owned air mail line, began to operate between Delhi and Karachi from the 30th December 1929. This service connects with the Eastward and Westward bound aeroplanes of the Karachi Croydon service. During the year, i.e., from 30th December 1929 to 31st March 1930, 469 lbs. and 606 lbs. of air mail articles were carried on the outward and inward flights respectively.

P. & O. Contract. - During the year 52 steamers left London with the mails for India and the same number of steamers left Bombay with the mails from India. The average time occupied in the transit of those mails by the overland route, London-Marseilles, was 14 days 9 hours from London to Bombay and 14 days 6 hours from Bombay to London compared with 14 days 9 hours and 14 days 8 hours, respectively, during the preceding year.

Operations of Savings Bank.- The number of active accounts was 2,304,904 representing an increase of 14.06 per cent. The total balance at the credit of depositors rose from about Rs.345 millions to a little over <sup>Rs</sup> 370 millions representing an increase of 7.66 per cent. The average balance at the credit of a single depositor was Rs.161.10 as compared with 170.67 in 1928-29.

Revision of Pay.- The pay of the peons of the office of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Alipore, was revised with effect from the 1st July, 1929. The scales of pay of Postmasters-General and the Senior Deputy Director-General were revised with effect from the 1st March 1930, in accordance with the scheme of 'unified' circles under which the Head of the Circle is in charge of all activities of the Department except Wireless.

House Rent Allowances.- With effect from the 1st March 1929 house-rent allowances were granted to inferior servants (other than boy-peons and boy-messengers) in certain administrative offices, who were not provided with free quarters, at the same rates as those already admissible to the inferior servants of the Post Office serving at the same stations.

Co-operative Credit Societies.- The postal co-operative credit movement continues to make good progress. The number of societies stands at 42. The membership has increased from 38,870 to 44,426 and the subscribed capital from about 1.4 million of rupees to 1.73 millions. Loans amounting to about 4.9 millions of rupees were advanced to 19,707 members as compared with 3.7 millions to 15,853 members in the previous year.

The Telegraph Co-operative Credit Societies at Agra, Belgaum,

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Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Lahore, Madras and Rangoon made satisfactory progress and the total number of members rose from 4,511 to 4,825.

Financial Results of 1929-30.- The ~~net~~ financial result of the working of the Department as a whole is summarised below:-

	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Radio Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
Receipts.	78,976,568	28,221,783	312,140	5,439,142	112,949,633
Expendi- ture.	81,123,901	31,742,725	997,837	5,329,701	119,194,164
plus(+) or less(-)	-21,47,333	-3,520,942	-685,697	+109,441	-6,244,531

The net result for the Department as a whole exhibited in the accounts for the year 1928-29 was a loss of Rs.53,83,629. The net loss of Rs. 6,244,531 during 1929-30 is mainly due to an increase in working expenses resulting from the improvement of the scales of pay and allowances of the staff sanctioned in previous years, as well as to general trade depression and adverse economic conditions which retarded the usual growth of revenues.

(The Annual Report for 1928-29 of the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department is reviewed at pages 26-29 of the Report of this office for May 1930.)



Flight of Indians in Burma:Hostility of Burmans.

A rebellion on a fairly large scale has <sup>been going on</sup> ~~broken out~~ in several districts of Burma since the last three months. The rebellion is a resultant of several influences at work - Chauvinism, <sup>in</sup> jingoism, nationalism, with its concomitant of hatred of foreigners, and economic and agrarian discontent. A study of developments, and particularly of the outbursts of anti-Indian feeling accompanied by numerous attacks on the Indian population in Burma by rebel forces, clearly indicates that one of the motives behind the rebellion is the resentment felt by the lower and middle class Burmese against Indians in Burma, who, according to the Burmese, are crowding out the Burmese from the paddy fields and from industry, ~~from~~ from all lines of work, both urban and rural.

A contributor writing to the Statesman of 29-5-31 points out that the Burmese regard Indian competition as unfair because it is conducted on the basis of a lower standard of living than that of the Burmese, as exemplified by the fact that Indian labourers are willing to work for wages 20 to 30 per cent lower than those demanded by Burmese labourers. In the clerical grades and in the Civil Services also, the Burmese feel that Indians are slowly annexing all the posts as Indians are willing to work for lesser pay. Besides, the greater efficiency of the Indian worker as compared to the Burman, who is lazy and ease-loving by disposition, secures for the Indian preference in the matter of appointments. As a result of all these, one of the phases of the Burmese rebellion is the determined hostility that is

being shown to Indians in Burma. In this connection, the Indo-Burma Labour Committee, Madras, has sent on 14-5-31 the following communication to the Viceroy and the Governor of Burma:-

"Not a day passes without heart-rending and terrible news being received of wanton devastation and brutal murder of helpless Indians in Burma. Refugees in large numbers returning to India in specially chartered steamers convey one terrible tale of woe and of the incompetency of the authorities in Burma to cope with the situation. Whatever may be the reasons for the growing Anti-Indian feeling in that country, the British Government would be running the grave risk of losing their honour and prestige, if immediate and effective steps are not taken for the suppression of these troubles. Tamils, Telugus and Chittagonians are mostly the victims of the Burman outrages. It is high time that the Government ask the authorities in Burma to go deep into this grave situation and avert further devastation and slaughter of helpless Indians." (The Hindu, 14-5-31).

In the course of a ~~Statement~~ issued by it on 14-5-31, the Government of Burma repudiates the allegation that it has been slack in the matter of protecting non-Burmans and states:-

The Local Government fully realizes the necessity of protecting law-abiding people of non-Burman races from attacks ~~and that, if they~~ continue to take place, action will be taken under the Village Act to enforce the collective responsibility of the villagers concerned. In some of the representations which have been received by the Local Government, it is stated that hundreds of Indians have fled into Rangoon, and in one case it was stated that special steamers would have to be chartered to convey them to India. Inquiries which have been made by the Local Government indicate that there has been some exaggeration, as the figures of emigration from Rangoon to Indian ports during the months of March and April and up to May 9 do not show any unusual increase over the numbers for previous years. (The Statesman, 24-5-31).

Labour News in Brief.

Labour Settlement near Cochin Harbour.- The Government of Cochin (South India) have sanctioned the acquisition of 5 acres of land in the Vendurathi Island, not far away from the harbour reclamation, for a labour settlement in Cochin. The need for a settlement of the kind has been increasingly felt in Cochin with the development of the Harbour where is sure to be greater congestion later on. (The Hindu, 29-5-31).

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Dispute over Holidays in Mills, Ahmedabad.- An acute difference of opinion has arisen between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association on the question of the observance of holidays in the local mills, It has been the practice for some time past with the local mills to observe either Sunday or Wednesday as their weekly holiday, but it appears that some representatives of the Labour Association met last Saturday and passed resolutions calling upon the workmen to observe Monday instead of Wednesday as the weekly holiday and the operatives forced the mills to carry out the resolution. The millowners have taken exception to this sort of arbitrary action by the operatives. The matter is now before the Arbitration Board and its decision is awaited. (The Times of India, 19-5-31).

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Permanent Board of Conciliation, Ahmedabad.- With a view to settle disputes between the local millowners and mill operatives more speedily than is done now and to prevent any possible trouble over

trifles in the future, the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association have, after a number of joint conferences, arrived at an agreement to set up a permanent board of conciliation to decide the issues that might be brought to its notice day by day. Joint conferences are still going on for deciding questions pending for a long time. (The Times of India, 21-5-31).

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Night Shifts in Bombay Mills. The Times of India of 6-5-31 points out that the effect of the Swadeshi movement on the textile industry of Bombay is well illustrated by the steadily growing number of mills which are working night shifts. Out of 71 mills working in the city, no less than 25 were in the first week of May keeping some of their departments open by night as well as by day. The total number of operatives employed on night shift at the beginning of May was about 11,000. The mills which employ 500 or more operatives at night are the following: - Bradbury, Imperial, Toye Potdar, Apollo, Kastoorchand, Kohinoor, Manchester, Fazulbhoy, Madhorao Scindia and David. (The Times of India, 6-5-31).

