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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Important Parts of Report for November, 1942

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Bengal

The Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1942

Reference was made at page 2 of our August 1941 report to the adoption by the Bengal Legislative Council of the Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941, which provides for the appointment of medical referees. The Bill, as finally adopted by the Legislature, received recently the assent of the Governor-General; the text of the Act is published at pages 26 to 27 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 19-11-1942.

Delhi

The Draft Delhi Trade Employees Rules, 1942

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has gazetted the draft of the Delhi Trade Employees Rules, 1942, to regulate the administration of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, which is to be extended to Delhi in the near future. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 20-11-1942.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated
7-11-1942, pages 602 to 605).

Madras

The Madras Industrial Disputes Bill, 1942

Reference was made at pages 6 to 7 of our February 1942 report to the Draft Madras Industrial Disputes Bill, 1942. The Bill has now been amended in the light of the objects and suggestions received. The Bill as amended together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is republished in the Madras Gazette at pages 109 to 126 of Part IV-A of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 24-11-1942. The amended Bill is to be taken into consideration by 20-11-1942. The amendments which have been made are in points of detail and not in respect of principles.

Orissa

Extension of the Payment of Wages Act to "Declared" Factories

The Government of Orissa has gazetted a draft Notification proposing to extend the Payment of Wages Act to the payment of wages to all classes of persons employed in industrial establishments within the meaning of sub-clause (f) of clause (ii) of section 2 of the said Act, which have been or may be declared to be factories under section 5 of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934).

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated
27-11-1942, pages 528 to 529).

Sind

Extension of the Payment of Wages Act to "Declared" Factories

The Sind Government has gazetted a Draft Notification (No. 617/47-M/42 dated 21-11-1942) proposing to extend the provisions of the payment of Wages Act to the payment of wages to all classes of persons employed in

NOTE:

p. of contents and pp. 1+2 of full report are missing.
Therefore, pp. 1+2 have been xeroxed instead. From p. 3
copies are from full report.

industrial establishments within the meaning of sub-clause (F) of ~~the~~ clause (ii) of section 2 of the said Act, which have been or may be declared to be factories under section 5 of the Factories Act, 1934. The draft is to be taken into consideration by the third week of February 1943.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part I, dated 26-11-1942, page 2497).

SOCIAL POLICY

1st Session of the Standing Labour Committee, New Delhi, 30th November and 1st December, 1942.

The first session of the Standing Labour Committee (set up by the Tripartite Labour Conference convened at New Delhi on 7 and 8-8-1942: vide pages 1 to 5 of our August 1942 report) was held on the 30th November and 1st December, 1942, under the presidency of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India. At the opening session, a message from Mr. E.J. Phelan, Acting Director of the I.L.O., to the meeting was read. The items on the agenda of the meeting were: (1) Review of wartime labour legislation determining conditions of work in regulated employment; (2) Production problems; (3) Earnings of labour; (4) Labour welfare, and (5) Industrial statistics. Brief notes on the items on the agenda and the Questions which arose for discussion on each, are given below.

I. Labour Legislation.- The more important of the legislative measures adopted during war time, which affect conditions of work in regulated employment are: (1) Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941 (vide page 45 of our December 1941 report), (2) Defence of India Rule 81A and Orders thereunder (issued on 21-1-1942) (vide pages 14-16 of our January 1942 report), and (3) National Service (Technical Personnel Ordinance, 1940 (vide pages 33-34 of our June 1940 report). Power complementary to the restrictive provisions has been taken by Government to determine the terms and conditions of service, in particular (a) Section 6 of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, (b) Sub-clause (b) of clause 1 of Defence of India Rule 81A, and (c) Sections 4(2) (iii), 7, 8 and 10 of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance.

Some Provincial Governments have made general rules under section 6 of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance. It has not so far been necessary, as far as information at hand goes, for any Government to make an order under Defence of India rule 81A (1) (b) in practice (this does not refer to adjudication awards which are enforced by Governments). Orders under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance have been used both by Tribunals and the Central Government in a number of cases.

The points for discussion before the meeting were: (1) a general review of the measures and (2) the question whether it is necessary or desirable that Government powers, particularly under section 6 of the E.S. (M) Ordinance should be exercised more regularly.

II. Production.- Some of the labour problems which arose in connection with production were: (1) review of the present machinery for prevention of industrial disputes, with a view to further improvement; (2) labour mobilisation including that of technical labour; (3) incidence of absenteeism and ways of reducing it; (4) problems arising from transfer of labour from one occupation to another; and (5) hours of work and incidence of industrial fatigue: the need for the establishment of an Industrial Health Research Board.

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(1) **Industrial Disputes.**- The machinery at present available for the settlement of disputes is (a) under the Trade Disputes Act, and (b) under Defence of India Rule 81A and Orders made thereunder. Sudden stoppages of work were already dealt with under the Trade Disputes Act, in respect of public utility services. The provision

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of 14 days' notice has now been extended to all industrial employment by under the Order under Defence of India Rule 81A. Originally there was no power to enforce the awards of adjudicators. ~~The~~ power has now been taken under para. (d) of para. (1) of Defence of India Rule 81A. The Committee was invited to review these measures and to suggest improvements, if necessary, in the present machinery.

(2) Mobilisation.- This has largely been effected by (1) National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, (2) Technical Training Scheme, and (3) Upgrading in factories. The National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance is administered through organisations known as National Service Labour Tribunals, one of which has been constituted in each of the Governor's provinces, except Orissa and N.W.F.P. which are included in the jurisdiction of Bihar and Punjab Provinces and one in the Chief Commissioner Province of Delhi. By a recent amendment to the Ordinance, Tribunals may require undertakings to train men for employment in civil industry under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. The Technical Training Scheme utilises various educational institutions, industrial undertakings, as well as special centres for training up the candidates. The two All-India associations of Employers have already been addressed on the subject of upgrading in factories. The Bevin Training Scheme also seeks to increase technical skill of persons trained and to give them an insight into British working conditions. 304 trainees in six batches have been sent to United Kingdom. Three batches have returned and a large majority of them have been already posted so far. As regards the mobilisation of unskilled labour, it is felt that the existing supply is adequate, but that difficulties arise in ensuring availability of such labour at the right place at the right time. The point for discussion by the Committee was: Can any other effective steps be taken so that the country's labour resources are put to the best available use for war production?

(3) Absenteeism.- In England a problem of absenteeism and persistent lateness has to some extent arisen. The question was: Does the problem need any consideration in India? The Committee was invited to discuss whether absenteeism or lateness existed to any marked extent in the country, whether difficulties of transport, accommodation, etc., contributed to such absenteeism or lateness and what remedial measures are to be adopted.

(4) Labour Transfer.- During wartime transfers of labour have taken place from one occupation to another on a fairly extensive scale. The question for discussion was whether such transfers created any specific labour problems?

(5) Hours of Work and Industrial Fatigue.- In order to obtain maximum production it has become necessary to relax to a certain extent the existing provisions regarding hours of work, rest intervals, weekly holidays, etc., under the Factories Act. Exemptions have been granted in suitable cases under sections 8, 43 and 44 of the Factories Act. The question of industrial fatigue was discussed in a general way at the Third Conference of Labour Ministers, but the Conference did not consider any definite action necessary. Conditions vary in different countries. But investigations have not led to any conclusive results on the question of the 'optimum' hours of work. The Government of India addressed Provincial Governments, outlining certain broad directions which may be followed when granting exemptions. The instructions cover the following items:

(1) Section 34 - Weekly Hours.- Ordinarily factories may be allowed,

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to work 60 hours a week. Where circumstances make it necessary, extension may be allowed up to 65, 66 or 70 hours a week, but any hours beyond this limit should not be permitted except for temporary emergencies.

- (ii) Section 35 - Weekly (Sunday) holiday.
Section 36 - Daily hours.

Exemptions under one or other of the sections would be necessary only where more than 60 hours a week are allowed. In such cases generally a weekly holiday or at least one holiday for every two weeks should be observed and the daily hours should not extend beyond 11.

(iii) Section 37 - Intervals for rest.- No exemption should ordinarily be necessary. Experience has shown that intervals are essential for better production over an extended period.

(iv) Section 38 - Spread-over.- Generally no exemption should be necessary. But where relaxation is necessary to suit special local circumstances, spread-over should not exceed 14 hours.

(v) Section 45 - Restrictions on employment of women.- There appear to be no adequate grounds for relaxation.

(vi) Section 47 - Extra pay for overtime.- Exemption should not be allowed in the case of civilian personnel.

(vii) Period of exemption.- In general exemptions should be for the duration of the war.

There has been some indication recently that long hours in the engineering industry are leading to industrial fatigue.

In the United Kingdom the problems were examined first by the Industrial Health Research Board, and the Select Committee on National Defence Expenditure has also gone into the question. In India there is no organisation which has gone into this problem. The questions for discussion under this head are: (1) Is it possible to lay down any optimum hours for various industries under Indian conditions? (2) If detailed investigation is necessary how and where should it be undertaken? (3) Is it advisable to establish a Board on the lines of the Industrial Health Research Board in the U.K., both as a wartime measure and also to serve peacetime conditions?

III. Earnings of Labour.- The problems which have arisen under this head are: (a) Dearness allowance; profit bonuses; (b) is real increase in wages possible? and (c) question of savings out of increased money incomes; propaganda or compulsion?

(a) Dearness Allowance and Bonus.- The Government of India has no detailed information as regards the earnings of labour in various industries and variations which have occurred therein during the war. It has no detailed information of wage levels. Certain information, which is now mostly out of date, was compiled in the memorandum for the Third Conference of Labour Ministers regarding dearness allowances.

(b) Savings.- The basic question is whether the supply of consumption goods can increase pari passu with increase in money incomes or whether an increase in money incomes must result in an inflation spiral unless a proportion is saved by the workers, as also by other sections of the community. In India savings have not been on a satisfactory scale and the proportion of small savings is not .

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considerable. There is at present no evidence to show that labour is making any attempt by saving to postpone the benefits of increased earnings till the post-war period. The problem before the Government is whether it is feasible to introduce methods of saving, for instance, contributory provident fund, deferred bonuses, etc.

