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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for March 1942.

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

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Government of India.-

The Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941:
Central Assembly passes Bill.

References were made at page 1 of ^{the} September 1941 report and pages 2 to 3 of ^{the} February 1942 report of this Office to the provisions of the Weekly Holidays Bill, 1941, and to its reference to a Select Committee. The Select Committee, which reported on 11-3-1942, makes a few changes in the Bill, the more important of which are summarised below:

(1) "Commercial establishments" as defined in clause 2 (c) of the Bill have been excluded from the operation of the Bill since it is felt that the closing of all commercial establishments for one day a week might, at the present juncture, interfere with war effort, and would prove impracticable. It is recommended, however, that as soon as circumstances permit the provisions now being enacted for shops, restaurants and theatres should be extended to commercial establishments.

(2) Clause 3 ~~of~~ as amended no longer specifies Sunday as the normal closing day, and extends the power of the Provincial Government to determine what the closing day shall be by enabling it to fix a particular day for any particular shop.

In a Note of Dissent, Mr. N.M. Joshi, a member of the Select Committee, ~~disagrees~~ with the majority view to exclude "commercial establishments" from the scope of the Bill.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 14-3-1942, pages 55 to 58.)

Bill passed by Central Assembly.- On the motion of Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, the Assembly passed the Weekly Holidays Bill on 25-3-1942. Mr. N.M. Joshi and Sir Henry Gidney ~~pleaded~~ pleaded for extension of the benefit to commercial establishments as well, while Sir Zia-ud-Din desired strict enforcement of the provision for payment for the whole week in the case of labourers employed on daily wages.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-3-1942.)+

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1942)
(I of 1942)

Reference was made at page 1 of our February 1942 report to the adoption by the Central Legislature of the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1942, which seeks to take away from Indian seamen the right to claim compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act when they are entitled to compensation under certain special war compensation schemes. The Bill, as adopted, received the assent of the Governor-General on 2-3-1942 and the text of the Act is published at pages 1 to 2 of the Gazette of India, Part IV, dated 7-3-1942.

Government of India.-

The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1942
(II of 1942)

Reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our February 1942 report to the adoption by the Central Legislature of the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1942, which seeks to preclude Indian Seamen from claiming compensation for loss of effects under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act when they are entitled to compensation under certain special war compensation schemes. The Bill, as adopted, received the assent of the Governor-General on 2-3-1942 and the text of the Act is published at page 3 of the Gazette of India, Part IV, dated 7-3-1942. +

Government of India.-

The Industrial Statistics Bill, 1942:
Central Assembly adopts Bill.

Reference was made at pages 3 to 4 of our February 1942 report to the introduction in the Central Assembly of the Industrial Statistics Bill, 1942, and to its reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. The report of the Select Committee was submitted on 19-3-1942; the Committee did not make any substantial change in the Bill. Mr. N.M. Joshi, a member of the Select Committee, in a Note of Dissent declared that the Bill is inadequate inasmuch as it does not enable statistics being collected regarding production, including those of cost of production, except in factory industries. Statistics regarding cost of production are essential for the purpose of welfare of labour in all industries including mining and plantations. For fixing proper wages, figures regarding cost of production are sometimes necessary.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 21-3-1942, pages 341 to 344.)

On 25-3-1942, the Assembly adopted the Bill, with some minor changes.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-3-1942.) +

Bombay.-

Bombay Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1942

The Bombay Government has promulgated the Bombay Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1942, with a view to extend the life of the Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939, which is due to expire on 31-3-1942. The Act has been extended for a further period of one year.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 28-3-1942, page 89.) +

SNWA-

Sind.-

Sind Middle-Class Debtors' Relief Bill, 1941.

On 22-12-1941, a non-official Bill was introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly to provide for the temporary relief of non-agricultural middle class debtors in Sind. The Bill proposes barring of suits for debt ~~for~~ and provides for debt conciliation, and limitation of interest to a maximum of 6 per cent. simple.

(Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 26-2-1942, pages 24 to 26).

Sind.-

Workmen's Minimum Rates of Wages and Amenities Bill, 1941.


Dr. Popatlal A. Bhoopatkar introduced on 22-12-1941 in the Sind Legislative Assembly the Workmen's Minimum Rates of Wages and Amenities Bill, 1941, to make provision for the fixation of wages and amenities to workmen. The Bill provides for (1) a minimum wage of Rs.20 per mensem for workmen (persons who are employed casually, temporarily or permanently, for their physical labour in return for monetary consideration, but does not include children), and (2) the setting up of Joint Boards (consisting of equal number of members from among the employers and the workmen) the functions of which are to settle (a) the minimum rates of wages for workmen employed in factories or mines, governed by the Indian Factories Act, and (b) other amenities of life and benefits of service such as pension, provident fund, leave, maternity benefits, benefits during sickness or disability, which the employer on humanitarian and ~~or~~ other considerations is bound to make for the workmen in his employ.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV dated 26-2-1942, pages 27 to 28).

Sind.-

Sind Trade Unions' Recognition Bill, 1941.

On 22-12-1941, Mr. N.A. Bechar (non-official) introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly the Sind Trade Unions' Recognition Bill, 1941, which provides for recognition of registered trade unions in the Province by the employers. The Bill makes it obligatory for employers to recognise trade unions registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, as representative organisations of workers, expressing the organised opinion of the workers in the trade in which the union is formed. It shall not be open, however, to an employer to recognise more than one registered trade union of his workers. A registered trade union shall not be recognised as such by employer unless 33 per cent. of the workers in his employment are members of the union. Recognition shall consist in the employer immediately investigating all complaints both individual and general that may, from time to time, be sent by the Union for his consideration and



~~the union~~ communicating the results of such investigations. Every union so recognised shall have a right to approach the management. When recognised, among others, the following privileges shall be accorded to the union by the employer:- (a) right to collect subscriptions at the time of payment of wages within the premises of the place of employment; (b) right to circulate notices of meetings and other important information, and (c) in case of public bodies, unrestricted access to all places which are open to ^{the} public or part of ^{the} public. In order to prevent employers victimising union members by dismissal, etc., the Bill provides that the Small Causes Court should enquire into cases of wrongful discharge preferred before it.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 26-2-1942, pages 42 to 45.) +

Sind.-

Prevention of Free or Forced or Compulsory Labour Bill, 1941.

Mr. N.A. Bechar (non-official) introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly on 22-12-1941, the Prevention of Free or Forced or Compulsory Labour Bill, 1941. This Bill seeks to make free or compulsory or forced labour an offence punishable with imprisonment or fine. It recognises two exceptions to compulsory labour. It allows impressed labour provided for in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Bombay Irrigation Act, 1939. ~~As it is, but just that such labour ought to be adequately remunerated,~~ the Bill makes provision for such payment. In the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill reference is made to the I.L. Convention on forced labour.

(Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 26-2-1942, pages 46 to 47.) +

Sind.-

Sind Minimum Wages Bill, 1941

Mr. N.A. Bechar (non-official) introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly on 22-12-1941 the Sind Minimum Wages Bill, 1941. The Bill provides that every male labourer shall be paid by his employer at least Re. 0-12-0 per day; and every female labourer and person up to the age of eighteen years at least Re. 0-10-0 per day for each day he or she works. ~~Even in case of piece work,~~ the rates should be so arranged that the labourers should get the minimum wages specified above. Labourer is defined to include all persons employed in mills, factories, ~~workshops,~~ doing manual labour and earning daily wages not exceeding rupees three per day or monthly wages including piece-working wages exceeding Rs. 75 per mensem. The Bill also provides that every labourer shall be entitled to one month's leave during one calendar year.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 26-2-1942, pages 48 to 49.) +

Sind.-

Sind Workers' Provident Fund Bill, 1941

On 22-2-1941, Mr. N.A. Bechar (non-official) introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly the Sind Workers' Provident Fund Bill, 1941, to cover workers as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Factories Act, 1934, and also including persons employed in industrial establishments such as (i) tramway or motor omnibus service; (ii) dock, wharf or jetty; (iii) inland steam-vessel, etc. The Bill makes it obligatory for employer and worker to maintain provident funds.

Subscription to the fund is to be compulsory in the case of all workers in permanent employment of the employer and who earn wages of Rs. 20 or more per mensem. The compulsory contribution of the subscribers (workers) shall be at the uniform rate of $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on total wages, and the contributions shall be deducted every month from their wages. At the commencement of each year the employer shall contribute to the fund a sum equal to the payment made by the worker in the previous year, except in the case of death, retirement or dismissal of the subscriber. All subscribers shall be entitled to receive their share of employer's contribution with interest after fifteen years' service from the date of their appointment, provided that when the subscriber leaves service or resigns or is discharged after completion of seven years' service, he shall be eligible to receive the amount of his own subscription and half of the contribution made by the employer with interest thereon.