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Agrarian Strike, Dharap<sup>wt</sup>nam (South India). A number of village agricultural labourers in Dharap<sup>wt</sup>nam taluk, near Tirupur (South India) have gone on strike as the result of an attempt of the landlords to reduce the wages of male labourers to Rs.0-5-0 a day and of female labourers to Re.0-2-6 a day on the plea that the prices of foodstuffs have gone down. The strike is reported to be the first agrarian strike in the Tirupur area. (The Times of India, 15-5-31)

Carters' Strike; Tuticorin. The carters of Tuticorin, South India, have been on strike for some time ~~for some~~ recently as a protest against a recent attempt to divide cart-drawing bullocks into three classes and to fix the load per cart drawn by each class bullock at rates lower than the existing ones. At a special meeting of the Society for the Prevention of <sup>c</sup>ruelty to Animals, Tuticorin, held on 1-5-31, it was decided to abolish the classification of animals and to fix the load per double bullock cart at 14 bags weighing 28 cwts. (The Hindu, 5-5-31).

Working Class House Rents in Bombay City.

Attention is drawn to the report of a special enquiry conducted by the Labour Office, Bombay, into working class house rents in Bombay City published in <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ May 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.X No.9)

Industrial OrganisationEmployers' Organisation8th Annual Meeting of Indian Mine Managers' Association, Jharia.

The 8th annual meeting of the Indian Mine Managers' Association was held on April 27, at the Jharia Club, under the presidency of Mr. J.K.Dholakia.

The president in his address referred to the frequency of subsidences in the last few years and appealed to the Mines Department not to be over-cautious about a little fencing or such small defects, but to look to the general conditions of management, the <sup>size</sup> size of pillars and galleries and the general safety of persons and properties. He also advocated primary education and incidentally a little technical training to the subordinate staff and workmen so as to raise the standard of their efficiency. "Stability of staff and labour", he said, "are conducive to the welfare of the undertaking. Mining is a risky job all the time for the investors and more so for the workmen and hence the staff and the labourers should be made to feel permanency in the job". The President next dwelt on the condition of the present coal market, which was taking a worse turn day by day. "Coal prices have reached the last level but the demand is nowhere. Our railways, who rank first in the consumption of coal, are reducing their purchases and are yet pursuing a policy of opening still more mines, when our existing mines can hardly find a market even at cheap prices. Thus the Government is competing with us in our legitimate market". According to him, the chief remedy lay in the reduction of railway freight. To

combat this slump in the coal market, the President appealed to the owners of mines to organise ~~the~~ marketing conditions as also to regulate prices. He was inclined to think that economy could further be achieved by co-operation and amalgamation wherever possible. This would not only increase ~~the~~ resources and ~~the~~ sustaining power, but would go a long way in reducing cost.

(The Pioneer. 2-5-31).

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Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of General Council of A.I.R.F., Bombay.

The General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met on 9 & 10-5-31 in Bombay with Mr. Jamnadas M. Metha in the Chair, Representatives of most of the railway unions were present at the meeting. Mr. Metha in his opening speech referred to three main problems that confronted the railwaymen. The first was the reinstatement of 5,000 G.I.P. Railway strikers. The second question was that of retrenchment effected by all the railways. He lastly referred to the unfortunate split in the trade union movement and said that no effort was too great for achieving solidarity. The G.I.P. strikers' case and allegations of breach of terms promised by the Government were considered and the Council authorised the President and the General Secretary to apply for the settlement of the question by the Conciliation Board that would deal with the retrenchment issue. In protesting against retrenchment, the Council expressed the view that it was not justified by the present financial position of the railways. The Council strongly urged the Government of India to grant the Board of Conciliation and passed the following ~~xxxxx~~ important resolutions:- (1) In the event of the application for the Conciliation Board being not granted, immediately on receipt of official intimation to that effect, this Council resolves that a special convention be convened to decide upon the future course of action. (2) In the meantime the Council calls upon all the affiliated unions to take all necessary action for combating the drastic retrench-



ment, including the collection of Rs.200,000 as an emergency fund by a special levy of Rs.2/- per head.

(The Trade Union Record, June 1931,  
Vol.11, No.4).

Trade Union Unity Conference, Bombay.

The Unity Conference of representatives of various Trade Unions in India summoned by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at Bombay on 10-5-31 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta with more than forty representatives of different trade unions to discuss ways and means to heal the present breach in the Trade Union Congress.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, in opening the conference observed that there were two or three fundamental differences among various wings of trade unions in India and he was confident that if they worked with the will to achieve unity and in a spirit of compromise they could arrive at a compromise. The president then invited the different wings to put forth their points of view.

A heated discussion followed when labour leaders like Mr. N.M. Joshi representing the moderate group, Mr. Deshpande, representing the present Trade Union Congress, and several others put forth their viewpoints.

The conference adjourned after five hours' discussion in the morning till night. The conference met again at night and continued discussion, <sup>but</sup> and could not reach any decision.

Mr. B. Shiva Rao suggested that the conference should be adjourned

sine die and a small committee be appointed to consider a scheme of unity and report later on.

The conference accordingly adjourned sine die after appointing a committee , consisting of the following members:-Mr.Jamnadas Mehta, Mr.V.V.Giri, Mr. Tyab Sheikh, Mr. S.C.Joshi, Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Mr. C.Y.Chitnis and Mr. V.R.Kalappa.

(The Hindu, 11-5-31).

4th Annual Conference of G.I.P.Railway Staff Union, Bombay.

The fourth annual conference of the G.I.P.Railway Staff Union was held <sup>at</sup> in Bombay on 9 & 10-5-31 under the presidentship of Mr. V.V. Giri. The report and the audited statement of accounts were read and duly adopted. The report stated that the Union had spared no pains to try to get the G.I.P. Railway strikers reinstated. The representatives of the Union had made the strikers' cause their own . The Union tried its utmost to bring about the unification of the G.I.P.Railway Staff Union and the G.I.P.Railwaymen's Union, but all its efforts proved futile. The Union had been able to deal with a number of grievances of the employees successfully.

Mr. Giri, in his presidential address, emphasised that the present position of the railwaymen in India was very grave. The immediate organisation of the railwaymen all over India was needed, otherwise the future of the railway workers would be very gloomy. He also referred to their various grievances and the political situation in the country..

The following important resolutions were passed at the meeting -

"(1) This conference emphatically protests against the policy launched by the railway authorities in <sup>reducing the numbers</sup> ~~making~~ reduction and degradation <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ the status of the subordinate railway employees, in as much as the method of retrenchment followed violates the assurance given by the Railway Board to take the Unions into confidence in effecting ~~the~~ retrenchment on a large scale and aggravates the problem of unemployment. (2) This conference protests against the callous attitude adopted by the railway authorities in not reinstating the G.I.P. Railway strikers as contemplated by the Delhi settlement arrived at between the Railway Board and the representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and requests the authorities to reinstate without delay those strikers who have not been taken back, as old employees with full benefits of their past service.

(The Trade Union Record, June 1931,  
Vol.11, No.4)

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Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency,

1929 - 30\*

The following details regarding the progress of the trade Union movement in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 are taken from the Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for 1929-30 (1-4-1929 to 31-3-1930) submitted by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bombay Presidency, to the local Government on 25-3-31. The report which was due to be submitted to Government on the 1st September, 1930, was delayed largely very much owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate returns from the Unions.

Number of Registered Unions. - The number of Unions registered during the year under report was 9 which, with the 38 registrations up to the end of March 1929, brought the total number of registrations during the period from 1st June 1927 to 31st March 1930 to 47. Out of the Unions registered prior to the year under report, the head office of one Union was transferred to Lahore and its name was automatically removed from the register. The registrations of five other Unions were cancelled on the 21st February 1930 for failure to submit any returns for the year ended 31st March 1929. Two other Unions which had amalgamated to form a new Union were also removed from the register in October 1928. There were thus only 39 registered Trade Unions in the Presidency at the end of March 1930.