The questions for discussion by the Committee were: (1) Is any uniformity in the subject as a whole or in respect of dearness allowance in particular practicable? (2) Would it be desirable to grant wage increases or bonuses, (as distinct from allowances to meet increase in cost of living), in some form of deferred savings? (3) Can (or should) propaganda be used to encourage saving among workers? If so what form of propaganda would be useful?

IV. Labour Welfare.- The aspects of labour welfare before the Committee were: (a) problem of food supplies and cost price grain shops, (b) A.R.P. in factories; establishment of joint committees for A.R.P. and welfare; and (c) war injuries scheme; question of raising relief or supplementing it by employers for factory labour - voluntary or compulsory.

(a) Food.- The question was generally discussed at the Fourth Labour Conference (vide page 5 of our August 1942 report). The general subject of price control and food supplies is dealt with by the Commerce Department. It has already been decided that preference should be given in supplies of food commodities, to the requirements of fair price grain shops. It is known that some employers have such shops working and the Central Government considers that fair price shops should be opened in as large a number as possible. The point for discussion was: What special steps, if any, would be desirable and practicable to meet the problem of supplies of essential commodities to labour in particular?

(b) A.R.P. in Factories.- The Labour Department is entrusted with the work of A.R.P. in factories and a considerable amount of work has already been done. The co-operation of factory labour is essential if factory A.R.P. organisations are to be effective, as their proper functioning depends on (1) sufficient flow of volunteers for A.R.P. services, (2) keen and regular training, and (3) confidence, discipline and morale. The Government desires to know whether a joint consultative committee representing both the management and the workers would be an asset in each factory for the following purposes:- (1) to explain to the workers the purpose of all A.R.P. measures and the necessity for training and discipline and to procure equipment for A.R.P. services, (2) to dispel groundless or malicious rumours and to issue counter propaganda when needed, (3) to enable any real or imaginary hardships or grievances to be ventilated, (4) to explain to the men the implications of, for instance, pensions, disability schemes, (5) generally to foster a feeling of confidence between the employers and the employed in the face of an enemy.

(c) War Injuries Compensation.- The War Injuries Scheme, which was adopted on 1-1-1942, is purely a relief measure and has in it no element of compensation. The Government's scheme has necessarily to be uniform for all classes of the population and the scheme provides a minimum level of subsistence; it is also related to the allowances and pensions available to the lowest combatant rank in the Army as is the case with the War Injuries Scheme in other countries. Government invited the views of employers' organisations on a draft scheme for

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War Injuries Insurance under which the relief under the War Injuries scheme would be supplemented so as to bring it to the level of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Employers will pay the premia of an insurance fund calculated on actuarial basis. The question is: Is it desirable to supplement relief under the scheme by an insurance scheme designed to increase benefits up to the level of Workmen's Compensation Act?

V. Industrial Statistics.- At present labour statistics cover only a limited field and even within that particular field available statistics are not complete, as reliance has to be placed on purely voluntary methods. The Industrial Statistics Act (Act No. XIX of 1942) was passed early in 1942. The Labour Department of the Government of India will administer the labour part of the Act. Labour intelligence in India is extremely backward as compared to other countries, and reliable intelligence is necessary to serve as a guide for legislative or administrative action. Labour statistics cover a wide field but it is felt that it would probably be advisable to proceed on a few well defined subjects on which statistics are badly needed and let the machinery expand as circumstances require and permit. The following subjects were tentatively proposed as those on which statistics might be collected under the Act: Wages and earnings of labour and hours of work. The Central Government has to make rules under the Act and can also give directions to the Provinces. It has been suggested that draft rules and draft forms should be framed and a sub-committee of the Standing Labour Committee should examine these drafts so that introduction of final rules and forms can be expedited. The Committee was invited to consider the questions: (1) What should be the method of giving effect to the Industrial Statistics Act? (2) What subjects may be taken up first and what should be the machinery to deal effectively with problems that may arise?

(Summarised from the Memoranda prepared by the Department of Labour, a copy of which was received in this Office.)

The results of the discussions on the items on the agenda have not been published, but it is understood that no formal resolutions were adopted. The Committee is reported to have generally agreed on the necessity for a measure of uniformity in dearness allowance, the importance of ensuring supplies to cost-price grain shops for workers and the desirability of making standard cloth generally available to the working classes.

(The Statesman, 3-12-1942.).

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CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work

The Working of the Punjab Trade Employees Act in 1941.*

During the year 1941 the administration of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, was entrusted to the Industries Department, Punjab. The Act came into force with effect from the 1st March, 1941, and was applied in the first instance to the municipal and cantonment limits of Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot, Ferozepore, Rawalpindi and Multan and to the municipal limits of Ludhiana, Lyallpur, Jaranwala, Gojra, Simla and Okara. Fifteen Inspectors were appointed at these places, while the charge of the Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments was held by the Director of Industries, Punjab, pending the appointment of a permanent incumbent. The rules under the Act were framed and all preliminary details concerning the duties of the Inspectors and kindred matters had been settled before the year closed. Quite a large number of enquiries were received from the public about the application of the Act to various types of shops and commercial establishments which were attended to promptly.

* Report on the working of the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March, 1941. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1942. Price Re. 0-4-0..

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General

Factory Administration in Madras, 1941.*

Statistics of Factories.- According to the annual report on the working of the Factories Act in Madras Province during 1941, the year commenced with 1,977 factories on the registers as against 1,916 factories in 1940. During the year 131 factories were brought on the registers and 75 were removed. The number of factories on the registers at the end of the year was 2,033 of which 1,955 (518 seasonal and 1,437 non-seasonal) were in commission.

Number of Workers.- The average number of workers employed daily in the 1,858 factories which submitted returns in time for the year was 234,072 as against 211,194 in the previous year; 9,380 of them were employed in the Government and Local Fund factories. The increase of 22,878 workers is due largely to the increase in the number of factories during the year and also due to the increase in the employment of a large number of workers in the textile mills and in the Government Cordite Factory at Aruvankadu. Of the 234,072 workers, 31,070 were in seasonal factories and 203,002 in perennial factories.

Of the 234,072 workers, 161,145 were adult males, 59,795 adult females, 9,069 adolescents (7,109 males and 1,960 females) and 4,063 children (2,608 males and 1,455 females).

The number of medical certificates issued during the year was 11,941 as against 9,127 in 1940. The increase is due to the number of adult workers who are required to be verified under the Hazardous Occupation Rules. The average number of adolescents and children employed daily was 13,123 as against 13,373 in the previous year. There is no appreciable variation.

Inspection.- Of the 1,955 factories in commission, 486 were inspected once, 796 twice, 491 thrice and 139 more than three times. The total number of inspections made was 4,116 as against 3,909 in 1940. 2,752 inspections were made by the full-time factory inspectors and 1,364 by the additional inspectors. 43 factories were not inspected. 225 visits were made to unregistered factories with a view to keep a check on the number of factories which might be avoiding registration and, as a result of these, 13 factories were brought on the registers. The total number of visits and inspections made by the full-time inspectors was 3,460 as against 3,556 in 1940.

Rest Intervals.- The rest interval as required by section 37 of the Act was observed in all the factories, except in 121 factories which had been exempted from the said provision. Even the exempted factories had granted sufficient time for meals, though not a fixed period. Sundays or substituted holidays were observed in all cases except the 122 factories exempted from the provisions of section 35. A holiday, at least, once in 14 days was given as required by the conditions attached to the exemption.

Hours of Work.- The number of non-seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 42 was 58 for men and 118 for women;

* Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1941. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price Re. 1/- . pp.58.

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above 42 and not above 48 was 174 for men and 55 for women; and above 48 was 1,128 for men and 851 for women. 194 factories employed children as against 247 in 1940. The weekly hours for children did not exceed 30. sixteen factories were exempted from the weekly limit of 54 hours and 10 factories from the daily limit of 10 hours. The number of seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 48 was 20 for men and 37 for women; above 48 and not above 54 was 74 for men and 72 for women; and above 54 was 381 for men and 362 for women. Only in 3 factories children were found employed. The weekly hours for them did not exceed 30. No seasonal factory was exempted from the provisions of weekly and daily limits of hours of work.

The general exemption from the provisions relating to hours of ~~employment~~ employment due to war emergency was granted under section 8 of the Act to 25 factories. They were engaged on work of national importance. The permissible hours per week for persons employed in the textile factories have been raised to 60 for a period of six months with effect from 3rd November 1941 for the purpose of controlling the price of yarn by increased production.

shifts.- In 364 factories, chiefly in the textile and rice milling industries, work is carried on by a system of multiple and overlapping shifts.

Prosecutions.- The occupiers and managers of 70 factories involving 109 persons were prosecuted during the year. Convictions were obtained on 257 counts against 66 factories involving 99 persons. A sum of Rs. 3,908-8-0 was imposed in fines ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 150 and giving an average of Rs. 14-15-1 per count. In two cases, the accused were found not guilty; one case was withdrawn; in one case, the occupier was convicted and the manager was acquitted, and in another case the manager was fined and the four occupiers were acquitted. An appeal was preferred in the High Court and all the four occupiers were also convicted. In another case, an appeal was preferred in the High Court against inadequate fine for the second offence under section 61 of the Act. The appeal was upheld and the fine amount was enhanced to Rs. 100. Prosecutions against two factories were pending disposal at the end of the year. The cases that were pending at the end of the previous year were disposed of and convictions obtained in all of them.

Complaints.- 116 complaints were received (as against 64 in 1940) of which six were anonymous and 27 pseudonymous. The largest number of complaints received were in respect of non-payment of wages, arrears of wages, deduction from wages, delay in payment of wages and removal from service. Enquiries were made and action taken wherever necessary.

Sickness statistics.- 736,354 man-days were lost due to sickness as against 689,583 in 1940. The increase may be attributed to the increase in the number of persons employed during the year as no epidemic was reported from any of the factories.