A compulsory deposit in any such Fund shall not be liable to attachment under any decree of a Civil, Revenue or Criminal Court in respect of any debt or liability incurred by the subscriber.

(The Sind Government Gazette,
Part IV, dated 26-2-1942, pages
50 to 53.)+

Sind.-

Indian Trade Unions (Sind Amendment) Bill, 1942.

The Government of Sind intends introducing in the Sind Legislative Assembly a Bill to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in its application to the Province of Sind. In the statement of objects and reasons, it is pointed out that it has been observed that the control of several trade unions in Sind vests in persons who are not actually engaged in the industry for which the trade unions concerned is constituted. It has also been noticed that often one single individual is an office-bearer of a number of unions. Experience has shown that the control of trade unions by a few individuals who do not belong to the labouring class reacts unfavourably on industry in the Province. The Bill is intended to remedy this state of affairs and to give actual workmen effective control of trade unions. The existing trade unions are given one month's time to alter their constitution in accordance with the changed law. The Bill requires two-thirds of the executives of unions to be workers engaged in industry and prohibits workers from being the executive of more

than one union.)

The Bill also enables Government to levy charges for auditing accounts of trade unions.)

(The Sind Government Gazette
Extraordinary, Part IV, dated
7-3-1942, pages 70 to 71.) ✓

Labour Policy of the Government of India:
Cut Motion in the Assembly.

On 6-3-1942, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, in the course of discussions on the Budget of the Government of India, raised the question of the labour policy of the Government of India by means of a cut motion. He asked for a clear enunciation of the Labour department's policy during the war, particularly on this demand that the basic minimum ~~substratum~~ of living standard of the working classes should not suffer. For this purpose he demanded that the working classes should get a dearness allowance corresponding to every rise in the cost of living, so that the standard of living might be kept up, even at its present low level. Mr. Mehta asked for machinery for quick settlement of disputes during war time and suggested that Russian workers should pay a visit to India to dispel any misunderstanding among the working classes that the present war was an imperialist one.

Sir Henry Gidney, while questioning Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's claim to be the sole representative of working classes, supported the motion and urged the Government to recognise the importance of labour and develop a closer human touch with the working classes.

Mr. N.M. Joshi declared that if Government were entitled to ask labour to work efficiently and keep up production during the war, it was Government's duty to see that labour did not suffer owing to a rise in the cost of living, unaccompanied by a corresponding rise in wages. This was the chance, he declared, for Indian labour to secure some betterment in their low standard of living and a share in the large profits which industries were making. He asked for ready recognition of trade Unions by employers and for the establishment of factory production committees as in England to bring about better co-operation in production.

Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Labour Member, Government of India, said he had missed no opportunity of keeping in touch with the two labour leaders in the House, Mr. Mehta and Mr. Joshi, and others, and consulting them on all matters connected with labour, and his department was already taking up and constantly reviewing the progress of suggestions made by these labour ~~lab~~ leaders. "My sympathies", he said, "are entirely with the people engaged in the country's industries which depend so greatly on the willing co-operation and welfare of the workmen and they already know we have taken several steps to ameliorate their conditions." The question of wages was always before the Government and they were constantly drawing the employers' attention to the desirability of avoiding strikes and adjusting wages in accordance with the rise in cost of living. One of the difficulties was the absence of statistics and, in consultation with them Government had already taken steps to collect statistics but these would not be of much use until a certain period was covered. It was true that once wages were raised, the cost of living would go up. But that was no reason for denying the workers a rise in wages to meet the cost of living. He must say to the credit of employers in many places that they had been accommodating. He understood that there was an agreement in Bombay, a standing agreement between workers and employers, that wages should go up automatically in case of rise in the cost of living. He hoped

that that system would be followed by other employers in the country. He pointed out that as regards recognition of trade unions, steps were being taken to bring to the provincial Governments' notice the suggestions made in this respect. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta withdrew the motion 'in view of the general assurances given'.

(The Statesman, 7-3-1942.)

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CONDITIONS OF WORK.
General

Conditions of Work on Indian Railways, 1940-41*

The following details regarding conditions of work of employees in Indian Railways ^{are} taken from Vol. I of the Report of the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1940-41 which has been recently published.

Number of Employees.- The total number of employees (permanent and temporary) on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board and other offices subordinate thereto (excluding staff employed on construction) at the end of the year 1940-41 was 730,436 as compared with 709,022 at the end of 1939-40. The total route mileage at the end of the year was 41,052. The following table shows the number of employees by communities on the 31st March 1940 and 1941.

	31st March 1940	31st March 1941
Europeans	2,333	2,153
Hindus other than depressed classes.	399,715	415,347
Depressed classes	106,505	107,118
Muslims	157,857	161,577
Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans.	13,099	13,336
Sikhs	8,106	8,520
Indian Christians	18,045	18,993
Parsis	1,505	1,531
Other communities	1,857	1,861
Grand Total	709,022	730,436

Cost of Staff.- A comparison of the figures for 1940-41 with those for the previous year shows that the total number of staff employed on the open lines of State and Company-managed Railways increased by 23,107 during the year, but the number of construction staff decreased by 1,394 while the number of staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service decreased by 3. The total cost of staff including that of staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service increased by Rs. 5,262,327 during the year. The increase in numbers of staff on Railways was due to employment of additional staff to cope with the increased traffic. The dearness allowance and the extension of provident fund benefits to lower paid staff also contributed to the rise in cost.

Indianisation of Staff.- The Indian element in the superior services has risen from 43.40 per cent. in State-managed and 33.21 Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1940-41, Volume I. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs.3 or 5s. pp. xvi + 90.

per cent. in Company-managed Railways in 1934 to 61-14 per cent. in State-managed and 51-78 per cent. in Company-managed Railways in 1941. In the subordinate services, the Indian element which in 1934 constituted 78.35 of the staff in State-managed railways and 82.24 of the staff in Company-managed railways, had risen by 1941 to 87.24 per cent. and 90.25 per cent. respectively.

Improvement in Service Conditions.-

(a) Provident Fund for Inferior Staff.- The consideration of extending Provident fund benefits to those who had not already enjoyed them mentioned in last year's report resulted during the year under review in the decision that those in the following categories who were not previously allowed to subscribe to the fund should have the option of doing so with effect from 1-1-1941; (a) all employees irrespective of pay or status who have more than 16 years' service and (b) all employees drawing over Rs. 30 a month. This improvement in terms of service affords to a large body of lower paid railway servants an opportunity of making a more adequate provision for their retirement than was possible in the past.

(b) Extension of Hours of Employment Regulations.- The Hours of Employment Regulations were extended to the Rohilkund and Kumaon and South Indian Railways from 1-4-1940 and to the Assam Bengal and Bengal Nagpur Railways from 1-1-1941. This completes the process of bringing all the employees of state-owned railways within the scope of these Regulations.

(c) Payment of Wages Act.- In the last year's report it was stated that railway administrations had been asked to report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act in railways and any difficulties experienced in its application. Their reports showed that while, in general, staff had benefited by the Act, considerable additional work had been thrown on Administrations and the Act appeared to need amendment in certain respects, particularly, with a view to the continuance of certain deductions such as, those relating to Security Deposits, repayment of Provident Fund bonus, etc., which should in the interests of the staff, be continued.

Meetings with A.I.R.F.- As stated in the 1st year's report, a special meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held on 4 and 5-4-1940, at which (a) the extension of Provident Fund benefits and (b) the position of railway labour due to rising prices were discussed. The nineteenth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the Federation was held on 8-1-1941, at which the following subjects, so far as they referred to State-managed railways, were discussed: (a) alleged grievances of employees of the Bengal-Dooars Railway on their transfer to State Railway Service, (b) alleged grievances of ex-apprentices and retransched employees, (c) working of the rules regulating discipline and rights of appeal, and (d) age of compulsory retirement for inferior servants. In addition to the above, special meetings with the Federation were also held on 8-2-1941 and 15-3-1941 for discussions regarding the grant of a dearness allowance to railway employees.

Dearness Allowance to Railway Employees.- It was mentioned in the last year's report that the question of the grant of an increase in wages to railway employees in view of the rise in the cost of living since the outbreak of the war, was discussed with a deputation of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation just after the close of that year

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i.e., in April 1940. During the year under review, a Court of Enquiry under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. Justice B.N. Rau, was appointed by Government to enquire into and report on the rise in the cost of living for lower paid staff and the justification, if any, for the grant of a war allowance to them. (The recommendations of the Court and the decisions of the Railway Board on the report of the Court were summarised at pages 42 to 43 of the January 1941 and pages 56 to 58 of the March 1941 reports of this Office)

Railway Staff and the War. - (a) Release of individual officers for technical war work. - Individual officers had already been released for war service to some extent before the commencement of the year under review, but this process was accelerated considerably during 1940-41. Apart from technical recruiting work and the production of munitions, both in administrative capacities and in Ordnance factories greater number was released in connection with railway construction, maintenance and operating requirements in theatres overseas.