Classification of Unions. - Of the 39 registered Unions at the close of the year under review, only 33 individual Unions and one Federation submitted annual returns for the year under report.

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1929-30. Price - Anna 1 or 1d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1931.

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The 33 individual Unions may be classified thus: Textile Industry -4; Railways including Railway Workshops - 12; Seamen - 1; Municipal -4; Port Trust and Dock Workers -4; Miscellaneous - 8. The Federation was the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union which at the end of the year had 10 Unions affiliated to it.

Membership & Finances of Unions. - The total membership of the 33 registered trade Unions which submitted returns during the year under review was 139,047 at the beginning of the year and 94,665 at the end of the year and the opening balance of their combined General Fund was Rs. 344,791-4-10 at the beginning of the year and Rs.244,026-0-3 at the end of the year. The fall in membership and finances is to be attributed to the great fall in membership and revenues of the 4 Unions in the textile industry.

The following table gives the membership figures and the opening and closing financial balance as at the beginning and end of the year under review for the 4 textile Unions which submitted returns:-

al	Return of Unions registered at close of year.	Number of members.			General Fund.		
		Name of Union (and date of Registration).	At Beginning of year.	At end of year.	Opening balance.	Closing balance.	
	Textile Industry.				Rs.	a.	P.
	The Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay (23rd December 1927).	5,959	836	6,545	11	1	1,574 4 0
	The Girni Kamgar Mahamandal, Bombay (21st May 1928).	1,200	1,200	743	8	0	793 12 0
	The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay (23rd May 1928)	44,822	2,350	64,549	6	3	4,404 6 11

(continued)

K.3.	Name of Union (and date of Registration).	At beginning of year	At end of year	Opening balance	Closing balance.
	The Bombay Mill Workers' Union, Bombay (1st June 1928).	528	620	667 7 0	376 3 6
	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>52,509</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>72,506 0 4</b>	<b>1,660 3 5.</b>

The following table gives the aggregate membership figures and the opening and closing financial balance as at the beginning and end of the year under review for the 12 Railway Workers' Unions, 1 Seamen's Union, 4 Municipal Workers Unions, 4 Port Trust and Dock Workers' Unions and the 8 Miscellaneous Unions:-

	Member -ship		General Fund	
	At beginning of year	At end of year	Opening balance	Closing balance
Railway Workers' Unions including these of Railway Workshops employees (12)	55,267	57,278	1,46,646-0-11	90,336-4-3
Seamen's Union (1)	21,613	23,153	93,387-7-9	1,15,847-4-9
Municipal Workers' Unions (4)	2,359	1,673	1,776-15-1	2,157-1-7
Port Trust & Dock workers' Unions (4)	4,026	3,986	22,965-11-10	27,046-11-6
Miscellaneous. (8)	3,273	3,589	7,499-0-11	10,298-13-7.

The principal liability of the majority of the Unions was the General Fund and the total amount of liabilities under other heads for all the above Unions amounted to Rs.27,355-13-5 as against ~~total~~ total assets amounting to Rs.2,71,381-13-8, the difference between these two figures representing the amount at the credit of the General Fund Account. The figure for total assets includes a sum of Rs.1,33,928 for Unpaid Subscriptions (amounting in the case of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay to Rs.114,859). The Assets of the Federation were made up of cash amounting to Rs.860-4-11, Unpaid

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Subscriptions (in this case Affiliation Fees) Due amounting to Rs. 623-6-0 and Miscellaneous Assets amounting to Rs. 143-7-0. The liabilities of the Federation were composed of the General Fund Account amounting to Rs. 1,351-13-11 and other liabilities amounting to Rs. 278-4-0.

Membership & Finances of Federation:- The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union which is the only registered Federation had 9 Unions affiliated to it at the beginning of the year under report and had 10 at the close. The opening balance of its General Fund was Rs. 731-3-10 and the closing balance Rs. 1,351-13-11.

Political Fund. - Only one Union, the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, maintained a political fund, which amounted to Rs. 32-12-0.

No appeals were preferred during the year under report against any of the decisions of the Registrar.

Number & Membership of Registered & Unregistered Unions.- According to the list of Trade Unions maintained by the Labour Office of the Government of Bombay, the number of Unions at the beginning of the year (1-4-29) under report was 95, with a total membership of 200,325, which increased to 99 with a membership of 196,748 towards the close of the year 1929. The corresponding figures at the close of the year (31-3-30) under report were 94 and 144,409.

(The Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1928-29 was reviewed at pages 42-48 of the report of this office for June 1930).

The All India Trade Union Congress:

Preparations for 11th Session.

In December 1930 some of the trade unions in Bengal had decided to invite the 11th session of the All India Trade Union Congress to hold its sittings at Calcutta. No session of the A.I.T.U.C has been held since the 1929 session at Nagpur. Mr. Subash Chander Bose, one of the left-wing labour leaders, in a press communiqué published in the Hindu of 1-5-31, ascribes the delay that has occurred first, to the political crisis through which the country is passing, and secondly to the fact that many of the labour leaders have been in prison during the last 18 months for political reasons. A provisional Reception Committee has been formed in May 1931, with Mr. S. Mukunda Lal as secretary, to make preparations for the holding of the 11th A.I.T.U.C late in June 1931. The following bulletin issued by the Reception Committee is published in the Hindu of 16-5-31.

It is admitted without question that since the advent of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the working class movement in this country has made appreciable progress. Yet it needs highly organised forces to fight against the ills of capitalism and imperialism, under intelligent and cogent lead that is expected to be had from the forthcoming session of the Congress which assembles in Calcutta towards the end of June next. The definite date as may be fixed will be announced later on.

This session is a momentous one, as the Indian masses at this psychological moment are required to assert their rights to self-determination. It is, therefore, imperative that all Trade Unions in the country should rise equal to the occasion and stand united under the banner of the Congress to tackle the most vital problems of the country.

The Unions which are not yet affiliated to the Congress, are most cordially invited to do so. The affiliated Unions are requested to forward their resolutions and the full quota of delegates to which they are entitled to the Secretary, 5, Pollock Street, Calcutta.

Another bulletin issued by the reception Committee notifies



that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress will be held at Calcutta, on the 6th and 7th June, 1931. The agenda of business comprises (1) consideration of applications received from Trade Unions for affiliation with A.I.T.U.C.; (2) consideration of dates that may be recommended by the Calcutta Reception Committee for the eleventh session of the Congress; and (3) unity in the trade union movement in India. (The Hindustan Times, 29-5-31).

The Madras Central Labour Board: Extension of Activities.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Madras Central Labour Board was held on 27-5-31, at Madras with Mr. C. Basu Dev, the President, in the chair.

It was resolved at the meeting that the scope of the activities of the Madras Central Labour Board should be extended to the whole of the Madras Presidency and that all labour organizations in the Province should be requested to affiliate themselves to the Board and avail themselves of its services; that the name of the Board should be changed to "Madras Provincial Central Labour Board"; that the Board should get itself affiliated to the All-India Federation of Trade Unions and ~~urged~~ that it should <sup>be urged on</sup> ~~see~~ the Federation and the Unity Conference Committee to work for and achieve unity with the All India Trade Union Congress at an early date.

(The Hindu, 29-5-31).

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Joint Conference of Employers & Employees, Ahmedabad.