Working of the Employment of Children Act.- Only a few inspections were ~~made~~ under this Act during the year. It was suggested to Government in the year 1940 that the administration of this Act might be entrusted to the municipal health officers, tahsildars and deputy tahsildars, as the volume of work involved would be large as there were more than 2,000 establishments in the municipalities alone, which would come within the purview of the Act. The Government did not approve of this suggestion but distributed the work between the ~~Labour~~ +

Department and the municipal health officers. As this order was received late in the year and also for want of time, inspections could not be made. It is hoped that with the additional staff that has been sanctioned, a large number of establishments will be visited by the Inspectors during 1942.

Working of Factories (Amendment) Act, 1940. - Seventeen factories were ~~being~~ brought on the registers under this Act during the year.

Government of India's Labour Policy:
Mr. N.M. Joshi's Criticisms.

Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C., in an article under the caption "The Government of India and Indian Labour" contributed to the Bombay Chronicle (issue dated 13-11-1942) makes certain criticisms of the labour policy of the Government of India (The article is by way of answer to a recent statement made by Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, about the Government's labour policy - vide pages 25-28 of our October 1942 report.) The main criticisms of Mr. Joshi are ~~but~~ briefly noticed below:

Mr. Joshi's main contention is that the interests of several millions of workers working in organised and unorganised industries have been adversely affected by war conditions, especially by the ~~phenomenal rise in the cost of living and by the restrictive legislation of the Government of India.~~ He maintains that the Labour Department has not provided either by legislation or by executive ~~action that the difficulties of workers due to the rise in the cost of living would be automatically removed by increase of wages or by an adequate dearness allowance, and that only a section of workers, mostly working in big organised industries, has obtained some dearness allowance, which is not adequate.~~ As against this, the workers in unorganised and small industries are suffering great hardships. In their case, if dearness allowance has been given, it has been obtained not automatically, but either by workers resorting to strikes and by their taking the risk of some of them going to jail or at least by their giving threats of strikes. It is only in big industries like railways and great textile centres like Bombay that the Government have helped in securing some dearness allowance without strikes or threats of strikes. He urges the Labour Department of the Government of India immediately to secure full information and take steps to see that those workers who have not yet been compensated for the rise in the cost of living will be compensated fully either by an increase in wages or at least by a grant of adequate dearness allowance.

While conceding the necessity in a time of war for restricting in some measure workers' freedom of action, he maintains that some of the restrictions imposed by recent legislation are not fair. Thus, under the National Service Technical Personnel Ordinance, the worker's right to improve his prospects by leaving one job to take a more lucrative one is taken away without being compensated by being given better conditions than he was previously getting. He also points out that Dr. Ambedkar's statement that if labour wants to go on strike, and if it formulates definite grievances, Government is bound to refer the matter to arbitration is inaccurate. The law does not place upon Government ^{any} the obligation, but only gives it discretion either to appoint an arbitrator or not, and to have the

grievances inquired into.

Directing attention to Government's lack of initiative in labour matters, he says: "Government's policy of expecting illiterate and helpless labour to take the initiative makes their legislation ineffective. Government even delays action till the workers take the risk of either going on strike or at least threatening a strike. ~~In industries which are not declared 'essential'.~~ Even in industries which are declared essential, in which case the Government has taken power to regulate conditions on its own initiative, no steps had been taken to provide proper conditions unless the workers had gone on strikes or threatened strikes. Government should follow a positive constructive policy of providing on their own initiative proper conditions at least during the war."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-11-1942.).

Labour Welfare Centres in Bangalore:
Mysore Government sanctions Rs.8,200.

The development of welfare activities for the working classes had been under the consideration of the Government of Mysore for some time. In the recent session of the Representative Assembly, a representation was made in this behalf and Government gave an assurance that the question was engaging their attention. The Commissioner of Labour, who had been requested to go into the matter, reported that it is desirable to make a start at once with two recreation centres in Bangalore City, in areas in which there is a large concentration of working class people.

The centres will provide a wide range of amenities such as newspapers, periodicals and books in different vernaculars, such as chess, ping pong, finger billiards and dominoes, educational lectures, magic lantern slides and films and eventually wireless receiving sets. They will also be centres for bhajanas and amateur music parties, and provide a canteen where wholesale refreshments can be had at cheap rates. These centres are to be made available to the people belonging to the working classes, free of cost for the present and will work under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Labour.

The Commissioner estimated that the recurring and non-recurring expenditure for the two centres, during the current year, will be Rs. 3,200 and Rs. 5,000, respectively, i.e., Rs. 8,200 in all. Government have sanctioned the proposals of the Commissioner of Labour for one year in the first instance.

(The Mysore Information Bulletin,
October 1942.) .

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Orissa state Aid to Industries Bill, 1942.

The Government of Orissa has published the Bihar and Orissa State Aid to Industries (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1942, which it proposes introducing in the local Legislature at an early date. According to the statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill, experience has shown that applications for State aid reach the stage for consideration by the Board of Industries at different times and at long intervals on account of the elaborate procedure prescribed under the Bihar and Orissa State Aid to Industries Act, 1923, and the Rules framed thereunder in order to ensure the security of the loan to be advanced. It, therefore, becomes necessary to hold a meeting of the Board of Industries for advice when only one or two applications not exceeding Rs. 1,000 each mature. Small loans are sometimes required urgently by persons desirous of setting up small cottage industries. The present amendment ensures quick disposal of such applications so that it may be possible for the Director of Development to sanction small loans without reference to the meetings of the Board of Industries.

(The Orissa Gazette Extraordinary,
18-11-1942.)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during June and July, 1942.

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during June and July, 1942, as compared with the preceding month:

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>May 1942</u>	<u>June 1942</u>	<u>July 1942</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	142	182	168
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	102	111	117
Shelapur	Year ending January, 1928	104	109	112
Nagpur	August 1939*	145	160	181
Ludhiana	1931-35	190	214	219
Cawnpore	August 1939	155	175	190
Patna	(Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914)	159	168	181
Jamshedpur	Ditto	165	192	202
Jharia	Ditto	171	188	206
Madras	Year ending June 1936	121	128	133
Madga	Ditto	117	127	139
Coimbatore	Ditto	122	140	140

* Owing to the change of base from January 1927 = 100, to August 1939 = 100, figures for the previous year have been deleted.

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions
in India for July 1942.)

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SOCIAL INSURANCE

Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act in 1941*.

The provisions of the Act are applicable to women employed in non-seasonal ~~factories~~ factories. Of the 1,437 non-seasonal factories in commission during the year, 1063 factories employed women as against 991 in 1940. Returns were not received from 44 factories. The average number of women employed daily was 43,773 as against 42,045 in 1940. 2,040 claims were made as against 2,260 in 1940 of which 1,687 claims, as against 1,669 in 1940, were paid to the women concerned or to their nominees. 4.66 per cent. of the total number of women employed claimed the benefits. 82.7 per cent. claims were paid and 17.3 per cent. claims were rejected due to deficiency in the qualifying service of 240 days of employment during the 12 months preceding the date of claim. The total amount of benefits paid was Rs. 41,031-10-6 as against Rs. 40,937-7-6 in 1940.

Inspections were made along with the inspections under the Factories Act and claims for benefit were checked by the Factory Inspectors. Four inspections were made by the Additional Inspectors. Prosecutions were instituted in three cases and convictions obtained in all of them. Complaints were made to the Factory Inspectors in 12 cases of non-payment of benefits. They were enquired into and necessary action was taken. An Assistant Inspectress of Factories with medical qualifications was appointed towards the end of the year for the administration of the Act and to look after the interests of the women and children employed in factories. She has endeavoured to make contacts with the women workers and has given them advice relating to maternity and other relative matters.

* Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1941. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price Re.1/-.

Occupation Institute for Mysore:
State Government sanctions Scheme.

The Government of Mysore has sanctioned a scheme for establishment of an occupation institute in Mysore to provide the growing industries in the state with trained personnel, and has appointed a special officer for working out details of the scheme in consultation with a working committee which will consist of three Government officials and two non-official gentlemen. The main purpose of the institute is to find employment and career for the large and growing body of youths in the State, to improve working capacity of the people and through it their income and to increase the quality and ~~quantity~~ quantity of products grown and manufactured and the aggregate value of goods and service produced within the State.

It has been estimated that a sum of Rs. 500,000 will be required for the capital expenditure for buildings and equipment to make a start with 12 occupations, including mechanical and electrical engineering, metal trades, tailoring and clothes making, working in leather and manufacture of boots and shoes, radio mechanism, printing, house building, trade, mining, plumbing and installing sanitary fittings and automobile mechanics. Recurring expenditure will be Rs. 75,000 rising to Rs. 100,000. ~~towards the initial cost of the scheme.~~ The institute will begin giving instruction in a dozen occupations which may eventually be raised to 30. The scheme owes its origin to Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

(The Leader, 25-11-1942.)

Appointments and Information Board, Calcutta University:
Work during Quinquennium, 1937-1942.

According to the first quinquennial report issued by the Appointments and Information Board set up by the Calcutta University in 1937 for the solution of educated unemployment, the number of candidates registered during the quinquennial period was 2,987, comprising graduates in Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering, Medicine and under-graduates. In 1939, the Board organised a series of lectures on the principal industries of the country, delivered by men connected with those industries. These lectures, popularly known as "Career Lectures" dealt with the qualities and aptitude necessary for various industrial careers and were the first of their kind in India and attracted considerable public attention both in and outside the province. The Board has now become a permanent department of the Calcutta University.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1942.)

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS

The Assam Nurses', Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration
Bill, 1942.

The Assam Government introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 17-11-1942 the Assam Nurses', Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration Bill, 1942. The objects of this Bill are: (i) to establish a Council to facilitate the registration of all Nurses, Midwives, and Health Visitors who have undergone a prescribed training and passed qualifying examinations; (ii) to empower the Council to inspect and approve institutions where such training can be given, and (iii) to raise the status of these professions and attract new entrants to nursing and health services. It may be pointed out that the Legislature is now considering a Maternity Benefit Bill whose efficient operation will need well qualified midwives. Without some such body as the proposed Council to approve institutions and arrange courses of training and examinations, neither employers nor employees will be able to take full advantage of this beneficent measure.

(The Assam Gazette, Part V, dated
25-11-1942, Pages 15-16.)