(b) Release of non-gazetted staff. - The release of non-gazetted staff, both those with mechanical qualifications and those qualified in other railway duties, proceeded during the year under review under terms which were common for both State-managed and Company-managed railway personnel. In every case a lien on their railway appointment was given to those who volunteered with consideration for promotion under the "next below" rule.

(c) Labour Training Scheme. - The railways participated in the All-India scheme organised by the Labour Department for the training of technicians for war service either overseas or in India. While munitions production in railway workshops was handled either by permanent railway employees or staff recruited by the railway specially for this purpose, hundreds of men were also trained on behalf of the Labour Department's scheme. Thus railways not only avoided having to call upon the scheme for their own war requirements, but were able to contribute towards the scheme by supplying men for the country's needs in other services.

(d) Voluntary financial contributions towards the war. - Railway staff continued to give generously towards various war funds in response to appeals from the Viceroy and the Governors of Provinces. ✓

Progress of Work of Industrial Research Committee in Hyderabad State.

The newly-constituted Hyderabad Scientific and Research Board (vide page 22 of our September 1941 report) has approved of eight research schemes to be undertaken during the current year, on proposals made by the respective committees, and has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 21,500 on the work. The proposed researches relate to the utilisation of vegetable oils and forest products, industrial ferments, fuel, fibre, ceramics, chemicals, and pharmaceutical products.

Functions of the Board.- The functions of the Board are varied. It will be concerned, for instance, with the investigation, collection and consolidation of reliable and ~~make~~ up-to-date information in regard to all the resources of the State for industrial development and the consideration of ways and means for exploiting these resources with a view to stimulating and guiding the efforts of new industries. To this end the Hyderabad Board will work in close co-operation with the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India for considering the latter's recommendations for the investigation of particular problems and will keep it informed of all important activities conducted under the former's supervision. Another important function of the Hyderabad Board is to instal, ~~after full laboratory investigations,~~ pilot plants for conducting experiments on a semi-commercial scale for thoroughly studying the processes involved before the final decision is taken to establish any new industry. The Board has also been entrusted ~~the~~ task of investigating the state of the existing industries in the State and the difficulties being experienced by them in the matter of effecting improved and economic production and with devising remedial measures.

Method of Work.- The Board, which is representative of ~~in~~ related official and non-official interests, is working through a number of research committees. Eight of these committees have been functioning during the past four months, but the number will be increased if and when the need arises. The services of these expert committees are also being made available to private industrialists who may wish to obtain expert opinion on their particular problems.

The Committees that have already been formed are the Vegetable Oil Utilisation Committee, the Industrial Fermentation Committee, the Pharmaceutical and Drugs Committee, the Forest Products Utilisation Committee, the Ceramic Research Committee, the Fibre Research Committee and the Heavy Chemicals Committee. The recommendations of these committees formed the basis of the research schemes which the Board has just sanctioned.

(March 1942 issue of "Hyderabad Information")

The Bihar Power Alcohol Bill, 1942.

The Governor of Bihar has gazetted a Bill which he proposes adopting to foster, develop and regulate the power alcohol industry in the Province. For some time the Government of Bihar have had

under consideration the problem of economic utilisation of molasses which is the main residual by-product - and to a very great extent in present circumstances a waste product - of the modern sugar industry in Bihar. It has been estimated that approximately two-thirds of the production of molasses, amounting to one hundred thousand tons per year, is discharged as waste factory effluent. In 1938 the Government of the United Provinces and of Bihar set up a Joint Committee to consider this problem with special directions to examine whether the manufacture of power ~~alcohol~~ alcohol from molasses was an economic proposition and to make recommendations as to the utilisation of power alcohol so manufactured. The Joint Committee reported that the manufacture of power alcohol from molasses for the purpose of use as a motor fuel in admixture with petrol was an economic proposition and that legislation should be enacted to make such admixture compulsory. The Government of Bihar has accepted these conclusions and is advised that an admixture of approximately 20 per cent. of power alcohol would not to any appreciable extent affect the efficiency of the modern petrol motor car engine.

The Bill seeks to give effect to the recommendation of the Joint Committee. In its general plan the Bill follows the Act passed by the Government of the United Provinces in 1940 for a similar purpose. Its main intention is to prohibit the sale and use of petrol without admixture with power alcohol for providing motive power for any motor vehicle, and to provide that power alcohol shall be manufactured from molasses only (or from such other substance as may be notified by Government) under a license to be granted for the purpose, that all power alcohol so manufactured shall be sold by the manufacturer to Government at a price to be prescribed and that the operation of ~~mix~~ mixing power alcohol with petrol shall be carried out only under the authority, and subject to the terms and conditions, of a license to be granted by a competent authority.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part V, dated 18-3-1942, pages 1 to 14.) ✓

Accentuated Industrialisation Policy Urged:
2nd All-India Manufacturers' Conference, Poona, 22 and 23-3-1942. ✓

A number of important resolutions regarding the industrial policy of India were adopted at the All-India Manufacturers' Conference held at Poona on 21 and 22-3-1942 under the presidency of Sir M. Visvesvarayya. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, in the course of a message sent to the Conference expressed the hope that the resolutions adopted would help the Government of India to give further effect to its desire for India's industrial advance.

Presidential Address.- Sir M. Visvesvarayya in his presidential address stressed that the population of India was growing rapidly

and production and income were not keeping pace with its growth. Nearly seventy persons out of every hundred had no higher occupation than agriculture or services dependent on agriculture. The corresponding percentage among the progressive nations was about 32; in the United States it was 22, and in the United Kingdom about 8. The history of progressive nations showed that the proportion of population employed on land has been diminishing with increase in their wealth. Although America was still the largest agricultural producer in the world, the relative importance of agriculture in American economy had declined from 70 per cent. about a hundred years ago to 22 per cent. at the present time. On account of her political disabilities India today was in the unfavourable position that America was a century ago.

He regretted that there was no organisation worth the name in this country to help industrial development. The attention given by the Central Government was casual and fragmentary. The Provincial Governments, which were supposed to be entrusted with that duty, had no resources and many of them had shown no will. The main lines of development should in future be: to encourage the starting and working of industries of every kind - small, medium and large-scale, either as owners' concerns, partnership concerns or joint stock companies, to create in each region or area an efficient industrial organisation to enable new occupations and new units of work to spring up speedily; to provide institutions, agencies, facilities and conditions for training a large proportion of the population for industrial life, and to start preparing the country for post-war reconstruction in which industries must necessarily play an important part.

In Order to provide for the urgent needs of the country, he expected the Provincial Government to take full responsibility for bringing into existence one or two key industries, in addition to what might already exist in the provinces and to start the industry or industries chosen within one year of acceptance of such responsibility. Those requiring special attention were increased production of steel, manufacture of machinery for industrial plant of every kind, automobiles and aircraft, shipbuilding and heavy chemicals, including dyestuffs, cellulose or rayon. If the public of the province did not come forward with funds to build the one or two large-scale or key industries expected of it, the Provincial Government would be justified in raising a loan for the purpose and meeting its interest charges from current revenues until the industries were able, in some form or other, to pay for themselves. The Russian Government, which within the past fifteen years had made large sacrifices even to the extent of starving its people in order to save money to build up Russia's industrial strength, was a case in point.

Medium-scale industries, said Sir M. Visvesvarayya, might be left to private enterprise for the present. That class of industry would grow rapidly if businessmen engaged in them felt confident that Government would come to their rescue whenever injury was threatened by foreign competition. But an explicit assurance in that direction was needed. He further urged the necessity of encouraging small-scale industries and minor and cottage industries which provided for the necessities of the rural population in order to promote self-sufficiency among them to the fullest extent possible.

He dealt at length with the idea and functions underlying the

central and regional organisations and strongly advocated the need for provision in each region of banking facilities, statistics, educational institutions, research laboratories, travel facilities, etc.

Concluding, he pointed out that Indian industrialists were naturally anxious to know whether opportunities would be given to them to develop heavy armament industries with the help of the American Technical Mission, which was expected to visit the country shortly. He hoped the Government would soon acquaint the country with the precise scope and functions of the Technical Mission.

Resolutions.- The more important of the resolutions adopted are briefly noticed below:-

Establishment of Key Industries.- The Conference urged the Government of India to institute without delay a well-planned and dynamic industrial policy calculated to lead to the rapid establishment of new industries and the progressive expansion of existing ones. To implement this policy of industrial expansion, the conference called upon the provincial Governments to establish in each province at least one key industry suitable to its economic conditions, to give protection to existing industries and to direct Government departments to purchase goods of indigenous manufacture. The conference also urged the Government to exercise strict control over concerns owned and managed by non-Indians.