It has been pointed out in some of our previous reports that the relations between the managements <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ the operatives in the textile mills of Ahmedabad are of a much more cordial nature than the relations between employers and employees in most of the other industrial centres of India, and particulars have also been given of the existing arrangements for the settlement of disputes in the Ahmedabad textile mills (vide pages 18-19 of our 1st report for July 1929). Several steps have recently been taken for further advances in this direction. According to the Times of India of 23-5-31 a joint conference of members of the Managing Committee of the Mill-owners' Association and the Advisory Committee of the Textile Labour Association has been sitting during the first half of May 1931 for the settlement of outstanding labour disputes and to consider questions such as housing, weekly payment of wages, advances of money to operatives by mills without interest, the eradication of bribe-taking in mills, the abolition of night work, the prevention of unauthorised strikes, the removal of the drink evil, etc. The Conference has appointed a Sub-Committee to suggest ways and means for the construction of houses for work people on a co-operative basis. Regarding the drink evil, the Conference has decided to circularise the mills to take stringent measures against those workmen who drink and stop the unlicensed sale of liquor in mill chawls. Regarding unauthorised strikes, time limits will be fixed for different types of disputes, and strikes, before the expiry of such time limits will be considered unauthorised. Other questions are still under consideration by the Joint Conference. Any question not settled by the Joint Conference will be submitted to arbitration.

(The Times of India, 23-5-31).

Intellectual Workers.

Conditions of Service of Teachers in Aided Schools(Madras):

Demand for Inquiry.

The Session of the 23rd Madras Provincial Educational Conference was held at Madras on 22nd & 23rd -5-31, at Palghat under the presidentship of Rao Bahadur P.V.Seshu Aiyar. The conditions of service of teachers in aided schools and in schools under local bodies and the conditions of the contract between teachers and the managements in such schools in respect of terms relating to termination of service, leave rules etc.were among the subjects discussed by the Conference. The following resolutions were passed by the Conference on these subjects:-

1. Resolved that a Sub-Committee of the South India S.I.T.U. (South India Teachers' Union) Executive be formed to collect materials and submit a report before the end of Septemeber 1931 on the number of aided schools in the Madras Presidency, the number of L.T's and secondary grade teachers, scales of salary in different schools, teaching grant as at present received in schools, an average standard scale for all grades of teachers, and financial commitments of Government in the event of Government bearing all incremental charges of teachers on the standardised scale.

2. Resolved that the Vigilance Committee of the S.I.T.U. be request ed to collect materials re. conditions of the ~~management~~ new contract between teachers and managements in various aided schools in the presidency, <sup>in terms</sup> of termination of service, terms of leave rules, hardships to teachers in cases of termination of service. The <sup>at</sup> Committee is to report before September 1931 on the measures necessary to make the contract system applicale to the teaching profession.

3. Resolved that a Sub-Committee of the S.I.T.U. be formed to frame a code of professional conduct for teachers and to organise a registry of teachers submitting to this code. (2) Resolved that ~~that~~ the S.I.T.U. do interest itself in the redress of grievances of only such teachers as come under the Teachers' Registry.

4. Resolved that an Education Week throughout the presidency be organised to focus further attention on Teachers' Associations and their work; Protection Fund Day; Parents' Day; Pupils' Day; Teachers' Problems Day; Funds Day and Exhibitions Day.

5. This Conference requests the Government to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials, including the representatives of the S.I.T.U., to enquire into the present condition of non-Government Secondary schools in respect of (1) their financial stability (2) the need for their existence (3) the conditions of service of teachers employed therein (4) the desirability of unification of the teaching service and (5) exchange of teachers and to report to the Government the result of their enquiry along with their proposals towards improvement.

6. This Conference is of opinion that the written agreement between the management and individual teachers is disappointing and extremely unsatisfactory, as it is not calculated to ensure secure security of tenure for teachers and is against the expressed opinion of the teachers of this presidency, and it expresses its considered view that the condition of teachers in non-Government schools cannot be placed on a satisfactory basis unless (1) the scales of salaries of different grades are standardised on the lines suggested at the Provincial Educational Conference held at Coimbatore in 1950 (2) uniform rules of service, including the leave rules, are framed by the Government and are made applicable to all non-Government schools as a condition of recognition, and (3) an Arbitration Board is appointed in each district to consider the ~~management and teacher~~ cases of differences arising between the management and the teachers, it being made compulsory that the services of teachers can be terminated only on the recommendation of the Board.

7. This Conference is of opinion that the conditions of service in schools under local bodies being similar to those under Government, the contract between teachers and management prescribed in the Madras Educational Rules should not be insisted upon in the case of such schools.

(The Hindu, 27-5-51).

Economic Conditions.

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Protection for Indian Nail Industry;Tariff Board Inquiry.

The Government of India have directed an inquiry by the Tariff Board now at Ootacamund into the question whether protection should be given to the wire and wire nail industry in this country. The manufacture of wire and wire nails at present is in the hands of the Indian Steel Wire Products Company which has a factory in Jamshedpur close to the works of the Tata Iron and Steel Company. The question of granting protection to the industry was first considered by the Board in 1924 in connection with the inquiry into the steel industry at that time. On the recommendation of the Board, the Government of India decided to levy a protective duty of Rs. 60/- per ton on wire and wire nails. This was done on the assumption that the Tata Iron and Steel Company would be in a position immediately to roll kinds of steel rod necessary for the manufacture of wire and nails.

The claim of the wire industry for protection was based on the possibility of the industry supplying the market for wire rod manufactured by the Indian steel industry. It transpired soon after that the Tata Company's programme of extensions of works did not admit of the manufacture of wire rod, as special equipment was required for its production. This was brought to <sup>the</sup> notice of <sup>the</sup> Government of India and it was decided in 1927 to remove the protective duty on wire and wire nails and subject them to the original duty of 10 per cent. In the meanwhile, the original company to which the works belonged went into liquidation as a result of the demand made upon them by principal debenture holders, among whom

were the Bihar and Orissa Government which had considerable financial interest in the Company. The present application has been made by the firm who purchased the works from the original company in 1927.

The inquiry by the Board will primarily relate to the question of the Indian steel industry being now, or in the near future, in a position to supply the material required for the production of wire and wire nails. It is understood that the inquiry will be conducted by the Board along with the paper inquiry which has been in its hand since April 1931.

(The Times of India, 15-5-31).

#### New Sterling Loan for India.

The following particulars regarding the new Sterling loan floated by the Secretary of State for India is taken from a Government press communiqué under dated 19-5-31:-

"The Secretary of State for India is issuing to-day the prospectus of a sterling loan of £10 millions in the form of 1933-34 bonds. The issue price is £ 100 per cent. The bonds will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum and if not previously redeemed the bonds will be repaid at par on the 15th December 1934, but the Secretary of State for India reserves the right of giving three calendar months' notice in the London Gazette to redeem the bonds at par on or at any time after the 15th December 1933. The subscription list in London will be closed on or before Thursday the 21st May 1931. Subscriptions to this loan will be received in India at the offices of the Imperial Bank of India at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon and Karachi.

The loan has been a failure. The underwriters have been left with

62 per cent of the loan, only £3,800,000 having been subscribed.

London papers attribute the failure to <sup>the</sup> recent political developments in India, which according to <sup>the</sup> prevalent City view, have alienated the sympathies of the investing public.

The new loan has evoked a chorus of protests in Indian commercial circles. The following telegram sent on 22-5-31 by the committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, to the Government of India summarises the grievances of Indian commercialists in this respect:-

"The Committee desire once more to record their emphatic protest against the continuance of the policy of foreign borrowings at high rates as exemplified by the new loan of ten million sterling at six per cent. They cannot help reiterating that these borrowings are due to the impossibility of remitting funds to England at the statutory rate. The committee would like to point out that it is now six years since the Government have either by law or by offer to sell sterling without limit of amount, tried to maintain the ratio at eighteen pence. Yet in spite of the heavy sacrifices of the Indian gold reserves, accentuated trade depression, monetary stringency and the catastrophic fall in the purchasing power of the people as a whole, the new ratio has failed to become effective. A ratio which cannot be maintained after six years of such enormous sacrifices stands condemned as wholly unsuited."