Rural Welfare Trust Fund set up in Hyderabad State

In his general survey of the economic and financial position of the State, Mr. Ghulam Mohammed, Finance Member to the Nizam's Government, referred to the provision made in the State Budget for the new financial year (October 1942-September 1943) for rural welfare and allied measures. One important proposal, he said, was for the establishment of a non-lapsing Rural Welfare Trust Fund for which a provision of Rs. 300,000 had been made. Contributions to the Fund, which will be managed by three trustees, viz., the Members of the Council in charge of Revenue, Education and Finance, will rise by additions of Rs. 150,000 every year to Rs. 900,000 in 1947, and expenditure from it will be incurred to supplement the activities of various Departments like Education, Agriculture, Co-operation, Veterinary and Medical and Public Health. It was further proposed that the Industrial Trust Fund and the Famine Relief Fund should make annual contributions of Rs. 100,000 each to the fund for expenditure on purposes directly connected with and in furtherance of the objects of these funds. The Finance Member observed in this connection that the Industrial Trust Fund had a responsibility for fostering cottage industries. After remarking that 90 per cent. of the population of the State lived in the villages, he added that apart from any programme of agricultural development, co-operative credit, improvement of live-stock and other measures for the benefit of the rural areas of Hyderabad, it was becoming increasingly necessary to devise a bold but practical scheme for dealing with the question of increasing the productive capacity of the villagers and as such a scheme of cottage industries based on raw materials locally available, aided by necessary scientific research and guided and controlled by proper commercial knowledge and organisation, was essential for a successful solution of this problem.

(The Hyderabad Information, November, 1942.)

LIVING CONDITIONS

Nutrition

Food Situation in India: Reviewed by Dr. Aykroyd.

Dr. W.R. Aykroyd has recently contributed an article on the food situation in India, which was published in the Hindustan Times Weekly dated 1-11-1942. The salient points brought out in the article are summarised below:-

Import Position.- In comparison with many countries, India is in a fortunate position as regards her food supplies. She has not been invaded and land under cultivation is producing its usual quota of crops. But India cannot hope to escape altogether the impact of the world war. Food imports and exports in normal times are small in relation to total indigenous food production; that is to say, India is largely a self-sufficient country as regards her food supply. Her self-sufficiency is, however, not absolute. Within recent years Burma rice, and to a lesser extent, rice from Indo-China and Thailand, has been imported to make good a shortage in home production. Rice imports in recent years have amounted to about 4.5 per cent. of the rice supplies of India as a whole; in the Madras Presidency the percentage of imports to total supplies was higher, probably from 10 to 15 per cent.

Export Position.- Food exports previous to the war were small; for example, exports of rice amounted to less than one per cent. of the total crop. It follows that loss of overseas markets does not have the effect of greatly increasing food supplies within the country. Actually the quantity of grain required for export has been increased as a result of the war. Wheat has been sent overseas to feed armies and civil populations. Ceylon, cut off like India from supplies of Burma rice, has to be provided with food. Previous to the war exports of rice from India to Ceylon amounted to some 88,000 tons, a very small fraction of the total production of about 29 million tons. The population of Ceylon (6 millions) is only 1.5 per cent. of the population of India and great efforts are being made in Ceylon to increase food production. Nevertheless, the requirements of Ceylon will add to rice shortage. The loss of markets for groundnuts and certain other cash crops allows land hitherto producing such crops to be turned over to food production.

Increased Requirements.- In India any increase in the "total national energy requirement" resulting from the war will be of a much smaller order than in Britain, but not altogether negligible. Some 500,000 refugees have entered the country from Burma and elsewhere. Armies have to be maintained and men in military service require and obtain more food than civilian, industrial and agricultural workers generally. Industry is booming and the number of industrial workers employed, particularly in heavy industries engaged in war production, has considerably increased. This inevitably means an increase in food requirements. If the price of food remained constant a general rise in wage levels, such as has taken place within the last two years, would mean increased consumption of food on the part of the wage-earners concerned. It has been repeatedly found in diet surveys that low paid industrial and urban workers have a calorie intake below normal requirements. Any increase in real income will increase their consumption. At the present time, however, the increase in wages (dearness allowance, etc.) must be largely offset by the increase in the cost of food and other necessities.

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That India is largely self-sufficient in food supply, demands close scrutiny. Even in normal times the food supply of India plus imports does not cover requirements in the sense that the population is abundantly or satisfactorily fed. The diet of large sections is deficient in quality and quantity and below generally accepted standards of adequacy. Because of the existing bare minimum level of diet, there is little "margin of safety" to allow for further restriction. In 1937, Dr. Aykroyd attempted to calculate the total food production of the Madras Presidency and compare it with food requirements. While the investigation was difficult and on the whole unsatisfactory, owing to the absence of adequate statistical data, it provided an indication of the state of affairs. It was calculated that the total food available, including imports, was just sufficient to cover total calorie requirements, reckoned on the basis of 2,500 calories per consumption unit daily, provided it was evenly distributed. The conclusion was as follows: "It seems clear that there is no appreciable excess of supply over requirements and that the imports of rice and other foods are necessary to supplement internal production." The above conclusions as regards "lack of margin" can probably be applied to the whole of India. One way of meeting food shortage is to "tighten the belt", but in India there is no surplus girth to be reduced.

Transport Difficulties.- Transport difficulties are an important factor in the food situation. The railways are overburdened and owing to the great demand for rolling stock for carrying war materials there is shortage for other purposes. Petrol for lorries is in short supply. But it is clear that the food supply of village communities which habitually grow, prepare and consume their own food will be relatively unaffected by dislocation in transport. About 28 per cent. of total rice supplies in British India (excluding Burma rice) is machine-milled. The remainder, except for 2 per cent. handled by the professional dehushing class, is "dehushed into rice in the producer's homes by hand pounding". In the case of wheat it appears that about 11 per cent. of the crop is processed in roller mills. Of the remainder about half is ground by hand in the villages and the other half ground in power driven chakkis in towns and cities. The millets, of great importance as a staple food crop in India, are in all probability directly consumed by those who grow them, to a greater extent than in the case of wheat and rice. In general, the consumption of cereals processed in power-driven mills will involve more use of transport than the consumption of cereals pounded or ground in the home, or within the village. Cities and industrial areas, areas producing cash crops, tea plantations, etc., are of course dependent on food supplies which may normally be obtained from food-producing areas a considerable distance away. India has moved far from simple and direct dependence on locally produced food. A complicated marketing system for staple food crops, based on modern transport facilities, has grown up. Clearly any move to uncomplicate the system - i.e., in the direction of greater dependence on crops produced in the neighbourhood of the consumer - will help to save transport and ease the food situation, and must be regarded as an essential part of a rationally planned war time food policy. Under stress of circumstances, there has been some change in this direction already.

Need for Increased Food Production.- At present it is difficult to estimate how serious the food shortage is, or is likely to be. There does not appear to be any real information about existing stocks - a point of essential importance. "Enough food" takes precedence over "the right kind of food"; calories over proteins and vitamin. When

When increase in the total supply of calories, ~~the bulk of food~~ is the primary and most urgent consideration, attention must be given to any crop which gives a large and rapid return, irrespective of its nutritive value and the habitual preferences of the population. Among the crops which give a larger and more rapid return are tapioca, maize and the millets. If these can be produced in greater quantities, they can replace equivalent quantities of wheat and rice without disadvantage from the standpoint of nutrition.

Vegetables. - The possibility of increasing the production of vegetables in India by means employed in Great Britain during war time now is obviously much smaller, and but something could be done in this direction. Boarding schools and other institutions receiving government grants can be compelled to create vegetable gardens, or extend gardens already in existence. Institutions already producing vegetables for their own use, such as jails, can increase output by 100 per cent. Owners of suitable compounds can be encouraged or compelled to grow vegetables. There would be difficulties in supplying enough seed for a widespread and rapid extension of vegetable growing, and any increase in production immediately feasible would amount to only a tiny fraction of the additional food required. The acreage under potato ~~should~~ should be increased. Unfortunately the areas in which it can be cultivated in South India are limited and there are likely to be very serious difficulties about fertilizers. But the sweet-potato thrives in a tropical climate. This root is of considerable value as a supplement to ill-balanced rice diets and its cultivation could be extended with advantage. The production of yams could also be increased. The Food Production Conference, which met in Delhi in April, 1942, again recommended that "as an insurance against a shortage of staple foods and with a view to improving the nutrition of the people, all available lands adjoining ~~homesteads~~ should be used for the production of vegetables and quick-growing fruits, such as papayas, bananas and melons and green fodder crops for increased production of milk."

Increasing Food Value of Available Cereals. - In India the great bulk of the wheat crop is stone-ground in village homes and small mills and consumed whole or nearly so. The production of refined wheat flour (maida) in roller mills amounts to only 400,000 tons, or approximately 4.5 per cent. of the total wheat supply. Clearly, prohibiting the manufacture of white flour would have a negligible effect on the quantities of wheat products available for human consumption. About 27 per cent. of the total paddy crop is machine-milled, the remainder being prepared for consumption by hand-pounding. The total quantity of machine-milled rice produced amounts to about 7 million tons. Hand-pounding removes the germ and a proportion of the pericarp; home-pounded rice is not equivalent to husked whole rice with all the integuments of the grain intact. A given weight of paddy would yield by home-pounding about 6 per cent. more rice for consumption than by milling. If all paddy were home-pounded, or milled only to the same degree as home-pounded rice, ~~an additional~~ an additional 420,000 tons of rice or thereabouts, amounting to about 1.6 per cent. of total rice supplies, would become available. It would be reasonable to encourage the use of home-pounded rice as a method of extending available food supplies. People used to consuming highly-milled rice, ~~and~~ are, however, usually very loath to change over to under-milled rice, and even if by propaganda the change could be rapidly brought about, it would not greatly influence the situation as against total supplies of rice. The same is true of any compulsory

measure prohibiting the milling of rice beyond a certain degree. Similar problems do not arise in the case of the millets which are not subjected to milling processes which remove the most valuable parts of the grain.