Changes in Departments of Industries and Commerce.- The conference urged the Government to separate the portfolio of Industries from that of Commerce and to place the Department of Industries under a separate non-official Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and was of the opinion that economic councils composed of representative businessmen, industrialists and economists, assisted by an adequate executive staff, should be established both at the Centre as well as in the provinces to formulate, advise upon, and influence the economic policies and activities of the Government. It also wanted the Government to reorganise and widen the field of activities of the Departments of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics on lines similar to those of the Government bureaux and Departments of Statistics in industrially advanced countries.

Financing of Industry.- The conference urged the Government to establish central and provincial funds for providing long-term finance to industries and to amend the Insurance Act of 1938 so as to give more latitude to life assurance companies in the matter of investment of their funds.

War Risk Insurance.- Regarding War Risk Insurance and compensation, the conference called upon the Government to issue forthwith an Ordinance providing cover for damage as a result of war to all industrial establishments by a comprehensive Government war insurance scheme, with provision for adequate and early payment of at least a part of the necessary compensation.

(The Hindu, 22-3-1942 and the Statesman, 23-3-1942.)

(For a summary of the proceedings of the 1st All-India Manufacturers' Conference, see pages 25-29 of the report of this Office for March 1941.)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India for December 1941.

The Index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during December 1941 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay for December 1941 rose by 3 points to 129 as compared with the previous month. The average for the calendar year 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during December 1941 advanced by 5 points to 99 as compared with the previous month. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during December 1941 rose by 4 points to 99 as compared with the previous month. The average ~~compared with the~~ ~~previous month~~ for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in December 1941 rose by 3 points to 87 as compared with the preceding month. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore during December 1941 rose by 7 points to 89 as compared with the previous month. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during December 1941 rose by 3 points to 121 as compared with the previous month. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

Vizagapatam.- The index number (base: Year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Vizagapatam during December 1941 rose by 3 points to 122 as compared with the previous month.

Ellore.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Ellore during December 1941 advanced by 8 points to 131 as compared with the previous month.

Bellary.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Bellary during December 1941 rose by 5 points to 126 as compared with the previous month.

Cuddalore.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Cuddalore during December 1941 advanced by 9 points to 124.

Coimbatore.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Coimbatore during December 1941 rose by 3 points to 118.

Madura.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Madura during December 1941 fell by 3 points to 114.

Trichinopoly.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Trichinopoly during December 1941 rose by 3 points to 120.

Calicut.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of cost of living in Calicut during December 1941 rose by 4 points to 131.

Cawnpore.- The index number (base: year ending August 1939) of cost of living in Cawnpore during December 1941 rose by 8 points to 151 as compared with the previous month. The average for 1940 was 111.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, December 1941 issue).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.Fall from Scaffolding due to Epileptic Fits is an Accident under the Workmen's Compensation Act: Bombay Court's Decision.

In an application for Compensation for death under the Workmen's Compensation Act, before the Court of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay, the question for decision was whether death ensuing from a fall from scaffolding due to epileptic fits was an accident which arose out of and in the course of employment. In the course of his statement recorded by the police at the hospital, the deceased himself stated that he had been suffering from epileptic fits. He added that while he was working he had an attack of fits and fell down.

The Court held that the employer's contention is not tenable. "It may be that the deceased was suffering from epileptic fits and had actually had an attack just before he fell down. The proximate cause of his death was not epileptic fits, but the fall from the scaffolding. His presence on the scaffolding was in pursuance of his employment; that is to say, by reason of his duties the deceased was brought within a zone of special danger and if he was injured or killed while so employed, the accident must be deemed to have arisen out of and in the course of his employment".

(The Labour Gazette, Bombay, December 1941 issue).. .

LIVING CONDITIONS.

20

Nutrition

Progress of Nutrition Survey in Hyderabad State, 1940 and 1941. ✓

The Public Health Department of the Hyderabad state began a planned nutrition survey of the Dominions as far back as 1940 (1349 F.), under a scheme sanctioned by Government with an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 23,728. A three-year programme of survey in eight districts, regarded as being typical for the purpose of the rest of the State, was chalked out and the work was immediately put in hand under a full-time Nutrition Officer who had already undergone special training in Nutrition work under Dr. W.R. Aykroyd, the Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Cooner. Simultaneously, a Nutrition section of the Public Health Department was created and placed in the charge of the Nutrition Officer.

First Enquiry.- The first work undertaken by the new Department was an institutional diet survey of certain orphanages and hospitals in the Hyderabad City. Important recommendations based on the results of the surveys for improvement in dietary conditions of the inmates of these institutions were made to the heads of the departments concerned.

(1)

Work in 1349 Fasli (1940):- Enquiry among School Children.- The first survey was followed by diet surveys among 113 families of municipal sweepers and labourers attached to the Osmania General Hospital and some 3520 boys reading in 14 Government primary and middle schools in the city. Broadly speaking, these surveys disclosed nutritional deficiencies in varying degrees, as between one group of inhabitants and another, in respect of fats, calcium, vitamin "A" and vitamin "B-2". As a consequence, certain deficiency diseases have been noticed in a few groups and suggestions have been made for the improvement of diet in these cases without much extra cost. These suggestions are for the greater consumption of leafy vegetables, the lowering of rice consumption and an increase in the present consumption of millet.

(2) Work in Medak.- A survey was conducted in Medak district shortly afterwards. The survey in the rural areas of Medak district was made among 139 typical families drawn from 13 villages of various taluqs and consisting of small cultivators, tradesmen, and agricultural labourers as well as among the backward classes whose economic status is low. In addition, 1595 boys and 227 girls in primary, middle and aided schools in other villages of the district were examined. Furthermore, institutional diet surveys were conducted in three boarding hostels of the Methodist Episcopal Mission. The resulting data has revealed the prevalence of a number of deficiency diseases, notably, Bitots, Spots, Xerophthalmia, Angular Stomatitis, and Glossitis. Cases of Pellagra were recorded in the Siddipet taluq where Indian maize ~~farm~~ forms the main diet of the villagers.

(3) Magic Lantern Lectures.- Side by side with these surveys, magic lantern lectures on "Food and Nutrition", to demonstrate the good and ill-effects of different types of diet, were given in eleven villages and at one Mission institution.

Survey in 1350 Fasli (1941):- (1) District Surveys.- Nutrition surveys were carried out in Mahboobnagar and Nalgonda districts and in the Alampur taluq of Raichur district during 1350 F. (1941). In the areas investigated, the dietary habits of 439 typical families, comprising 2103 members and chosen at random, were studied in detail. Besides these, 4413 boys and 268 girls from various primary, aided and government schools, were assessed for nutritional deficiencies. The procedure of allocating families into separate income groups, ranging from Rs. 5 to 50 per mensem, was systematically followed throughout the survey.

Among the three districts surveyed during the year, underfeeding and conditions of semi-starvation noticed in Mahboobnagar and Nalgonda districts were not so obvious in Alampur taluq. The analysed diet schedules revealed that they were ill-balanced throughout with low fat, calcium and vitamin A and C contents due to the relative absence or meagre inclusion of protective foods. Xerosis, Bitots spot largely, and to a small extent Angular Stomatitis, Glossitis and nutritional anaemia were noticed.

(2) Prevalence of Fluorosis.- Preliminary investigations to ascertain the prevalence of fluorosis, if any, in the southern and south-eastern areas of the State were also undertaken during the year. Some villages in the Raichur, Nalgonda and Mahboobnagar districts were investigated for the incidence of mottled enamel. In these villages 60 samples of drinking water from wells were analysed and found to contain fluorine. In the investigated areas in Alampur and Mahboobnagar, 15 per cent. of the school children were suffering from mottle enamel. In other cases the incidence was as high as 31.6 per cent. In other places the investigations disclosed cases of affectation of bones involving joints, the persons affected being elderly individuals who had lived in the surveyed areas for 25 years and over.

(3) Institutional Surveys.- Besides the general diet and nutritional survey work and the enquiry into the prevalence of fluorosis, institutional surveys were also undertaken during the year in three places in the area surveyed and an enquiry was conducted in regard to the dietetic habits of the Chenchoos, an aboriginal tribe inhabiting the Farhabad forest in Mahboobnagar district.

Remedial measures.- With a view to rectifying the diet deficiencies which the surveys have revealed, suggestions have been forwarded to the Agricultural Department in regard to the following:- (a) the popularisation of the cultivation of cereals like jawar and ragi in place of maize, (b) increasing the production of millet - jawar and ragi, (c) increasing the cultivation of pulses by developing improved varieties, (d) the study of leafy vegetables in particular and their increased production, (e) the development of kitchen gardens in villages, and (f) the extension of the growing of vegetables.