"All sterling securities in the Paper Currency Reserve have long since been dissipated in a futile attempt to bolster up the thoroughly unsound ratio. In addition, Rs.170 millions worth of gold in the currency reserves have been frittered away to keep the Secretary of State in funds. It should not be overlooked that these continued depletions of gold in the paper currency reserve would make it impossible for the Government to maintain the full convertibility of the Indian currency into gold at the statutory rate. The Finance Member maintained that India is a privileged borrower in the London market. We have been told that India's credit stands high because of the annual provision of a heavy sum for debt redemption. This alone imposes an intolerable burden of taxation of about ~~six hundred~~ <sup>Rs.</sup> sixty<sup>^</sup>seventy millions yearly. Yet, it is significant that, at a time when the world money market is so easy that the bank rates on both sides of the Atlantic are not more than 2½ per cent, India is forced to pay a net charge of well nigh 6½ per cent including underwriting commission for temporary borrowing of three years. This is an inevitable result of the Government's obstinacy in attempting to maintain the 18 pence ratio reckless of consequences. The evil of meeting revenue expenditure from currency reserves and capital borrowings cannot be too much emphasised."

The committee are of opinion that the time has now arrived for an independent enquiry into the suitability or otherwise of <sup>the</sup> statutory ratio.

(The Hindu, 23-5-31.)

Findings of Economic Inquiry Committee, Madras.

The Economic Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Madras has issued its report, recommending certain measures to mitigate the effects of the general economic depression in the presidency. These include taking steps to provide adequate funds for the next cultivation season, granting loans to smaller ryots for cultivation purposes through the Revenue Department and also increasing the grants to co-operative societies for similar purposes, the organisation of more co-operative societies on the lines of the Tirpur Cotton Sale Society and the reduction of railway freight. The Committee also recommends the creation of a Bureau of Statistics under a permanent committee, as experience has proved that, in the absence of an organisation for the collection of accurate statistics, important information likely to be of great value in investigations and enquiries is not available. (The Times of India, 15-5-31).

Agricultural Depression Enquiry Committee, Mysore.

In view of the several representations made to the Government of Mysore to the effect that the present depression in agriculture and trade has affected more adversely the ryots in Malnad parts (hilly tracts and plantation area) of the State than those on the plains, the Government of Mysore ~~has~~ has appointed a committee of officials and non-officials with Mr. S.P. Rajagopalachar (Revenue Commissioner in Mysore) as chairman to inquire into the economic conditions of Malnad ryots and their indebtedness, to consider what facilities might be created for marketing their special produce on more advantageous terms,

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and to suggest such other remedial measures as the circumstances might seem to require. The Committee has been asked to submit their recommendations before 15-5-31. (The Pioneer 9-5-31).

### Central Banking Enquiry Committee.

The draft report of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee (see pages 51-53 April 1929 report, pages 54-56 May 1929 report), is said to be under examination at present. It is expected <sup>that</sup> ~~and~~ the members will pass the first draft by the beginning of June 1931 and that towards the end of June the Committee's report will be in the hands of the public. After the end of the Committee's task, Sir B. N. Mitra, the Chairman, leaves India for England by the second week of June to take up his new duties as High Commissioner.

(The Times of India, 21-5-31).

### Prospects of Tata Iron & Steel Company:

#### Statement by Directors.

The following statement has been issued by the Board of Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd; under date 6-5-31:-

"In view of the rumours about the present workings and financial position of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, which have recently arisen, the Board of Directors of the Company consider that it is due to the shareholders and the investing public that the following statement should be published:-

"Sir Padamji Ginwalla has made a careful personal study, extending over two months, of the works, operations, costs, sales and general management of the Company and has presented to the Board a full and frank report on his findings. This report is now under discussion by the Board with Sir Padamji. The report is confidential, but it may be stated for general information that Sir Padamji reports that, having in view all the circumstances of the period since 1927, the Company has

made satisfactory progress. He points <sup>out</sup> to several directions in which further economies must be achieved and in which improvements in the plant and in the conduct of the Company's business should be made.

"The shareholders, are, however, assured that the report contains no revelations of an alarming nature and nothing which justifies nervousness about the stability of the Company. With the help of the additional price received for rails, the Company's year just closed promises to be slightly better than the preceding year. The output of finished steel was the highest on record and the costs for the last half of 1930-31 were lower than those for any preceding year.

"The Company has done everything possible to counter-balance the serious drop in prices of steel, the restriction in the demand for steel in the areas which the Company can most favourably supply and the further falling off in the orders for rails. The results for the year must be regarded as satisfactory by all who realize the full weight of these factors.

" With regard to the rumour which is prevalent that the Board is considering some scheme for the reorganisation of the Company's capital, the Directors wish to announce that no such scheme is under consideration or in contemplation."

The reason for the issue of the statement is that a rumour has been in circulation that, as a result of investigation, certain material defects in the management of the works were discovered and that, in consequence of that discovery, the Board of Directors were contemplating a reduction of the capital of the Company. The issue of the statement has helped to restore confidence among the shareholders and the investing public.

The 'communiqué' has had a reassuring effect on the Bombay Stock Exchange ~~on Tuesday~~, but the improvement in the rates of Tata Steel ordinary and second preference shares as a result of it was not material.

(The Times of India, 6-5-31).

Sir Padamji Ginwalla interviewed at Bombay on 9-5-31 before he sailed for England said that he was optimistic about the future of the Company. He however, added that this would depend largely on the promptness <sup>with which</sup> ~~herewith~~ effect was given to his recommendations, which, on the whole, have been accepted by the directors. If the Industry was not to depend

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on the precarious demand for rails by the Indian railways, immediate steps should be taken in his opinion to give effect to the decision of Directors to increase the production of galvanised sheets, wherefor there is a permanent remunerative market. Referring to ~~the~~ Indianisation, he said that the pace of it should undoubtedly be quickened but never at the cost of efficiency. In his opinion over-emphasis on Indianisation was having a distinctly demoralising effect on the Indian employees who consider themselves qualified sometimes prematurely. (The Pioneer, 11-5-31).

Mr. A.R. Dalal, I.C.S., Municipal Commissioner, ~~of~~ Bombay, has resigned from his government post and has been appointed as the General Manager of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

Cotton Mill Industry Scheme for Bengal:  
Anglo-Bengalee Partnership.

A correspondent writing from Calcutta under date 9-5-31 to the Times of India, Bombay, outlines a scheme that is under consideration at present for the starting of cotton mills on a large scale in the Bengal Presidency and thus to set up Bengal as a rival in the field of textile production to the Bombay Presidency. In support of <sup>the</sup> efforts in this direction, the correspondent sums up the potential advantages of Calcutta as a cotton mill centre thus:-

As a distributing centre Calcutta's importance requires <sup>no</sup> emphasis; but its possibilities as a manufacturing centre, although considerable, are not so widely understood. Capital would not be lacking if efficient management were assured, labour is more plentiful and more cheap than in Bombay (the transfer of the jute mills to single-shift has released 40,000 workers eager for new employment), the vicinity of the coalfields ensures cheap fuel, and the strength of provincial sentiment would be a powerful factor in facilitating the sale of Bengali products of compe-

titive quality and price. The raw material could be drawn from the cotton-growing tracts in the Central Provinces and upper India, while only a steady demand is needed to ensure the growth of additional supplies in areas less distant from Calcutta. The only additional factor required is the spirit of industrial enterprise, so conspicuous in Bombay, so rare in Bengal, at any rate among the Bengalees, yet which is essential in order so to manipulate and co-ordinate all these favourable factors as to ensure profitable production.

The proposal virtually is that Lancashire millowners who find English conditions for various reasons no longer conducive to economical and profitable production should transfer their capital and experience to Bengal and start <sup>in Bengal</sup> ~~there~~ ~~anew~~, with ~~sixty-six~~ buildings, equipment, etc., embodying all the latest improvements; capital and management being on the basis of an Anglo-Bengalee partnership and the whole enterprise being planned to give industrial development, and racial relations, in Bengal a new starting-point.