Increased Production.- To increase production, "grow more food" propaganda has its ~~limited~~ value, though a limited one. The high and rising price of food grains must stimulate the agriculturist to produce and sell as much food as he can. Provincial and State Governments can assist by such measures as supplying more seed at cheap rates to cultivators, supplying manure or grants for its purchase, reducing irrigation charges, remitting revenue on land now brought under cultivation with food crops, etc. Whether it is possible to increase food production rapidly under war conditions by such means, only experience will show. The favourability or otherwise of weather conditions for the next few harvests will probably have more influence on the food situation than the achievements of "grow more food" campaigns. The amount of land suitable for cultivation not already under crops must be very small in relation to the area already under cultivation. The supply of manure will be limited by failure of imports and transport difficulties. On the ~~the~~ other hand, some land producing non-edible cash crops for which the market has disappeared will become available. The cultivation of vegetables on "available lands adjoining homesteads" can certainly be increased. It is estimated by the Member for Education, Health and Lands that as a result of the food production drive an additional 9,600,000 acres will be put under food crops, giving an additional outturn of nearly 2,200,000 tons of grain, consisting of 830,000 tons of rice, 470,000 tons of wheat, 830,000 tons of millet and 80,000 tons of gram.

Control Measures.- There appears to be some anxiety on the part of ~~governments~~ ~~that~~ the campaign for the increased production of food should lead to a glut of certain staples, with consequent fall in prices. It has been suggested that the cultivator should be insured against such an occurrence by the fixation of minimum prices and a guarantee that the government will purchase surplus crops. From the commercial point of view, there may be some sense in the word "surplus" as applied to staple foods in India, there is none from the standpoint of nutrition. An increase of 20 to 30 per cent. in food production would be absorbed if the entire population had enough to eat, and it must also be recalled that the population is growing rapidly.

A central organisation which is fully informed about the situation in all parts of the country is obviously necessary. The Food Production Conference recommended that "when there is a deficit of a particular commodity in the country as a whole ~~an~~ the distribution should, be as far as transport facilities permit, aim at an equality of sacrifice on all consumers of that commodity". This is admirable in principle but scarcely in tune with practice. The natural tendency of Provinces and States is to grab all the food they can. The Government of India has recently set up a Central Food Advisory Council. This body will naturally be largely dependent on data supplied by Provincial and State Governments. Within each Province, a special officer with a small staff could be deputed to obtain and collate information about the situation in various areas. To the nutrition worker, the food situation in India is thoroughly unsatisfactory in normal times. A nation-wide "grow more food" campaign would have been appropriate in 1938, before the war started, and will be appropriate in 1945, when the war might be over. The majority of the population lives on a diet far remote from the most moderate standards of adequate nutrition. If India depends entirely on what she can

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herself produce, a very large increase in the production of various feeds is necessary to raise existing standards to a satisfactory level. Some of these may be roughly indicated as follows: cereals, 30 per cent. increase; pulses, 100 per cent.; milk and milk products, three or four hundred per cent.; meat, fish and eggs, several hundred per cent.; vegetables, particularly green leafy vegetables, one hundred per cent. or thereabouts. There is plenty of scope here for the application of scientific methods to agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries.

(The Hindustan Times Weekly, Delhi,
1-11-1942.) +

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

Formation of Indian Exporters' Association.

For the purpose of taking all necessary steps to "protect, advance and stimulate the export trade of the country", an organisation called the Indian Exporters' Association, was formed at a meeting of persons interested in the trade, held at Bombay on 19-10-1942, presided over by Mr. Sankalchand G. Shah. The main motive in organising the Association was to safeguard Indian trade against the "unfair" competition by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation. The commercial community has not been impressed with the assurances by the Indian Government that the U.K.C.C. is only a war time body and will not function after the war, and that during the war it will confine itself to war requirements. The fact that this Corporation is an organisation financed and controlled by His Majesty's Government makes it very influential in the matter of its purchases and sales. It is pointed out that no such organisation is functioning in any of the Dominions like South Africa, Australia or Canada. If it is confined to trading in war materials it should deal in ammunition, etc., but it is asked why it is dealing in sugar, wheat and such commodities, cutting out Indian exporters. No assurance even from His Majesty's Government regarding the post-war activities of the U.K.C.C. was, it was felt, likely to satisfy the Indian commercial community. Indian merchants were doing considerable export trade to Persia and other Middle East countries via the overland route and this route has been deliberately closed down by the Government to enable the U.K.C.C. to absorb all export trade from India to Persia and Turkey.

The President also traced the ups and downs of export trade from 1884 to the present day and said that the conditions of the trade were at present of an artificial character and that after the war they might be faced with an entirely different set of circumstances. "After the war", he said, "there is bound to be a race for markets. The glut in industrial production will add to the competition and it is certainly going to be a case of the survival of the fittest."

A provisional Managing Committee consisting of the following was set up to frame a constitution and to take other preliminary measures:- Messrs. Sankalchand G. Shah, B.K. Lumba, Naranji L. Kara, Chinubhai C. Thaveri, G.V. Kotak, Maneckji V. Khora, P.K. Nagarshett, Virji Shivji, and D.L. Shah.

(The Hindu, 20-10-1942,
and the Bombay Chronicle, 21-10-1942

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1942 session of Indian Railway Conference Association,
New Delhi, 20-11-1942.

In his opening address at the 1942 session of the Indian Railway Conference Association which opened at New Delhi on 20-11-1942, under the chairmanship of Mr. G.C. Laughton, Manager, B.B. & C.I. Railway, Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, reviewed briefly the more important problems of Indian railways and indicated the main trends of Government policy with regard to them.

Pressure of War Transport.- Dealing with the strain to which Indian Railways are subjected because of war transport, he said that the pressure is likely to grow more acute in the future, even though the Government of India has succeeded in persuading the priority authorities of the United Nations in London and Washington to go a considerable way to meet India's need for more locomotives. The Railway Department, he added, was at the same time fully conscious of its duty to provide adequate transport facilities for food distribution, and ~~that~~ special instructions have been issued to the railways to ensure priority movement for foodstuffs.

Conditions of Work of Railwaymen.- Discussing the railway workers' demand for increased pay, he said; "So far as the railways are concerned this will have to be done in relationship to the standard of living throughout the country, Increase the pay, and you must increase fares and freights or the railways will become a drain on the general revenues. ~~Increase the fares and freights, and you will be in danger of losing traffic to the roads or of handicapping the agriculturist in his fight for world markets.~~ Broadly speaking, therefore, better rewards can only be achieved if it is compensated by higher average efficiency. That is the experience of all industries and it is probable, therefore, that railway administrations and railwaymen's unions can accomplish most for their men by encouraging a higher standard of individual efficiency, thereby justifying higher remuneration."

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. G.C. Laughton dealt with the need for rationalising transport policy and pointed out that the direction of modern thought on the subject was that transportation as a whole should be organized and co-ordinated solely for the public benefit and quite irrespective of individual interests of any one constituent part. He also referred to the question of staff welfare as an important aspect of post-war reconstruction and pleaded that the standards of the low-paid staff must be raised by higher rates of pay, better quarters and generally better conditions of service.

(The Statesman, 22-11-1942.)

Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Ajmer-Merwara
in 1941-42

According to the report of the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the district of Ajmer-Merwara in 1941-42, no trade union was registered during the year under report. The certificates of registration of two trade unions, viz. (1) the Kirana Panchayat Union, Ajmer, and (2) the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workers Union, Ajmer, were cancelled. One trade union, viz., the Electric Supply Workers Union, Ajmer, ceased to exist during the year under report, ~~but~~ but its certificate of registration was cancelled in July, 1942. There was thus only one trade union working at the close of the year, viz., the Traders Association, Ajmer. No case of refusal of registration of any trade union or of withdrawal arose during the year, nor was any appeal against the orders of the Registrar of Trade Unions or of a second appeal to the High Court from the decisions of the lower courts preferred. There were no developments of interest relating to the trade union movement in Ajmer-Merwara during the year under report.

(Summarised from the Memorandum (Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the district of Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1941-42) submitted by the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, a copy of which was supplied to this office.)+

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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Backward Class Uplift: Bombay Government's Rs. 2.5 Million Scheme. +

The Government of Bombay has ear-marked Rs. 2,500,000 from the Special Development Fund to be spent on measures for the betterment of the Backward Classes of the Province, with the primary object of enabling these classes gradually to rely more on their own resources. The Government has appointed a committee of officials and non-officials to advise it on the needs of the Backward Classes and how best this sum of Rs. 2,500,000 may be expended in their interest. It has been asked to start work as early as possible and to submit its report to the Government within six months. The various subjects included in the terms of reference of the Committee are given below:

Health Improvement.- schemes for better housing; slum clearance and water supply (including water supply for scheduled castes); improvement of roads and communications in Backward Areas and extension of medical facilities in Backward Areas.

Educational Improvement.- Scholarships and studentships in schools, colleges, vocational and technical institutions, payment of examination fees; student hostels, technical education and technical training; further measures for encouraging primary education in Backward Areas; continuation of literacy - libraries, pamphlets and magazines; and night classes and adult literacy classes.

Improvement in Economic Conditions.- Encouragement of cottage industries and grants to artisans for capital expense; advances of grain and seed to agriculturists for maintenance and sowing purposes; grants and tagavi loans to agriculturists for improving their lands and adopting better farming methods; help to co-operative societies having Backward Class membership and to co-operative societies situated in Backward Areas; grants to voluntary agencies carrying on propaganda among Backward Classes and working for their uplift; extension of the provision for legal assistance; provision for carrying on propaganda for removal of untouchability; appointment of more officers for carrying on propaganda for improvement of these classes; agricultural improvement, rural development and industrial demonstration centres and shows in Backward Areas.

("Bombay Information", Bombay,
dated 7-11-1942.) +

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME

Hours of Work

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Exemption from section 34 of Factories Act in the Punjab.

The Government of the Punjab has exempted for the duration of the war all cotton spinning and weaving mills and factories in the Province from the operation of section 34 (Hours of work) of the Factories Act, 1934. The exemption has come into force from 3-11-1942.

(Notification No. 5737-I. &L-42/64804 dated 21-11-1942. The Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 27-11-1942, page 1345.) -

War Bonus for Bombay Textile Workers:
Bombay Millowners' Association Decision.