Future Programme.- The Nutrition Department contemplates drawing up a future programme of work before the current three-year survey is concluded, bearing in mind the findings made as a result of work done hitherto. In view of the close relation nutrition survey work bears to public health, agriculture, rural reconstruction, animal husbandry and other allied subjects, it is proposed that a Nutrition Committee, comprising officers of allied Departments should be constituted so as to ensure the fullest co-operation in the future programme of work. (March 1942 issue of Hyderabad Information).

Housing Amenities for Menial Municipal Employees of Bombay. ✓

The importance of providing Harijans (Lowest Classes) employees of municipalities with quarters free or at concession rates, free water supply and lighting, and co-operative credit societies has recently been emphasised by the Bombay Government. Measures of this kind are considered essential for the benefit of these employees of municipalities as they play an important part in maintaining the health and sanitary condition of urban areas. A number of municipalities have provided them with housing accommodation either free or at a nominal rent while a few have, in addition, given them water supply and lighting facilities.

The Government, however, note with regret that the question of providing housing accommodation for these classes has not received the attention of other municipalities, and trusts that those which lag behind will take necessary action as soon as possible. At the same time, it is stated that an examination of the general conditions of the menials in the service of local bodies in the Province reveals that many municipalities, which employ them in their health department, are alive to the necessity of improving their conditions. Almost all these bodies have treated them as their permanent servants and have extended to them the benefit of leave, provident fund, gratuity and the like, which are usually allowed to other permanent employees.

(Bombay Information, dated 7-3-1942.) ✓
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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.Employers' Organisations.15th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, 7th and 8th-3-1942.

The 15th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at ~~New~~ Delhi on 7th and 8th-3-1942, under the presidentship of Sir Chunilal B. Mehta. Among the distinguished visitors present at the opening session were five members of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Presidential Address.— After reviewing at some length the war situation and the growing peril from Japan, Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, the President, dealt with the political situation and said:— "In this hour of crisis, India needs the installation of the real representatives of the people in the seats of power which will enable her to bring about national unity and to mobilise her economic and military resources to the fullest possible extent". He appealed to British statesmanship to rise to the occasion and immediately create conditions which would lead to the restoration of popular Governments in the Provinces and setting up of a genuine National Government at the Centre.

Organising food supply.— Dealing with the insistent need for conserving and augmenting India's food supplies, he said that although unlike other countries at war, with the exception of Burma rice, India is fortunate in that she does not depend on imported foodstuffs, the growing shortage of wheat and rice for civilian needs occasioned grave anxiety. He urged that the Government of India should take the lead in organising a vigorous Production Drive, and that for this purpose should immediately invite the representatives of the Provincial Governments, as also of the Indian States and the Directors of Agriculture, to chalk out a definite programme of action to explore the ways and means of inducing the cultivators to increase the area under foodgrains and fodder crops. He also urged the setting up of a Production Executive consisting of the representatives of Agricultural and Marketing Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Governments and Indian States, and associating with it a Production Council, consisting of the Members of the Legislature and representatives of Indian Trade and Commerce, with a view to enable the general public to know the steps that are being taken and thus to allay unnecessary panic.

Accentuating Pace of Industrialisation.— He pointed out that, if only Great Britain had awakened to the potentialities of India's magnificent resources in men and materials, ten years ago, and allowed India to go full steam ahead to develop her ship-building, automobile and chemical industries, India would have proved a powerful tower of ~~xxxx~~ strength to the Allied Cause, pleaded that even now it is not too late for Great Britain to abandon its attitude of indifference and apathy towards Indian industrialization, and urged the Government of India to mobilise India's entire industrial resources and establish in the country all the key industries with all the necessary ~~and speedy~~ help, such as grant of Priority Certificates for importing plant and machinery, securing necessary Dollar Exchanges, etc.

Inflationary Tendencies.- Dealing with the dangers of inflation, he said that inflation, in the sense of continuous Budget Deficits and resort to the printing press by the Government, has not so far operated in this country. On the contrary, it was a matter of common agreement that while most of the Governments in the world, like the British, American and Australian Governments, have followed more reasonable and unorthodox methods of financing the war, by laying greater emphasis on loans rather than taxes, the Government of India possibly afforded the only example of financial orthodoxy of the Victorian Era, which has relied too excessively on taxation and too little on loans, for meeting Defence expenditure. Further there was no inflationary rise in the prices of staple raw materials like raw cotton, raw jute, etc. On the contrary, there was a marked lag between the prices of agricultural raw materials and manufactured goods. Criticising the demand made for reduction or postponing consumption, he said that, in countries, like Great Britain, where all available productive resources are fully utilised, and output of goods for civilian consumption cannot be effectively increased, the Government was right in making such a demand, but so far as India was concerned, so long as the authorities had not done everything within their power to fully utilise India's productive resources and maximise the stock of goods available for consumption, there was no justification whatsoever in their asking the people, who are condemned to a chronic state of under-consumption of even the most elementary necessities of life, to curtail or to postpone their consumption. He therefore urged the Government of India to take the lead in organising a Productive Drive in time, with a view to substantially speeding up the total output of foodstuffs, fodder-grains and manufactured goods.

Resolutions adopted.- The more important of the resolutions adopted are noticed below:-

Crop Planning.- In view of the agricultural situation in the country as a result of the war and the experience of the last few years, particularly with regard to the closure of India's external markets, the non-absorption of the exportable surplus within the country and the consequent accumulation of stocks, the Federation is of opinion that the fullest exploitation of the various agricultural crops should be secured by their proper planning and co-ordination, and, with that end in view, the Federation requests the Government of India to undertake a comprehensive survey and analysis of various crops in India with the object of obtaining adequate data and a correct perspective of existing as well as potential agricultural resources. The Federation feels that such a survey would enable Government to adjust the raising of the agricultural crops, particularly foodstuffs, and thus to meet not only the internal demand but also to adjust the agricultural economy of this country in such a manner as to meet the post-war conditions of international markets in raw materials.

Establishment of Defence and Key Industries.- (a) While recognising that some progress has been made by India in the expansion of certain existing industries and the establishment of some new industries for the supply of essential war requirements, the Federation deplors the absence of any initiative or planned support, on the part of the Government of India, towards the establishment of any important Defence or Heavy Industries.

(b) The Federation is, therefore, strongly of opinion that, in view of the experience gained since the outbreak of the present hostilities regarding the dependence of this country on import of its requirements in several important and vital spheres, the needs of India, both for its defence and continuance of normal life, demand the establishment and expansion of Defence Industries, such as the manufacture of Air-Craft, Automobiles, Ships, Tanks and Munitions, as well as Heavy and Key Industries such as Locomotives, Machinery and Machine Tools, Heavy Chemicals, etc.

(c) The Federation would urge upon Government the desirability of utilising India's Sterling Credits towards the purchase and transfer of necessary plant and machinery from the United Kingdom or under the Lease and Lend Act from U.S.A. for the early fulfilment of these essential requirements for achieving a strong and self-reliant national economy as well as making India an arsenal of the East.

(d) The Federation urges that the fullest facilities should be given by the Government of India for importing machinery, spare parts, machine tools and the necessary raw materials and for obtaining technical personnel from abroad for the establishment of such industries.

Civil Defence of India.- (a) The Federation appeals to the Indian public, and the Indian commercial community in particular, that in any emergency which may arise through enemy action, they should remain calm and carry on their normal avocations and should assist in dispelling panic as well as in the proper distribution of fuel and foodstuffs, and co-operate with organisations working in their respective areas for the civil defence of the population.

(b) The Federation views with grave concern the unpreparedness of this country in the matter of civil defence, and strongly urges upon the Government of India the necessity of immediately instituting, in consultation and co-operation with Provincial Governments and municipal administrations, schemes of Air-raid Precautions, and for the adequate supply and distribution of foodstuffs, medicines and first-aid requirements, at principal industrial centres.

Transport Facilities.- (a) The Federation deplors the serious lack of adequate transport facilities in the country as a result of the dearth of coastal shipping, curtailment of motor transport due to petrol rationing and removal abroad of rolling stocks, including locomotives, and rails.

(b) The Federation draws the attention of the Government in particular to the shortage of wagons all over the Indian Railway System and the consequent difficulty of securing the movement of essential raw materials, fuel, foodstuffs and industrial products, and urges upon them the desirability of establishing a Central Wagon Co-ordinating Authority for the proper handling and equitable distribution of wagons over all the Railway System.

It also demanded that the despatch of locomotives, wagons and dismantled railway track and equipment to places ~~outside~~ outside of India should be stopped and that no discrimination or other abuses in allotment of wagons are practised on the plea of military traffic or public priority.

Resolutions were also adopted on the following subjects:- Constitution of Telephone Board; Investment of Life Assurance Funds under the Indian Insurance Act; Indians Abroad; Assessees in India with Businesses in Burma, Malaya and the Far East; Manufacture of Power Alcohol; Administration of Income Tax Law in India; & Short Staple Cotton.