(The Times of India, 12-5-31).

#### Industrial Development in Afghanistan.

According to the Peshawar correspondent of the Pioneer, Afghanistan is on the threshold of an industrial revolution, which is bound to have its repercussions on Indian industrial development. The forward programme of Afghanistan is heralded by the arrival from Europe at Peshawar and at Quetta <sup>of</sup> a large consignment of machinery with which Nadir Shah hopes to start cotton weaving and spinning mills at Kabul, the first Afghan paper manufacturing mills at Jalalabad, and woollen weaving mills at Kandahar. This is in accordance with the promise made by Nadir Shah on his accession to the throne in his proclamation which mentioned ambitious schemes for opening canals and railways aimed at making Afghanistan self-supporting and progressive. The Kumar forests

in <sup>2</sup>Salalabad province can supply wood pulp sufficient to keep the mills working all the year round. Kabul already possesses one woollen mill but the demand for swadeshi having increased of late on account of Nadir Shah's preference for Afghan made cloth, it is intended to start new woollen mills at Kandahar where finer wool will be available at cheaper rates and where climatic conditions are more favourable than in Kabul. (The Pioneer, 2-5-31).

Vital Statistics for India for 1928\*

The Chief statistical facts relating to the public health in British India in 1928 are set out below:- (1) the birth rate rose from 33.65 per mille in 1925 to 34.77 per mille in 1926; to 35.27 in 1927; and to 36.78 in 1928; (2) the death rate fell from 26.76 per mille in 1926 to 24.89 per mille in 1927 ; and rose to 25.59 in 1928; (3) the infantile death rate (i.e, the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 born) rose from 174 in 1925 to 189 in 1926, fell to 167 in 1927 and rose to <sup>173</sup>~~165~~ in 1928.

These figures can be best appreciated by consulting the following table where the rates for British India for 1928 can be compared with those of certain other countries for 1928.

Country.	Birth rate per mille.	Death rate per mille.	Infantile death rate per mille (of infants under one year.)
India .. .	36.78	25.59	173
England & Wales .	16.7	11.7	65
Scotland .	19.8	13.3	86
New Zealand .	19.6	8.5	36
United States of America (Registration Area) .	19.7	12.0	70
Australia .	21.3	9.5	53
Canada(ex Quebec).	24.5	11.3	90
Union of South Africa (White)	25.9	10.0	70
Egypt .	42.2	24.1	151

\* Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1928 Vol.I.with Appendices, Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1931 .Price Rs.3-6 or 5s.9d. pp.370.

It will be seen from the above table that India's death rate was  $2\frac{1}{3}$  times that of England and Wales; and four times that of New Zealand; her infantile mortality rate was  $2\frac{2}{3}$  times that of England and nearly 5 times that of New Zealand.

Births.(British India).- Births during 1928 numbered 8,882,573 (4,611,688 male and 4,270,885 female) or 365,867 in excess of the figure for 1927; the birth rate was 36.78 against 35.27 in 1927 and 34.64, the quinquennial mean. The proportion of males to every one hundred females born was 108, the same as the quinquennial average. All the provinces except Coorg recorded increases in birth rates as compared with the previous year, the most conspicuous being in Delhi (7.78), Punjab (4.0), North-West Frontier Province (3.2), Ajmer-Merwara (2.86), Bengal (1.9), and United Provinces (1.52). Coorg recorded a decrease of 1.23. With the exception of Coorg and Burma, the quinquennial average was exceeded in all the provinces.

Birth ratios exceeded death ratios in all the provinces except Coorg where the death rate was in excess by 13.27. The following provinces showed the largest increased ratios of births over deaths:- Punjab (21.58), Delhi (19.10), United Provinces (14.09), North-West Frontier Provinces (13.19), Bihar and Orissa (13.0), Madras (11.0), and Bombay (10.89).

Deaths. - (British India). - Deaths in 1928 numbered 6,180,114 as compared with 6,009,729 in the preceding year - an increase of 170,385. Registered births exceeded deaths by 2,702,459 against 2,506,977 in 1927, and Coorg excepted, all the provinces contributed to the increase in the following order :- United Provinces (639,423), Madras (453,701), Punjab (442,696), Bihar & Orissa

(441,336), Bombay (208,762), Bengal(186,665), Central Provinces (178,814). Assam (62,800), Burma (49,592), North-West Frontier Province (28,208), Delhi (9,556) and Ajmere Merwara (3,679). The death rate was 25.59 as against 24.89 in 1927 and a quinquennial mean of 25.97. The rates varied between 19.31 per mille (the lowest) in North-West Frontier Province and 33.66 per mille (the highest) in Central Provinces. The urban death rate was 30.06 against 29.03 and the rural rate was 25.15 against 24.48 in 1927. The rural rates exceeded the urban ones in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam; while the urban rates were in excess of the rural ones in Coorg by 26.08, in Burma by 21.26, in United Provinces by 16.30, in Delhi by 5.37, in Central Provinces by 2.97, in North West Frontier Province by 2.94 and in the Punjab by 2.46.

Infant mortality (under one year).- 1,536,186 deaths or 25 per cent. of the total mortality in 1928 occurred during the first year of life against 1,421,725 or 24 per cent in 1927. In England and Wales the corresponding figures for 1927 and 1928 were 9.5 and 9.3 per cent, respectively. Though the rate for the year is the lowest on record except that for 1927, it is still far in excess of that of England and Wales and other countries. Apart from the ameliorating influences, maternity and child welfare work, the insufficiency of a pure milk supply and the prevailing high prices of milk generally have helped to keep the infantile mortality for India at its present high level of 173 per 1,000 births. During 1928 it varied between 287 (the highest) in Coorg, 238 in Central Provinces, 210 in Burma, 137 in North-West Frontier Province and 132 in Bihar and Orissa (the lowest). In Madras and Bombay Presidencies an increase in the death rates of 8.8 and 18.87, respectively.



was recorded, in the Central Provinces 16.81, in Coorg 26.96, and in United Provinces 8.15, while in North-West Frontier Province the mortality rate fell by 13.74 and in Ajmer-Merwara by 5.80. In Madras the rise in mortality was ascribed chiefly to incorrect classification in the returns. The figures show the need for immediate steps being taken to combat this preventable loss of infant life.

Industrial Health and Hygiene. - The report, as in the previous years, gives comparatively little attention to industrial health and hygiene. The following two tables show the chief features of the vital statistics of the colliery population of about 126,000 during 1928 coming under the supervision of the Jharia Mines Board of Health:•

	----	Number	Ratio for 1928.	Ratio for 1927.
Births	. . .	2,128	16.9	15.9
Deaths	. . .	1,529	12.1	10.6

Diseases.	Attacks.	Deaths.	Death Ratio Per Mille During	
			1928	1927
Influenza . . .	2,180	55	.4	.2
Small-pox . . .	744	24	.2	.2
Cholera . . .	132	36	.3	.1

Asansol Mines Board of Health. - The following table gives a few particulars regarding vital occurrences in this settlement:•

			<u>1927.</u>	<u>1928</u>
Births	. . .		7,972	9,225
Infant deaths	. . .		1,061	1,283

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Infant death rate per mille of births		133	139
Total deaths	. . .	5,476	6,896
Cholera	. . .	120	292
Small-pox	. . .	72	13
Fever	. . .	848	1,151
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	. . .	103	310
Influenza	. . .	-	4
Respiratory diseases	. . .	985	1,581
Other causes	. . .	3,329	3,519

(The Vital Statistics for India for 1927 <sup>are</sup> ~~was~~ summarised at pages 67 to 70 of the report of this Office for February 1930).

Women and Children.

Protection for Child Beggars, Calcutta.