At a general meeting of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, held on 21-11-1942, the recommendations made by the Committee of the Association in connection with the grant of a war bonus to the operatives employed in cotton mills situated in the city and island of Bombay which are members of the Association were approved and adopted. The committee recommended that a war bonus equivalent to one-sixth of their total earnings in the period 1-1-1942 to 31-12-1942, ~~inclusive~~, be granted to all cotton mill workers who are on the musters of permanent and badli workers in member mills in Bombay city and island on 31-12-1942, and who continue to be on such musters till the dates of payment, with the exception of those badlies who have worked for less than an aggregate period of 75 days in the said period; that bonus be calculated on earnings exclusive of dearness allowance; that, ~~however~~ ~~in~~ in the case of women who have been on maternity leave in the period referred to, the actual maternity allowance drawn by them be included in their wages for the purpose of calculating the bonus payable; and that bonus as laid down in the preceding clauses be calculated and paid to the workers in two equal instalments: the first on 23-1-1943 and the second on 20-3-1943.

Workers' Demands. - The workers, however, are not satisfied with the bonus award and at a meeting of the Representative Council of the Bombay Mill Workers held on 22-11-1942, the following five main demands were enunciated: 1. Immediate increment of forty per cent. in the basic wages. 2. 100 per cent. dearness allowance. 3. Half-yearly bonus to be calculated at 25 per cent. 4. Immediate enforcement of the recommendations made by the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee of 1940. 5. Provision of grain and other necessary commodities at a cheaper rates and in sufficient quantities.

Times of India's Comments. - Commenting editorially on the bonus award, the Times of India in its issue dated 25-11-1942 observes: "For the second time since the outbreak of the war the Bombay Millowners' Association has sanctioned a substantial bonus to the city's textile workers. As a result, some 200,000 workers will receive two extra months' wages..... Last December the millowners decided to add a war bonus of 12 1/2 per cent. to their employees' total earnings during 1941, a decision which entailed an additional payment of about Rs. 10,000,000. Earlier a 15 per cent. dearness allowance was granted.... It is estimated that since 1937 the Bombay millworker has benefited to the extent of forty per cent. Suggestions for an increase in basic wages are impracticable so long as conditions in the mill industry remain to be stabilised. On the other hand, it must be recognised that the textile industry has profited greatly from the war; with the opening of new markets in Australia and the Middle East its position at the end of hostilities should be promising."

("Bombay Chronicle", 26-11-1942,
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-11-1942, and
Times of India, 25-11-1942.) +

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Enhanced Wages for Contract Labour:
Ahmedabad Millowners' Association's Recommendations.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association passed resolutions on 4-9-1942 recommending to its member mills that (1) whenever a particular type of work is given on contract, the member mill concerned should put in a stipulation to the effect that the contractor should ordinarily pay proportionately the same average wage as is being paid for the same type of work in other mills where the work is being carried out departmentally; and that (2) the workers employed under contractors in the local member mills should, as and when required by the managing committee, be granted a lump sum of Rs. 30 per worker by the mills concerned for a period of six months commencing from 1-1-1942 and a quarterly payment thereafter till the duration of the war or till such period as the managing committee may decide, provided that if a worker has worked only for less than one month he shall not be entitled to receive any amount and that the other workers concerned should be given a pro rata allowance of the amount specified above according to their presence during the period.

(The Labour Gazette, September 1942.).

Extra Payments for higher-paid Employees during War Period:
Recommendation of Ahmedabad Millowners' Association.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association passed a resolution on 4-9-1942 recommending to its member mills that all those employed in the local member mills getting above Rs. 75 and below Rs. 200 per month be granted, as and when directed by the Managing Committee, a lump sum of Rs. 60 per employee by the mills concerned for a period of six months commencing from 1-1-1942 and a quarterly payment thereafter up to the termination of the war or till such period as the managing committee may decide, provided that if an employee has worked only for less than one month, he will not be entitled to receive any amount and further provided that all others should be entitled to a pro rata allowance of the amount specified above according to their presence during the period.

(The Labour Gazette, September 1942.).

Increased Maternity Benefit Rates
Bombay Cotton Industry accepts Suggestion.

The extra dearness allowances which the Bombay Cotton Textile industry granted to the workers were not applicable to women workers in the industry in receipt of maternity benefit. The Factory Department of the Government of Bombay, therefore, approached the Millowners' Associations of Bombay and Ahmedabad with a suggestion that the rate of maternity benefit should be 12 annas a day, instead of the eight annas provided by Section 5 (1) of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929. The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has decided to pay for the duration of the war and three months thereafter, a surcharge of 50 per cent. of the total amount payable on maternity benefit to an employee; while the Association in Ahmedabad has agreed to recommend the suggestion of the Factory Department to all its members.

(The Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, 16-11-1942.)+

Workers' Welfare in War-time:
Bombay Millowners' Association's Views.

Reference was made at page 25 of our September report to a communication from the ~~the~~ Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, to the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, on the measures to be adopted in factories for the welfare of labour during wartime (opening of cost price grain shops, storing adequate stocks of grain, provision of canteens) facilities for remitting allowances to families, and amelioration of conditions of work). A similar communication was sent to the Bombay Millowners' Association also; in its reply to the Labour Commissioner, the Association has raised the following points:

(a) Cost price grain shops existed in almost all mills in Bombay and in about 45 mills they had been in existence since the beginning of 1940. These grain shops were run on a 'cost price' basis, and the prices charged were below those charged by the grocers outside the mills premises for the same quality of goods and, in certain cases, they were even below the prices scheduled in Government grain shops.

(b) As regards the desirability of maintaining adequate stocks of grains, stocks held in mills up to the middle of August were considerably in excess of a week's requirements and in a number of cases stocks equivalent to a month's requirements were held. However, on account of the unsettled conditions in the market which prevailed in Bombay since the middle of August, it had become practically impossible for mills to buy their requirements direct from the market and until conditions improve, they would have to depend upon Government for supplies

(c) Several mills had already installed canteens where tea and light refreshments were served and some of the mills had also made arrangements to supply cooked food, but it was doubtful whether the supply of cooked food could be adopted as a general proposition by all mills in Bombay for the following reasons :-

- (1) Some mills in Bombay had no space whatsoever within the premises either for cooking or for serving food to their operatives.
- (2) A standard food suitable to the tastes of people representing various communities, castes and creeds working in the mills was difficult to evolve.
- (3) There would be difficulties in cooking and serving food to operatives belonging to different communities, castes and creeds.

(d) As regards the recommendation re. facilities for remitting allowances, it was pointed out that as far back as December 1927 arrangements were made by the Association with member mills under which all money orders sent by operatives of individual mills were made out by a member of the clerical staff of the mill and were sent in one lot with a covering letter and a cheque for the total amount to the Postmaster of the nearest Post Office. The Committee, however, regretted that they could not agree with the suggestion that money orders of the workers should be sent at the expense of the employers.

(e) As regards ^{the} recommendation for introducing short-breaks, the attention of the Commissioner was invited to the fact that an effort was made some time ago to split up an hour's recess into two half hourly,

breaks, but the proposal was dropped in the face of opposition from certain workers' organisations. The matter was not therefore proceeded with further.

(Extracted from the Printed Excerpts of the Proceedings of the Committed of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, for September 1942.)+

The Bombay Civil Services (War Injuries Pension) Rules, 1942

The Government of Bombay has adopted the Bombay Civil Services (War Injuries Pension) Rules, 1942, providing for compensation for war injuries to persons to whom the rules regarding the Wound and Injuries pensions and Family Pensions in the Bombay Civil Services Rules apply. When such a person sustains a war injury while on duty or dies of a war injury so sustained, awards will be made in accordance with the provisions of those rules as if the injury were received in the performance of a duty which had the effect of increasing his liability to injury or death beyond the ordinary risk of the civil appointment held by him.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Part IV-C dated 26-11-1942, page 2350.)+

The Punjab Civil Services (War Injuries Pension) Rules, 1942.

The Government of Punjab ^{has} adopted the Punjab Civil Services (War Injuries Pension) Rules, 1942, which prescribe the conditions under which pensions will be given to those sustaining war injuries. The Rules prescribe that if certain specified classes of persons governed by the Civil Service Rules (Punjab) sustain a war injury ~~while~~ while on duty, or die of a war injury so sustained, award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of those rules as if the ~~injury were received as a result of risk of office.~~ When a person to whom these Rules apply sustains a war injury while ^{so sustained,} ~~so sustained,~~ awards shall be made in accordance with the provisions of those sections as if the injury were received in the performance of a duty which had the effect of increasing his liability to injury or death beyond the ordinary risk of the civil appointment held by him.

(The Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 6-11-1942, page 1269.)+

War Injuries:

Employers empowered to make Advance Payments.

In order that provisional relief under the War Injuries scheme may be given to needy persons, the Government of India has empowered employers to make advance payments, limited to Rs. 50 in each individual case, to persons receiving war injuries; or, in the case of death, to their heirs who would be eligible to family pensions under the War Injuries Scheme. The amount so advanced will be repaid to the employer from the regular award, when it is made, at ~~the~~ a rate not exceeding half the amount of the award, says a Press Note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.

(The Times of India, 10-11-1942.).

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War Risk Insurance

Insurance of Employees against War Injuries:
scheme suggested by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

According to the excerpts from the proceedings of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for September 1942, it has been suggested to the Government that it might have a good effect in keeping workers at work in factories, mines, etc., if a compulsory insurance scheme were instituted at the cost of employers in industry and to be administered by Government with the object of increasing the scale of relief laid down in the war injuries scheme. The purpose of the war injuries scheme was to provide the minimum amount of relief to cover the cases of all classes of the population. It was not a scheme of compensation but a scheme of relief. Under the proposed insurance scheme relief under the war injuries scheme would be supplemented so as to bring the total relief up to approximately the scale of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The following is a tentative outline of the scheme which would apply compulsorily to employees in factories registered under the Factories Act, to mines falling under the Indian Mines Act, and labour in public utility companies, tramway companies and ports, premium being payable by the employers:

(a) Employees should be divided into groups (e.g., monthly earning under Rs. 30, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 200, etc.).

(b) A levy of flat rate of so much per head per month for each employee in each group should be levied on all employers and the sums so received should be placed in a central fund. Note.- It was intended that initially until experience had been gained the rate should not exceed 1 per cent. of the wage bill.