Office Bearers for 1942-43.- The following new office-bearers of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been elected:-

President - Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Calcutta; Vice-President - Kumararajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, Madras; Honorary Treasurer - Dr. N.N. Law, Calcutta.

The following members have been elected in place of those who retired by rotation:-

Sir Shri Ram, New Delhi (representing textile interests); Sir Badri-das Goenka, Calcutta, (representing banking); Rajmitra B.D. Amin, Baroda, (unspecified industry); and Mr. Lalji Mehrotra, Karachi; Mr. Hari Shanker Bagla, Cawnpore; and Mr. M.L. Nopany, Calcutta (unspecified trade and commerce).

The following have been co-opted on the Committee:- Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, Bombay; Mr. G.D. Birla, Calcutta; Mr. A.D. Shroff, Bombay, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Calcutta; Mr. M.A. Isphani, Calcutta, and Mr. S.M. Bashir, Cawnpore. Mr. M.A. Master, Bombay, has been elected by the Committee to represent transport.

(The Statesman, 15 and 16-3-1942).

A copy each of the Presidential Address and the Resolutions as ~~fix~~ finally recommended by the Committee of the Federation, was sent to Montreal with this Office's minute

9th Annual Meeting of All-India Organisation
of Industrial Employers, Delhi, 8-3-1942.

The 9th annual meeting of the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 8-3-1942, with Sir Shri Ram, President of the Organisation, in the chair. The salient features of the presidential address are noticed below:-

Gaps in Indian Industry.- Dealing with the repercussions of the war on Indian industry, he said:- "After a preliminary period of adaptation, Indian industry is now more fully geared to a war-time economy than ever before and it is enjoying, as is natural in the circumstances, a period of moderate prosperity. There is however a lot of facile and superficial talk about opportunities which the war has afforded for industrialisation, but it does not appear to be fully realised that industrialisation is only possible when the requisite machinery is available. War has doubtless created new opportunities, but the Government of India have not devised adequate measures to meet the difficulties it has interposed in the way of import of machinery. We ~~are~~ have expanded some of our consumer-industries to an appreciable extent; we can now feed the army; but we cannot yet equip that army with the weapons which it requires to fight with. There are serious gaps in our industrial economy. These gaps are capital industries, such as the manufacture

of machinery and tools, of ships, of aircraft, of automobiles, of railway locomotives, of chemicals, of coal distillation and of fermentation industries generally. Even here, however, small pioneering efforts of private enterprise have been made with but little encouragement from Government.

He criticised Government's neglect of ~~India~~ Indian industries, and cited the cases of Australia and Canada where ever since the war under the fostering care of the Governments national ~~x~~ industries have made considerable progress.

Small-scale Industries.- "It has been this Organisation's desire to collect information regarding the innumerable small and medium-sized industrial concerns which have come into existence since the war, with a view to find out their problems and difficulties so that we may, if necessary, intercede with Government for assistance to them in their hour of need when foreign competition faces them on the termination of the war, but the Organisation's effort to collect information did not yield satisfactory results." He therefore urged Government to collect immediately all available data in regard to these small industries. Such a step would not only do much good eventually to small enterprises generally, but infuse greater encouragement and strength in those which are already in the field. He also urged the setting up of a small tribunal to recommend to Government what measures of assistance are necessary in order that prompt help may be extended to small-scale industries.

Employer-Employee Relationships.- Dealing with this subject he said: "Relations between capital and labour have on the whole been cordial and it is gratifying to record that strikes have been few and that not much time has been lost. There is increasing appreciation of the fact that to develop industry one must first develop its workers and that the workers' well-being is an industrial insurance, an industrial investment. The theory that the worker's place in the employer's production scheme is that of a producing machine combining cheapest possible cost with the highest possible efficiency is happily out of date. Employers have responded generously in the matter of granting dearness allowances to compensate for the increase in the cost of living. Labour however must also appreciate that the stimulus to industry which comes from Government spending must necessarily have a limited duration. When industry is active, profits and wages tend to be high and when profits and wages are high, the capacity to save is also large. The surpluses arising while demand is great should be accumulated and conserved against a period of reduced earnings. Employers themselves may take advantage of the opportunity for the creation of social service funds from the surpluses accruing now for expenditure on welfare work in lean years. The creation of these funds in the form of irrevocable Trusts would be a guarantee to the workers against the diversion of these resources for other purposes."

Labour Legislation.- He then dealt with the labour legislation programme of the Government and referred to the conference between the Labour Member of the Government of India and the representatives of the Organisation for discussion of Government's proposals, particularly to sickness insurance, industrial fatigue and night shifts. ~~The question relating to~~ ^{the question} ~~Sickness insurance, although an important step in the structure of labour legislation of a country, bristles with great difficulties. When this question came up before employers a year ago for~~

consideration, we made it definitely clear that these questions were more or less matters for peace-time legislation, and that any attempt to introduce them in these abnormal times would only give temporary results, and that consequently such attempts might not be useful in collecting the statistical data required by Government in respect of such schemes before permanent legislation was put on the Statute Book. Industrial employers in India are agreeable to the acceptance of the principle of sickness insurance, and want to give it preference over holidays with pay, provided the State contributes in a reasonable manner towards the working of the scheme and provided that the introduction of the scheme in British Indian provinces does not create different conditions of employment of labour between Indian States and British India."

Dealing with industrial fatigue, he said that it is contended that the experience of industrially advanced countries shows that the prolongation of the working hours without consideration of its effects on the worker's health does not bring about a proportionate increase in the output. "The same may be said of conditions in India, but we have no reliable data to guide us in our opinion. I would only caution Government from rushing headlong and creating situations from which it may be very difficult later on to withdraw in the absence of reliable data to guide our decisions."

I.L. Conference.- "The International Labour Conference, could not meet in Geneva in 1940 owing to the war situation. During October 1941, a special Conference of the I.L.O. was held in New York. The Government of India's refusal to send the Employers' Delegate to the special session on the ground that they could not send the Labour Delegate because of certain differences of opinion between the Labour Union Organisations and the Government, will be deplored by all industrial employers. It must be said that we were willing to accept the position of a non-voting delegate and the Government's decision to deny usx representation at the Conference was not helpful. As you perhaps know, the Director of the I.L.O. made a suggestion at the Conference for the creation of an Asiatic Regional Conference to consider questions relating to Asiatic countries and I trust that greater attention will be paid to the requirements of the countries in the East in all international questions affecting industrial labour."

(Summarised from the Printed Text of the Presidential Address of Sir Shri Ram, President, All India Organisation of Industrial Employers, forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Organisation.) (A copy each of the Presidential Address and the Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Organisation for 1941-42 was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute F.6/242/42, dated the 19th March 1942). +

13th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee
of the International Chamber of Commerce, Delhi, 8-3-1942.

The 13th annual meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 8-3-1942, with Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, President of the Committee, in the chair. The more important points in the address are noticed below:-

World Conditions.- Reviewing at some length the effects of war on commerce and industry the world over, he said that all the war-time controls over production, trade, exchange, were intensified in belligerent

countries, with a view to fully mobilising the productive resources for more effective prosecution of the war. The chief characteristic of economic situation in most countries was that, under the stimulus of huge war expenditure by Governments, the productive resources reached the stage of relatively full employment and the authorities in those countries were faced with the problem of preventing the emergence of inflationary rise in prices and costs.

Effect on Indian Industries.- "In India, the decline in economic activity, which was caused by the fall of France in June 1940, continued to exercise a depressing influence on commodity markets for some time, but, in the latter months of 1940, and for the greater part of the year 1941, a more ~~had~~ hopeful outlook was in evidence owing to the improvement in war situation and to the large purchases of the Supply Department in connection with the war. The commodity prices recovered rapidly and the Calcutta Index Number of prices rose from 114 in June 1940, to 156 in October, 1941, as compared with the peak of 137 in December 1939. Available figures reveal that, while industries like cotton, jute, wool, silk and iron and steel are working to capacity, other industries like cement, glass, paper, soap, chemicals, leather manufactures, drugs and medicines, etc, have undergone a marked expansion of output as well as capacity under the stimulus of military demand. While Indian industries received a great stimulus from increasing war orders, the closure of traditional export markets in Europe and in Japan, and the growing shortage of shipping space, worsened the position of the hard-hit Indian cultivator. The financial and currency system of the country as a whole continued to withstand the strain of the war."