At pages 87-88 of the report of this Office for April 1931 reference was made to the formation of a Boys' Welfare Association to look after the interests of neglected and delinquent children, who are to be found in large numbers on the streets of Calcutta. The subject received further consideration at a public meeting held on 2-5-31 in Calcutta under the auspices of the Bengal Council of Women in co-operation with the Society for the Protection of Children in India, Calcutta, when resolutions were adopted drawing the attention of the Government and of the Corporation to the alarming increase in the number of child beggars and of children exploited for begging purposes, urging upon the Government to bring into operation the section of the Children's Act dealing with "neglected children," and calling upon the Government and the Corporation to support the existing scheme for a Clearing House.

Speaking at the meeting, Mrs. A.N. Chatterji stressed the necessity for taking early action in the matter. She classified the child beggars of the city under the following five heads:-

(a) independent boys who lived by doing odd jobs, varied by a little begging and pilfering. They were homeless and congregated in the neighbourhood of squares and markets. Several of them were arrested daily for begging or obstruction, brought before the Juvenile Court, and dismissed with a warning.

(b) Children brought into Calcutta to be exploited. Those who brought them to Calcutta seemed to think that city a happy hunting ground for beggars, and all sorts and conditions of children flocked into it from all parts of the country.

(c) Boys exploited by gangs usually of thieves or cocaine smugglers. These boys were well treated on the whole, but were taught to take cocaine. When this habit was established, they were made to

earn the drug by helping their masters in their illegal acts.

(d) Children whose parents or guardians sent them round with begging letters and made a good income out of them, and

(e) Children whose frailty and deformities were paraded as a means of earning pity and pice. Their misery was turned into money for those in charge of them. Their suffering was increased a hundred fold and their lives endangered daily.

Dealing with the legal aspects of the problem, Mr. B. B. Ghose, another speaker at the meeting, pointed out that section 27 of the Children Act had some useful provisions, but only a part of it had been put into operation, namely, where children were found living in houses of ill fame. The other useful provisions of that section, however, he added, were lying dormant. ~~There is no doubt that if~~ ~~they~~ Their non-enforcement was due to the fact that Government possibly were actuated by the fear of having to find the money to establish industrial schools and rescue homes for rescued children. Quoting police figures, Mr. Ghose said that over 5,500 children were brought before the Juvenile Court every year on petty charges such as begging, obstructing the streets, breach of port rules etc. It was pointed out that in many cases they were warned and discharged and that invariably no attempt was made to send them to industrial schools as provided by the Children Act of Bengal.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:-

That this meeting desires to bring to the notice of the Government of Bengal and of the Corporation of Calcutta the alarming increase in the number of child beggars and of children exploited for begging purposes; and to point out the absence of any provision for dealing with the same.

That this meeting calls upon Government to bring into force forthwith the section of the "Children Act" of 1922 which deals with "Neglected Children", and which is still inoperative.

That this meeting calls upon both the Government and the Corporation of Calcutta to give adequate support to the existing ~~scheme~~ <sup>scheme</sup> for a Clearing House, and for subsequent accommodation for children or, in the alternative, <sup>to</sup> themselves ~~to~~ provide suitable accommodation.

(The Statesman, 3-5-31).

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EDUCATION.

Agricultural Classes in Schools :

Progress of Bengal Experiment.

One of the strongest points of criticism against the existing system of education in India is that the training imparted under the present system is designed mainly to turn out efficient clerks for employment by the government and commercial concerns. The absence of an agricultural or industrial bias in the school curriculum has tended to accentuate the drift of pupils towards the black-coated professions, which, as it is, are very congested and are, therefore, unable to absorb the yearly output of fresh batches seeking employment mainly in the clerical grades. It has been felt that a considerable measure of the prevailing unemployment in the country is due to the unsuitableness of the present educational system. Efforts have been made in recent years by several provincial governments, notably by the Punjab and Bengal governments, to alter the existing system and to give an agricultural bias to the curriculum of schools in rural areas. The following is a brief account of the progress made in this direction in the Bengal Presidency:-

The year 1930 saw the beginning of a scheme of agricultural education in rural Bengal, the history of which may be traced back as far as 1889. By the Government resolution on Technical Education of that year, the Provincial Agricultural Departments have had put upon them specifically the duty of "taking positive measures for the education of the rural classes in the direction of agriculture".

In 1890 at the Simla Agricultural Conference attention was directed to this duty, emphasis laid on the fact that "it is no longer a matter of choice whether Agricultural Departments will take up the subject of Agricultural Education or not; but it is a positive duty which they cannot evade unless released by the Secretary of State from the obligation put upon them". As a result attempts were made to teach agriculture through agricultural primers in the rural schools and a few agricultural teachers were appointed to teach agriculture in the High Schools at Dumraon, Calcutta, Chittagong and other places. These did not succeed and a fresh impetus was

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given to Agricultural Education in 1917, when the Board of Agriculture in India passed their Resolution XIII, "that for the rapid development of agriculture in India a sound system of rural education based on rural needs is essential".

In 1920 the Dacca Agricultural School was started and later the Chinsurah Agricultural School. In 1924 the Agricultural Education Conference in Calcutta, by their resolutions, numbers 1 and 2, decided to try the experiment of teaching agriculture in the Primary Schools. A deputation was sent to the Punjab to investigate the possibilities of the introduction of Agricultural classes in Schools in Bengal on the lines adopted in the Punjab. The Government of Bengal in 1923 accepted their recommendations to start a teachers' training class at Dacca and to appoint an Inspector of Agricultural Schools to supervise the teaching of agriculture in classes V to VIII, both in the High English and Middle English Schools.

In 1920 the first batch of 15 teachers passed out and began teaching agriculture in 15 schools and the Inspector of Agricultural Schools was appointed. These 15 schools are spread over 12 districts. Of these fifteen, seven adopted the garden scheme and eight adopted the farm scheme. For the garden scheme half an acre of land is sufficient whereas for the farm scheme 5 acres of land is required. In these, 414 students received instructions in agriculture, both theoretical and practical. The total area that was under cultivation, beside the individual plots which each boy has to cultivate by himself, was 56.39 acres. Regarding the attitude of the boys and their guardians towards the agricultural classes, two of which are near industrial centres, report it as definitely discouraging, 4 as lukewarm and 9 as satisfactory or encouraging. It rather unfortunate the opening of these classes synchronised with one of worst periods of agricultural depressions in modern times. This fact is responsible in many cases for the discouraging reports.

The scheme will be reviewed after five years by which time, it is expected, 60 schools will be teaching about 200 classes containing about 2,400 boys. If the scheme is found successful, it will be further extended. The scheme has been modelled on the Punjab Scheme, but as the conditions prevailing in the Punjab are so very different from those in Bengal certain modifications in the light of experience gained may be necessary.

(The Pioneer, 9-5-31.)

Education.

Education in Mysore -1929-30.

The following information about educational progress in Mysore State is taken from the review on Public Education in Mysore for the year 1929-30 issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Mysore:-

According to the review, the outstanding feature of the year was the passing of the Elementary Education Regulation. Under the new regulation, certain local bodies are expected to take charge of primary education from 1st July 1931. Government trust that, with the co-operation of the department and the public, the objects of the regulation will be fully realised and a great impetus will be given to the expansion and improvement of primary education in the State. (See pages 52-54 of our March 1930 report).

Primary, Secondary and Adult Education.- The number of primary schools for boys on 31st March, 1930 was 5,875 with a strength of 230,296 (including 27,162 girls) as against 5,677 with a strength of 2,19,753 (including 22,071 girls) last year, thus showing an increase of 198 schools and 10,543 scholars. The percentage of boys in primary school-going age (calculated at 15 per cent of the total population) was 51.4 as against 49.3 in the previous year.

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The condition of the schools for adults continued to be unsatisfactory and many had to be closed. This is attributed to the general apathy of the villagers.

Better progress is expected after the Elementary Education Regulation comes into operation in July 1931.