(c) From that fund there would be paid to those employees who were injured while actually at work in a factory, (or when within a specified distance of the factories if they had worked in a factory on any of the two days preceding the date of injury) flat rate sums to each class sufficient to bring the Government relief approximately up to what they would have received under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(d) Contributions should continue to be payable monthly even after the war until the sum in the fund was found to be sufficient at the close of the war to meet the obligations on the fund. Contributions if required after the war should be payable by all factories, even those started after the war, in order to avoid placing any factory at a comparative advantage. Note.- As immediately on the close of the war the fund would become practically a closed fund, this should not be very difficult to arrange.

(e) The Government of India should guarantee advances to the fund to enable it to make the necessary payments, but should be entitled to refunds of such advances.

(f) If after the war there was a balance in the fund it would not be appropriated by Government to general revenues but would be utilised for the benefit of workers as a whole.

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Control Measures

The U.P. Wheat Products Control Order.

The Government of the United Provinces has gazetted the "Wheat Products Control Order, 1942" specifying the kinds of atta (wheat flour) to be produced in mills and prohibiting the removal of atta bags from the mill premises without the ~~existing~~ ^{with the} ~~existing~~ bags being marked, the quality of atta inside and the date of filling. The order also fixes the maximum ex-factory price in each case. It comes into force on 15-11-1942.

(The United Provinces Gazette Extraordinary dated 7-11-1942.).

The Bihar Cotton Yarn Control Order, 1942.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted the Bihar Cotton Yarn Control Order, 1942, by which no person is to engage in cotton yarn trade, wholesale or retail, except under licence. The Order empowers the Controller to fix a limit up to which a licensee may sell. Provisions are also made for the supply of monthly returns of stocks and the keeping of accurate accounts of sale and prices charged.

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary, 10-11-1942.).

The Orissa Electricity Control Order, 1942.

By the Orissa Electricity Control Order, 1942, the local Government prohibits the supply of energy for power to industrial undertakings except as directed by the Government, the extension of connection to temporary establishments, and to new installations erected without the sanction of the Government.

(The Orissa Gazette Extraordinary, 12-11-1942.).

The U.P. Kerosene Control Order, 1942.

The United Provinces Government has gazetted the United Provinces Kerosene Control Order, 1942, prohibiting the sale and storing for sale of ~~kerosene~~ kerosene by any person within the Provinces unless licensed by the Government. The order comes into force on 1-12-1942.

(The United Provinces Gazette, 14-11-1942, Part I-A, p.388.).

The Delhi Kerosene Control Order, 1942.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has gazetted the Delhi Kerosene Control Order, 1942, providing for the control of the stock, distribution and sale of Kerosene oil in the urban areas of Delhi.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, 21-11-1942, page 617.).

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Control of Salt Trade in the United Provinces

The Government of the United Provinces has ordered that with effect from 1-12-1942, no person shall sell, store for sale or carry on business in any district in the United Provinces in salt exceeding 20 maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs.) in weight without obtaining a licence therefor from the District Magistrate of the district in which he sells or stores for sale or carries on business in salt.

(Notification No. 12105/P.C.-574-42 dated 11-11-1942; The United Provinces Gazette, Part I-A dated 21-11-1942, page 407.)-

salt Control in the Punjab.

The Punjab Government has notified an order that all persons or agencies holding stocks of salt amounting to 10 maunds or more should submit to the District Magistrate of the District where they are held, a detailed monthly report on the stock position.

(Notification No. 16906-PC-42/62770 dated 12-11-1942; The Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary, 12-11-1942.)

The Bihar Salt Dealers Licensing Order, 1942.

According to the Bihar Salt Dealers Licensing Order, 1942, published by the Bihar Government on 11-11-1942, nobody should engage in any undertaking which involves the sale, or storage for sale of salt except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by an officer authorized by the Provincial Government.

(Notification No. 1875 - salt/23/42-P.C. dated 11-11-1942; The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary, 14-11-1942.)

Control of Coal, Sugar and Kerosene in Bihar.

According to the Bihar Coal, Sugar and Kerosene Oil Dealers Licensing Order, 1942, issued on 31-10-1942 by the Bihar Government, no person is permitted to engage in any undertaking which involves the sale, or storage for sale of coal, sugar or kerosene oil except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by an officer authorized by the Provincial Government.

(Notification No. 1606-Sugar/112/42-P.C. dated 31-10-1942; The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary dated 2-11-1942.)

The Cotton Movements Control Order, 1942.

The Government of India has issued on 13-11-1942 the Cotton Movements Control Order, 1942, which prohibits the transport by rail of cotton by any person without a general permit issued by the Government of India or a special permit issued by the Regional Controller of Priorities, Bombay, or the Deputy Executive Officer

of the Cotton Movements Panel, Bombay. Dealers in cotton may be required to furnish returns or any other documents or information pertaining to the business as and when demanded by the Chairman or the Executive Officer of the Cotton Movements Panel, Bombay.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 21-11-1942, page 1741).

West Coast Timber Traffic (Priority) Order, 1942

The Government of India issued on 13-11-1942 the West Coast Timber Traffic (Priority) Order, 1942, which covers all country-craft plying on the West Coast of India not further North than the Port of Bombay and engaged, whether wholly or partly, in the carriage by sea of timber. The Order empowers Port Officers in the West Coast of British India to secure priority to the carriage of timber by requisition any country craft coming under this order.

(Notification No. 21-T.(5)/42 dated 13-11-1942. The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 14-11-1942, pages 1149 to 1150.)

The Shuttles Control Order, 1942.

The Government of India issued on 13-11-1942 the Shuttles Control Order, 1942, which came into force on that day. The Order applies to ordinary and automatic shuttles for looms used in the textile industry excluding jute and hemp, and provides that the sale or purchase of shuttles covered by the order can be done only under licence. Provision is also made for the submission by dealers of returns of stock.

(Notification No. SS/123 dated 13-11-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 16-11-1942, pages 1151 to 1152.)

Wheat Control in the United Provinces

The Government of the United Provinces has issued an Order on 20-11-1942 by which the retail sale of wheat in a number of towns in the Province will be limited to ~~these~~ shops as may be specified by the respective District Magistrates. No one can purchase per day more than Rs. 2 worth of wheat from any shop unless he has a permit to purchase more.

(Notification No. 21192-G.S. dated 20-11-1942: The United Provinces Gazette Extrarodinary dated 20-11-1942.)

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The Paper Control Order, 1942

The Government of India has issued on 7-11-1942 the Paper Control Order, 1942, (coming into force from that date) with a view to conserve paper resources. The order specifies a series of restrictions imposed on the printing, making or publishing of any directory, on the printing and making of posters, the gratuitous distribution of advertising circulars, the printing of view cards, envelopes for gramophone records, the advertising of show cards, etc. It does not apply to newspapers as defined in the Newspaper Control Order, 1942 (vide page 49 of our January 1942 report).

(The Gazette of India dated 7-11-1942, Part I, pages 1687 and 1688.)+

Before the war, the annual consumption ^{in India} of paper, both indigenous and imported, amounted to 200,000 tons. The present position is that, excluding newsprint, India is importing only 6,000 tons of paper, and this paper is mostly of high quality needed by Government for paper currency and other special purposes. India has thus to depend for her needs on indigenous production totalling 100,000 tons. But whereas before the war Government consumed only 30,000 tons of paper, representing only 15 per cent. of the total consumption, Government's own requirements are now 75,000 tons. Thus only 25,000 tons of paper produced in India is available for general consumption.

(The Times of India, 7-11-1942.)

Modification of Newspaper Control Order, 1942.

By a notification dated 14-11-1942, the Government of India has introduced certain amendments in the Newspaper Control Order, 1942 (vide page 49 of our January 1942 report). Besides fixing the maximum page area of the existing newspapers at the limit maintained by them on 10-11-1942, the Order adds two more classes (Classes D and E) to papers; for Class D papers, the page area is fixed at between 150 to 200 square inches and for Class E at less than 150 square inches. The notification also ~~xx~~ lays down the weekly quota of pages and prices of the various classes of periodicals.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, page 1716, dated 14-11-1942)..

The Non-Ferrous Metals Control Order, 1942.

The Government of India has issued the Non-Ferrous Metals Control Order, 1942, by which no person is to be a stockholder or dealer in non-ferrous metals except under, and in accordance with, the conditions of a licence granted by the Controller., and no person is to engage in any undertaking which involves the use or consumption for the purpose of any manufacturing process of more than 5 lbs. of nickel or 50 lbs. of any of the other controlled non-ferrous metals in any one calendar month except under, and in accordance with, the conditions of a licence granted by the Controller. The order also prohibits any one acquiring in one month more than specified weights of controlled non-ferrous metals except under a permit from the Controller.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, 28-11-1942, page 1767.)+

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The Pipes Control Order, 1942

According to the Pipes Control Order, 1942, issued by the Government of India on 28-11-1942 no producer, importer or stockholder should sell or otherwise dispose of any pressure pipes except in accordance with the conditions of a written authorisation obtained from the Controller. Every month they have to submit to the Controller returns on the stock held, controlled or disposed of by them in the previous month. Producers, in addition, have to submit to the Controller estimates of production every six months.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,
dated 28-11-1942, pages 1769-1770).

The Punjab Cotton Yarn (Control of Distribution) Order, 1942

The Punjab Government has promulgated the Punjab Cotton Yarn (Control of Distribution) Order, 1942, which rules that no person shall sell cotton yarn as a wholesale or retail dealer except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted by the Provincial Yarn Commissioner. The Order also lays down rules regulating transactions in cotton between dealers, wholesale or retail, and their customers and stipulates that certain registers should be maintained by the dealers for submission to the Yarn Commissioner when demanded.

(The Punjab Government Gazette,
Part I, dated 27-11-1942,
pages 1345-1346.).

Standard Cloth for the Poor:
Provincial Governments Accept Scheme.