Danger of Excessive Dependence on Foreign Markets.- "Twice in a single decade, however, the Indian cultivator has learnt, to his great cost and suffering, that his excessive dependence on the world markets renders even his meagre income extremely insecure and unstable. The collapse of prices after the Great Depression of 1929 ushered in a period of acute and unrelieved depression. The virtual closure of the European and Japanese markets resulting from the conditions during the present hostilities has again imposed severe hardship on the cultivators who are faced with the problem of unsalable huge surpluses on their hands. The post-Depression commercial policies of quotas, bilateral agreements and exchange control, which were adopted by India's traditional customers in Europe, and by Japan, has led to a considerable shrinkage of the markets for India's staple exports, such as short and fair staple cotton, raw jute, oilseeds, etc, and compelled the Indian primary producer to increasingly look to the internal market for the disposal of his surpluses. The war-time requirements of self-sufficiency in food and raw materials are bound to stimulate agriculture in most industrial States during this war and it is hardly likely that the war-expanded agriculture would be "let-down" by their statesmen after the return of Peace. It is idle to hope that India's traditional export trade in staple agricultural produce could be revived to anything like the pre-Depression level of 1928-29 in the post-War years. He therefore urged the Government of India to seize the present opportunity to stimulate the development of all kinds of industries which would provide an assured market for most of our exportable surpluses of raw materials and agricultural products within the country itself"

Balancing Agriculture and Industry.- "The transition from an economy adjusted to the production of a large volume of staple agricultural crops for export to one based on more balanced distribution between agriculture

and industry is bound to necessitate a number of production-adjustments in our own internal economic structure. The relative shrinkage of the export markets of cotton, in recent years, both in Japan and Europe, has made it imperative that the internal market for raw cotton, provided by the cotton textile industry, should be fully developed and expanded. Similarly, the curtailment of the area under jute, by substitution of rice (which is ~~at present~~ imported in large quantities from Burma) would also be necessary to bring the peace-time supply of jute more in accord with the reduced world-demand, consequent on the serious decline in the value and volume of international trade in recent years. A conscious and deliberate crop planning would have to be an integral part of the programme of industrialisation, with a view to minimising the hardship and the difficulties of the transition period."

(Summarised from the printed copy of the Presidential address of Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Indian National Committee).

(A copy each of the Presidential Address of Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, and the Report of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce ^{for 1941-42} was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute F.6/242/42, dated the 19th March 1942.)

Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of Southern India, Madras, 24-3-1942.

The annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of Southern India was held at Madras on 24-3-1942, Mr. W.H. Peppercorn presiding. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings:-

Employer-Employee Relationship. Mr. Peppercorn, in his ^{presidential address} speech, referred to the proximity of the war to the borders of India and said that in the immediate situation, which confronted them, there was an imperative call to all of them, employers and labour alike, to use all possible energy towards the furtherance of the war effort, and to allow no consideration whatsoever to deflect them from that end. He next referred to the "marked upward trend in living expenses in July which continued and was accentuated on the entry of Japan into the war" and said that the measures for the granting of dearness allowance to labour devised and agreed by members of the Federation during the previous year worked well, and afforded the necessary elasticity to take care of the situation as it developed in a way which demonstrated the soundness of the principles agreed and adopted in good time in 1940.

Price-Wage Adjustment.- Mr. Peppercorn next referred to the "vicious spiral" of rise in prices, costs and wages and said: "The importance of that cannot, in my opinion, be overstressed, in the widest national interest. No vicious spiral need take place unless those with power to prevent it fail to act. The difficulties inherent in the effective control of prices are certainly not underestimated by us, and where all-India considerations are involved, as in the case of piecegoods, it was clearly not by local action that the end in view could be obtained. But we have felt that action should have been taken last year in the case of food grains produced within the Province and we have experienced a sense of disappointment that the periodical Price Control Conferences which have taken place should not have led to more practical results."

At the moment, there has been a decided improvement so far as Madras itself is concerned. But there are certain special factors operating here locally, and the necessity for vigilance on the part of the authorities on the whole issue can in no sense be regarded as having passed".

Labour Legislation.- Dealing with labour legislation that had come up for consideration recently, Mr. Peppercorn said that the Government of India gave extremely short notice of the subjects for discussion at the Labour Ministers' Conference. It was extremely unsatisfactory from all points of view for employers to be asked to submit their considered views on what were in some cases complicated legislative proposals in the course of a few days. As regards sickness insurance, an item figuring on the agenda, he said:- "We should none of us be otherwise than sympathetic to a sound scheme, involving suitable contributions by the employers, labour and Government and based on insurance principles. But a proposal to apply an experimental scheme to a selected ~~organisation~~ organised industry and with the emphasis on the contribution by such industry of the funds necessary for its fulfilment is a different matter and the question of the ability of the selected industry or industries to carry the burden, not necessarily in the immediate conditions prevailing today, but with the more difficult conditions which are likely to ensue in the post-war period, obviously merits serious consideration. It is also right to suggest that State industries ought certainly to be included".

Madras Industrial Disputes Bill.- Referring to the Madras Industrial Disputes Bill (vide pages 6 and 7 of our February 1942 report), Mr. Peppercorn said: "In the first place, we feel that any measures which can be taken effectively to promote the settlement of trade disputes through the medium of an established machinery for conciliation should be most welcome to all concerned and as such are deserving of our whole-hearted support. But the proposed measure goes further than this and seeks to superimpose upon the conciliation procedure which is contemplated, provisions whereby it will be open to either party in the dispute to apply for reference to the Court of Arbitration, whose decision will thereafter become binding upon both and enforceable under the penalty clauses, in the Bill. Our attitude towards compulsory arbitration of this nature has always been quite clear: we are strongly opposed to it and we believe that the inclusion of such provisions will not be conducive towards those objects which the Bill is designed to secure. The reasons for this are plain enough and lie principally in the fact that, on the one hand, with compulsory arbitration in the background all the time, the prospects of successful conciliation are likely to be gravely prejudiced, and, on the other, whatever legislation may be passed on the subject, it is not possible under the scheme of things in which we live - and will continue to live - to enforce an unpopular award against the inclinations of any considerable body of labour. The use of compulsion by the ~~Government~~ State can afford no short cut to industrial harmony and it is by the extension of the principles of voluntary settlement of disputes by goodwill that we can look for progress in the desired direction. This is recognised in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. We recognise that in certain circumstances, particularly under present conditions, it may become necessary for Government to have reserve powers to enable them to enforce settlement by arbitration in cases where the public interest may demand it. But these powers on the lines of an amendment recently effected in the Bombay Act, are proposed to be provided by a separate provision in the Madras Bill and the need for them constitutes no argument for a more general extension of the

system of settlement by compulsory arbitration, a system which is opposed in the United Kingdom not only by employers but by Trade Unions".

Trade Union Movement.- "In the second place we feel that the Madras Bill falls short of what is required owing to the fact that, there is no recognition therein of the part which trade unions must play in the matters which the Bill sets out to regulate. The development of a sound and legitimate trade union movement must be of great importance in affording a basis for the process of negotiation and voluntary settlement of disputes which is so desirable, and it does not seem possible to leave this aspect of the matter out of the objects in view. Provisions to define the duties and responsibilities of Unions, and to secure their proper conduct, while regularising their ~~xxx~~ participation in the various matters which the Bill sets out to cover, accordingly appear to be desirable in the proposed legislation".

Office-bearers for 1942-43.- Mr. W.T. Williams was elected Chairman of the Federation for the coming year. Messrs. W.H. Peppercorn, G.B. Gourlay, D.V. Bullock, H.S. Town and P. Reid were elected Committee Members.

(The Hindu, 25-3-1942),

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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Sind Vagrancy Bill, 1941:
Non-Official Bill Introduced. ✓

On 22-12-1941 a non-official Bill was introduced in the Sind Legislative Assembly to prohibit able-bodied vagrants from begging publicly in the street. The Bill provides that able-bodied beggars should be arrested and produced before magistrates, who should direct them to seek and get employment within a month.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 26-2-1942, pages 10 to 12.) ✓

Health and General Conditions in Asansol Mining Settlement,
1940-41.*

Area and Population.- The area of the Asansol Mining Settlement is 413 square miles, and its population according to the 1931 census 382,680. The population was distributed as follows: Asansol town - 31,286; Raniganj town - 16,373; Collieries - 60,000; Industrial areas of Kulti and Burnpur - 12,000; and Rural Areas - 263,021. There are 490 villages, ~~about 490 villages~~, about 130 working collieries and 2 towns in the Mining Settlement.

Vital Statistics.- The total births in 1940 in the settlement were 3952 (as against 10,547 in 1939), and the total deaths 6,285 in 1940 (7,548 in 1939). The birth and death rates per thousand in 1940 were 28.3 and 17.8 respectively; and the infant mortality rate was 109.7. The principal vital occurrences during 1938-1940 are given in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Birth-rate</u>	<u>Death-rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1938	30.3	21.2	137.2
1939	30.0	21.4	129.8
1940	28.3	17.8	109.7

The improvement in the general health of the population, as reflected in the statistics, which was noticed in 1939 was maintained to an even greater degree during the year 1940. There was a marked decline in the general death-rate as well as in the infant death-rate during the year under review. The standard of health in collieries was at a higher level than that of the general population. The monthly mortality rate among the resident colliery population fluctuated from 6.4 to 13.0 per 1000 while that for the Mining Settlement as a whole ranged between 14.3 and 22.3 per 1000. The sickness rate among the mining population was 8.8 per cent. in February, the healthiest month of the year, as against 15.5 per cent. in July, the least healthy month.