In the field of secondary education some appreciable progress is indicated. The number of high schools for boys increased from 25 to 28, of which 17 were Government institutions and 11 aided. Their strength rose from 6,380 to 6,549.

Women's Education.- With regard to women's education, there was a decline in the number of institutions though the total number of females under instruction showed commendable increase. The review states that the number of institutions of all grades (including 2 colleges and 6 high schools) for women and girls still further decreased from 784 to 662 and their strength from 37,709 to 34,958, the decrease being due to amalgamation of girls' primary schools with boys' schools. The number of girls studying in boys' schools, therefore rose from 23,599 to 27,162, so that the total number of females under instruction was 62,120 as

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against 61,308 in the year previous, which when compared with the total female population of school going age, gives a percentage of 14.83.

Practical Instruction.- There were 87 practical instruction classes (including 12 for agriculture) actually working during the year of which 46 were attached to boys' middle or incomplete schools, 8 to similar girls' schools, 14 to Adi-Karnataka boarding homes and 19 to Adi-Karnataka primary schools. The question as to the place of practical instruction in the system of education and how far it has fulfilled the objects for which it was introduced is under investigation.

(The Hindu, 3-5-31)



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Maritime Affairs.

Employment of Children in Bengal Ports.

The Government of Bengal, Marine Department, have issued the draft of a rule which it is proposed to make under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, to the effect that no child under the age of twelve years shall be employed upon the handling of goods anywhere ~~in~~ within the limits of the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

(Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Abstract of Proceedings (No. 330) for April 1931).

The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act of 1922 provided that rules should be made by provincial governments" prohibiting the employment at piers, jetties, docks, etc., of children under the age of 12 years upon the handling of goods". The Government of India, though it passed this legislation, was precluded, for technical reasons, from ratifying the Convention relating to the minimum age of employment.

Right to Terminate Agreement:

Agents Urge Revision of Ruling.

The Agents of steamship companies in India are at present engaged in an endeavour to get a revision of a ruling given by the Government of India on the interpretation of a clause relating to termination of agreement of Indian Seamen contained in the Articles of Agreement of Indian Seamen. The clause in question is as follows:•

"The several persons whose names are hereto subscribed, and whose descriptions are contained herein and of whom .....are engaged as lascars or other native seamen hereinafter referred to as the said crew hereby agree to serve on board the said ship or any other vessel to which they may be legally transferred in the several capacities

expressed against their respective names on a voyage from ..... to..  
 .....any other ports or places within the limits of 60 degrees  
 north and 50 degrees south latitude trading to and fro, as the nature  
 of the service or employment may require for any period not exceeding  
 12 months (provided that this period may be extended by a period not  
 exceeding six months by any other further agreement entered into under  
 Section 125 (3) of the Merchant Shipping Act.1894) and finally to be  
 discharged at .....within the said 12 months from the date  
 of this agreement".

The point at issue between the Agents of the steamship companies  
 on the one hand and Government on the other is as follows :-

The agents contend that they could lawfully pay off the crew of a  
 steamer who had signed articles containing this clause at any period  
 during the 12 months provided the ship returned to British India and  
 the crew were paid off at the port at which the articles were signed.

The Government of India contend, however, that this interpretation  
 is incorrect. Government contend that owners could not lawfully dispense  
 with the services of the crew at any time irrespective of the period  
 of agreement. Government contend that the seamen are engaged on a  
 voyage from the port mentioned in the agreement to the port mentioned  
 as the port of discharge provided that the period of agreement did not  
 exceed 12 months. The agreement did not therefore terminate until the  
 vessel, or any other vessel to which the seamen might have been legally  
 transferred, had arrived at the port named as the port of discharge  
 subject to the proviso that the period of 12 months mentioned in the  
 agreement had not expired. Accordingly the Master of the ship is not  
 entitled to terminate the agreement and discharge the crew without their  
 consent on arrival of the ship at a port in British India other than  
 the port of discharge before the expiry of 12 months from the date of  
 the agreement.

As this difference of opinion raised a question of great importance  
 to shipowners employing Indian crews, the Committee of the Bombay

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Chamber of Commerce, after consulting the Chamber's solicitors, have addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon in the matter and pointed out that the interpretation placed on the clause in the Articles of Agreement by the Government of India was contrary to the usual custom and was not supported by legal opinion.. The Committee feels that if this ruling is not challenged, shipowners might be involved in heavy additional expenditure, and suggests that after consultation with Maritime Chambers, the Government of India might be approached and requested to revise their ruling.

The Committee add in their letter to the Associated Chambers, that they are not clear as to how the Government of India came to give a ruling at all in this matter. The form of the agreement with the crew is laid down in Section 28 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, XXI of 1923, and it would be for the Court and not for a Government Department, to interpret its terms if their meaning is disputed.

(Extracted from the Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, April 1931).

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Migration.

Repatriation from Malaya Estates.

Consequent on the heavy fall in the price of rubber, many of the leading business houses of Malaya, including those established and managed by Indians, are reported to be closing down their business for the present.

According to the Negapatam correspondent of the Hindu, every steamer which arrives in the port from Malaya, is bringing large numbers of repatriated Indian workers. The number of unemployed Indians in Malaya is estimated by the correspondent at 2000 skilled workers and about 30,000 coolies. In spite of this acute situation, many Indians are still leaving for Malaya and thus swell the number of Indian unemployed in Malaya. (The Hindu, 7 & 23-5-31.)

*Two Reports on Repatriation Problems*

Two reports dealing with the problems of returned Indian emigrants have recently been published in India. The reports are entitled "On the Emigrants Repatriated to India under the Assisted Emigration Scheme from South Africa" and "On the Problem of Returned Emigrants from all Colonies", and their authors are Messrs Bhawani Daya Sanyasi and Benarsi Das Chaturvedi. Mr. Chaturvedi is of opinion that the policy of repatriation is a mistake, as an Indian accustomed to colonial life can never be happy in India. His conclusions may be briefly summarised thus:-

Those who have married in the colonies should not think of coming to India to settle here, for there is little possibility of their being taken back in their respective social organisations. Marriage of their children will be an insoluble problem. From the economic point of view, it is very disadvantageous for colonial Indians to come to India. Certainly they are much better off there. So long as India is not herself free to manage her own affairs, she is not in a position to give any material help to her sons overseas. In no circumstances should Indian leaders of the Government of India be a party to any compromise with the South African or any other colonial government which has for one of its

objects the repatriation of Indians from colonies. In spite of all warnings a number of colonial Indians will still return to India entirely of their own accord. India has a duty to perform towards them. To use Mr. C. F. Andrews' words "They must on no account be allowed to go to destruction in the slums of Calcutta and Madras".

Mr. Sanyasi, who deals mainly with Indians in South Africa summarises his conclusions thus:-

The scheme of repatriation has failed because it has brought untold miseries on the repatriates - especially on those who are colonial-born and they number more than 33 per cent. of the total. They are accustomed to a different standard of living and find it most difficult to adopt the old methods of the land of their fathers or grandfathers. They cannot be happy except in the colonies. With the exception of those who belong to very low castes, others cannot be assimilated by their respective communities. The caste system still holds its sway in India and the question of marriage of the colonial children who are often born of inter-caste marriages raises insoluble difficulties. The Government of India has been able to help only a very small number of the returned emigrants in South India, while they have done practically nothing to those who have returned to North India.

It has been most difficult for returned emigrants, especially for skilled workers, to settle happily in India. A good many offers have been refused by them, some on account of bad climate, others on account of the low wages offered. I have not met a single repatriated emigrant who did not want to return to South Africa if he had only the means to do so. Even from the point of view of the Union Government the scheme has failed. The Assisted Emigration Scheme will grow more and more unpopular as true facts about the conditions of returned emigrants are known to South African Indians.

(The Pioneer, 25-5-31).

(The report of a Committee appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the working of the special organisation in Madras to deal with South African repatriates is summarised at pages 57-60 of our January 1931 report).