Reference was made at pages 41 to 42 of our October 1942 report to the objections raised by several Provincial Governments to the scheme of producing standard cloth for the poor. Now that the price of cloth has gone up 100 per cent. most Governments want the standard cloth scheme pushed forward. As prices of yarn and stores have gone up the price of standard cloth too has to be raised, but the basis of cost and profit is the same as agreed to previously by the textile industry. It may now be expected that the necessary financial responsibility will be assumed by the Governments concerned and that an adequate distribution organization will be set up to ensure that standard cloth reaches the class for which it is primarily meant and that middlemen and speculators in black markets do not trade on this essential necessity of the poor classes.

The Textile Industry has agreed to manufacture 9,600,000 yards of cloth to meet the demands booked by the Punjab, Sind and Assam Governments, and the Bombay Government is expected to place an order for three million yards.

The meeting of the Textile Advisory Panel is fixed for 2-12-1942, in New Delhi by the Commerce Member. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the question of production and distribution of standard cloth. It is expected that an opportunity will also be taken for reviewing the whole problem of cloth for civilian and military consumption, and to see how it should be planned to meet the requirements of both and to ensure that the poorer and lower middle classes get a preference over the middle and upper classes in the matter of production of cloth for their needs. (The Times of India, 18-11-1942)..

The Rubber Control and Production Order, 1942.

The Government of India has gazetted the Rubber Production and Control Order, 1942, coming into force on 23-11-1942. For the purpose of this Order the Government has constituted a body called the Indian Rubber Production Board in order to encourage and ensure increased production of rubber by all possible means through intensification of tapping, new planting, improved methods of manuring and spraying, the distribution and maintenance of machinery or estate requisites, propaganda, and scientific research. The Board will supply technical advice for general guidance to rubber growers, maintain a register of estates, holdings and dealers which have been approved, and grant licences to persons applying for new planting or replanting of rubber. Further, the manufacture and transport of and trade in rubber are controlled by the Controller of Rubber Manufactures with the Government of India.

(Notification No. 269 (10) Tr(R)/42 dated 23-11-1942; The Gazette of India Extraordinary

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Expansion of Industry:

Three Manufacturers' Panels set up to advise Government.

At a conference of manufacturers and representatives of the universities and research institutions, held ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ at New Delhi on 28-11-1942, Dr. J.N. Ray presiding, Major General E. Wood, ~~Director-General, Supply Department~~, announced the creation of three panels of industrialists at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, to advise the Government on industrial expansion. General Wood said the Government were aware of the future course of the war and the demands that were to be made on industry. It was for industry to advise the Government as to how best those demands could be met, and where new plants or expansion of existing plants could best be carried out, having regard to post-war reconstruction. He made it clear that industries would put up the capital, but Government took full responsibility for arranging for the import of plants from abroad, and for arranging priorities and shipping.

The Conference set up a committee of eleven members, including representatives of the Supply and Labour Departments and of the Director-General of the I.M.S., to draw up a scheme for starting basic industries. It also urged the Board of Industrial and Scientific Research to arrange closer collaboration between industry and the Board by sanctioning research work to be done in the laboratories of industries.

(The Hindu, 30-11-1942.)

Grady Report Shelved

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The London correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, cabling from London on 18-11-1942 says that according to information emanating from a Government source in Washington, the Grady Report on India (vide pages 43-44 of September 1942 report of this Office) has been laid aside and awaits further developments before its application is considered further. This means that no action is expected on it for a considerable period of time. Nothing is available officially as to why the report, which embodied a long-range plan to assist Indian industrial development has been sidetracked, but unofficial experts conjecture that military events in North Africa, the Solomons and Burma are the chief reasons. It is opined that the military situation has so much improved since Dr. Grady visited India that the need to buttress that region has considerably lessened, while the demand for materials has risen elsewhere.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-11-1942).

Stimulating Rubber Production: British Mission to visit India and Ceylon.

A British mission which is on a tour to stimulate the production of rubber in the Eastern Hemisphere is expected in India in December 1942, after it has completed its survey of the rubber situation in Ceylon. A representative of British planters in India and another of Indian ~~planters will be co-opted by the mission during their tour of India.~~ The report of the mission will be available to the Government of India.

The authorities expect that the production of rubber in India which totals at present 16,500 tons, will increase by 500 tons this season and by 1,000 tons during the next season. The post-war aspect of the disposal of Indian rubber is being kept in view. It is stated that the consumption in India is likely to increase after the war as a result of the development of transport and the adoption of modern methods. Rubber prices are already seven times what they were ten years ago, but still ~~higher prices~~ higher prices are being paid by the British Government for rubber from Ceylon, and Indian producers are using the Indian Rubber Production Board (vide pages 36-37 of October 1942 report) to raise Indian prices to the level of Ceylon prices to encourage Indian rubber production still further.

(The Statesman, 17-11-1942.).

Social Insurance

War Injuries: Employers empowered to make Advance Payments.

In order that provisional relief under the War Injuries scheme may be given to needy persons, the Government of India has empowered employers to make advance payments, limited to Rs. 50 in each individual case, to persons receiving war injuries; or, in the case of death, to their heirs who would be eligible to family pensions under the War Injuries Scheme. The amount so advanced will be repaid to the employer from the regular award, when it is made, at a rate not exceeding half the amount of the award, says a Press Note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.

(The Times of India, 10-11-1942.).

Joint Anglo-American Mission to investigate Shipping Facilities.

A joint Anglo-American Technical Mission which has been appointed to investigate port and shipping conditions on the west coast of India and in other countries overseas is scheduled to assemble at Karachi during ^{November} 1942, and later visit the more important Indian ports. The Mission has not been deputed to India specially, but is visiting various African and Asiatic ~~ports~~ on behalf of the United Nations to secure better co-ordination of existing facilities in order to secure maximum use of shipping. For the Indian portion of the investigation a representative of the Government of India will be added to the mission.

(The Times of India, 1²-11-1942.)+

Indian Country Craft to be Organised:
Report of Investigating Committee.

Rationalization of country craft traffic mainly by raising their co-efficient of carrying capacity, the establishment of a Country Craft Intelligence Organisation, the improvement of facilities to country craft ~~at~~ at ports and the construction of 20,000 tons of additional craft are the main recommendations of the committee which was appointed in August 1942 to inquire into the possibilities of developing and organizing on a more efficient basis the greater use of sea-going country craft on the west coast of India. The committee estimates ~~the number of coastal craft plying on the West Coast at 4,800 with a total tonnage of 200,000, giving an average tonnage per craft of 42. This fleet is transporting up and down the West Coast between Karachi and Cochin about 1 1/2 million tons of cargo per season. By the improved organisation proposed, the capacity of the fleet can be raised to 1,900,000 tons, i.e., it can be made to carry 400,000 tons more than it is now doing.~~

The proposals of the committee are under detailed examination. Meanwhile, the Government of India have issued orders appointing a Country Craft Organization Officer at Bombay.

(The Statesman, 30-11-1942.)+

Organisation of Railway Military Units

With a view to safeguarding the efficient working of railways under war conditions, the Government of India has begun giving effect to the railway militarisation scheme by organising railway Military (Defence of India) units. This scheme, which at present covers the railways in ^{the} eastern frontier, the east coast and the south of India, provides an opportunity to all railway employees in the area to enrol themselves in the units on a purely voluntary basis. In consideration of the obligations undertaken by enrolment, they become eligible for a special compensatory allowance and in addition draw a ration allowance, if rations are not issued. The staff so enrolled continue to perform their normal railway duties on their respective railways under their own railway officers who are granted commissions. Officers and men are required to undergo elementary military training and are eligible for various disability and other pensions if they should become casualties while so serving. The response to the scheme has been encouraging. More than 90,000 railway servants have already been enrolled, and hundreds are joining every week.

(The Statesman, 30-11-1942.)

Food Policy.

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Forward Planning of Production:
Work of Food Department.

Reference was made at page 45 of the report of this Office for October 1942 to the setting up in November 1942 of a new Department of the Government of India - the Department of Food, under the charge of Mr. N.R. Sarker, Member for Commerce with the Government of India. In a press communiqué issued in the second week of November, explaining the scope of activities and work of the new Department, the Government of India says: the Food Department will study future requirements with a view to the forward planning of production and of ensuring the equitable distribution of available supplies. It will take over the administration of all measures for control over prices, supply and distribution of foodstuffs and for the procurement and purchase of the requirements of the Army, which are at present the concern of the Commerce Department and Supply Department, respectively. It will also establish an effective liaison with the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which will continue to be responsible for securing maximum production on the basis of the forward programme of requirements worked out by the Food Department. The Department will further maintain close touch with the Department of War Transport so as to ensure that the movement of foodstuffs shall be made with the utmost efficiency and economy of transport that may be possible.

(The Statesman, 14-11-1942.)+

List of the more important publications received in this Office during November, 1942.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Report on the working of ^{the} Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1941. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price Re.1/-.
- (2) Administration Report of the Labour Department on the work done for the Amelioration of the Eligible Communities for the year ending 31st March, 1942. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price 6 annas.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Report on the working of the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March, 1941. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1942. Price Re. 0-4-0.
- (2) Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Madras, for the year ended 31st March, 1941. Madras. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 14 annas.

Agriculture.-

Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. India Live-Stock Statistics, 1940. Report on the Fifth Census of Live-stock and Agricultural Implements and Machinery held in 1940. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 10 or 16s.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1940-41. Baroda State Press. 1942. Price Re. 1-5-0.
- (2) Presidential Speech by the Hon. Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu, President, All-India Co-operative Association, at the Twenty-ninth Mysore Provincial Co-operative Conference held at Mysore. 16-10-1942.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

First Report of the Organisation and Activities of the Indian Federation of Labour. Issued from the Delhi Office; Indian Federation of Labour, 30, Faiz Bazar, Delhi.

social Conditions.-

- (1) Census of India, 1941. Vol. VIII, Central Provinces and Berar. Tables by R.K. Ramadhyani, I.C.S., Superintendent, of Census Operations, C.P. and Berar. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 3-4-0 or 5s.3d.
- (2) Census of India, 1941. Vol. XVI, Delhi. Tables by Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazli-i-Ilahi, P.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Punjab. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1942. Price Rs. 7-8-0, or 11s.6d.

Public Health.-

Government of Bengal. Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission for the year 1941. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1942. Price 1 anna or 2d.