Working and Social Conditions:

Output and Prices.- The output of coal for 1940 in British India was little over 26 million tons, representing an increase of 1½ million tons as compared with 1939. The all-India figure of production, including the Indian States, would approximate to the new record level of 29 million tons. The end of 1939 saw a rapid clearing of stocks owing to a sustained demand for coal following on the outbreak of the war. The price level which showed an increase in the last quarter of 1939 remained steady during the first half of 1940. The average price quoted to the State and other railways in 1940 was higher than that of 1939. The market sagged later in the year due to lack of shipment, less internal consumption and to the surcharge on transit. The supply of wagons was satisfactory excepting during the last two months of the year when restrictions were in force.

*Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1940-41. The Pooran Press, 21, Balaram Ghose St., Shambazar, Calcutta. pp. 60.

Safety:-1. Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act, 1939. - During the year Rules under Sec. 12 were promulgated and the Stowing Board allocated from the funds accruing from the excise duty on despatch of coal and coke a total sum of Rs. 1.1 million for the year 1940-41, of which Rs. 500,000 were available for voluntary stowing. An ad hoc Committee of Mining Engineers was appointed to examine all applications for loans for the purchase of plant and for assistance towards the cost of voluntary stowing. ~~were~~ received from 49 concerns and for loan from 6.

ii. Rescue.- Construction of the Rescue Station in the Raniganj Coalfield was taken in hand during the year and has since been completed. A permanent rescue corps in charge of a Superintendent will be maintained in the station which will be financed from an excise duty on coal and coke. Instructors will also be appointed to train rescue workers, who must be maintained at each mine in accordance with the Rules.

Supply of Labour.- The labour supply was generally sufficient throughout the year. There was no labour trouble in the Raniganj Coalfield and no strike of any importance among the mining labour. The number of persons at work in the Raniganj Coalfield reaches its maximum in the month of February. On the date selected this year by the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for recording attendance 85,820 were registered compared with the figure of 89,421 on the day selected in 1939. The average daily attendance was 68,676.

Wages.- The standard of wages remained at the level reached in the previous year when increments were granted at most collieries. The majority of miners are content to work only for a living wage to meet the bare necessities of life and they spend to the limit of their incomes.

Medical and other Facilities:- 1. Hospitals and Dispensaries.- ~~Each colliery is required to maintain a dispensary and an indoor ward~~ under the supervision of an approved medical officer, the number of beds being dependent on the number of persons employed. Medicines are kept in stock according to a list approved by the Board of Health. Some of the smaller collieries situated in adjacent areas are allowed to share the services of one medical officer. Provision of isolation huts for infectious cases is also compulsory.

ii. Miners' baths.- Bathing pools fed by pit water, which is changed at regular intervals, have been provided at the majority of collieries. Shower baths, with separate compartments for men and women and an overhead tank to ensure a constant supply of water, have been arranged at a few collieries. The latter arrangement is recommended as being more sanitary.

Sanitary Provisions.- The question of provision of surface and underground latrines is pending final decision of the Local Government. Sweepers are engaged by colliery authorities for conservancy cleaning. The number of sweepers depends on the size of the colliery. Refuse collected in dust-bins, is either removed to fill up outlying pits or burnt.

Recreation.- The habit of spending an hour or two in the pachai shop after the day's work can best be counteracted by a well-planned programme of sports and recreation. For this purpose the year may be divided into three periods according to the amount of daylight available in the evenings. Football, which is very popular, appears to be best suited to the period of maximum daylight, sports to the period after the rainy season and a varied programme of radio, music and jatra te-

to the winter months. Already at certain collieries increased attention has been paid to the provision of such amenities and it is hoped that the movement will become a general one.

Education.- Many of the larger collieries have provided primary ~~schools~~ schools for the education of miners' children. It is hoped that groups of smaller collieries will combine to provide similar educational facilities. There appears to be considerable scope for the establishment of adult literacy classes ~~at~~ at collieries similar to those which are already functioning successfully in the rural areas.

Welfare.- One group of collieries has provided for the services of two midwives with daily clinics for mothers and babies. In other areas accommodation has been provided by colliery authorities in houses either ~~partly~~ newly built or suitably adapted for regular Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres which are under the management either of the Board of Health or the Health and Baby Welfare Society. Up to the present there has been no uniformity in the payment of maternity benefits to women workers. The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to introduce legislation for the extension of maternity benefits to women workers employed in Coal Mines. ✓

School Medical Services for Conserving Health of School Children: Recommendations of Committee on Medical Inspection.

The creation of school medical services in Provinces and States is recommended by the Joint Committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Health and the Central Advisory Board of Education to investigate and report on the question of medical inspection of school children and the teaching of hygiene in schools.

Provincial School Medical Services.- In each major Province, the Committee says, there should be a whole-time Chief School Medical Officer to administer the school medical services, which should have a sufficient number of doctors for medical inspection and treatment of school children. The Provincial Governments should bear at least 50 per cent of the cost. The scheme should include both primary and secondary schools and it should be a condition of recognition that each school takes part in the scheme. Medical inspection and treatment should be provided free for the children of all primary schools and of the primary departments of secondary schools. In secondary schools, particularly in urban areas, the fees charged should include a contribution towards the cost of medical inspection and treatment.

Follow-up Work.- Probably, fifty per cent of the children attending school, according to the Committee, would be found to require medical attention or medical observation. It lays special emphasis on treatment and follow-up. A scheme for medical inspection without provision for treatment and follow-up, it says, is of little or no use. Schemes for treatment must include provision for supplementary feeding. All children should have a mid-day meal whether it is brought from their homes or provided at the school.

Other Recommendations: School Clinics, Health Parades, etc.-

Other recommendations include the provision of school clinics, particularly in urban areas, health and cleanliness parades before the school starts and instruction to school children in personal hygiene.

Health Training for Teachers.- For teachers it is recommended that hygiene should be a compulsory subject in all courses for their training and practical demonstration should form an important part. Teachers should be taught by practice to recognise defects in children and to do elementary treatment. The physical instructor of a school should have training in the elementary principles of physiology, of hygiene, mode of life and nutrition. Health education should find a prominent place in the programme of study for physical instructors, the aim being to develop in them the incentive and the ability to train children to practise healthful living and to enable these teachers to co-operate intelligently in medical inspection.

(The Hindu, ~~1931~~ 19-3-1942). ✓

Education in India, 1938-39.* ✓

Stress on Vocational Bias.- The most important event of the year has been the inauguration in many areas of experiments along the lines advocated in what is popularly known as the Wardha education scheme. The report of the Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education, which was appointed at the third meeting held in January 1938, "to examine the scheme of educational reconstruction incorporated in the Wardha scheme in the light of the Wood-Abbott Report on General and Vocational Education and other relevant documents and to make recommendations" was considered by the Board at its fourth meeting held in December 1938. The Board generally adopted all the recommendations made by the sub-committee, and decided that a copy of the report, together with a summary of the discussion, should be forwarded to Provincial Governments for their consideration and for such action as they might consider necessary. As it was felt that certain points arising in connection with the Wardha scheme required further consideration, the Board appointed another committee to examine these. This committee met after the close of the year under review.

Activities of Provincial Governments.- In Madras, Hindustani was introduced as a compulsory subject in Forms I to III in all Government secondary schools and in 100 selected secondary schools under private management; a Bill to amend the Madras Elementary Education Act with a view to ~~amend~~ establishing District Educational Councils was passed and rules were framed for the improvement of the conditions of service of teachers in elementary schools under private management; service registers for teachers were also prescribed. In Bombay, the reports of the Adult Education Committee, the Vocational Training Committee and the Primary Teachers' Training Committee were issued during the year and three Boards were set up: (i) the Board of Secondary Education, to advise Government on general questions concerning secondary education and the introduction of vocational subjects in secondary schools, (ii) the Board of Physical Education, to advise Government on all matters pertaining to the physical education of children of school-going age and others, and (iii) the Provincial Board of Adult Education, to advise Government on all matters pertaining to adult education. A special officer to organise the work of introducing the Basic Education Scheme was appointed, and an Advisory Committee for Basic Education was constituted. Hindustani was recognised as one of the regional languages of the province and the Hindustani School Book Committee to consider the provision of text books in Hindustani was appointed.

In Bengal, District Organisers of Physical Education were posted to all districts in connection with the Youth Welfare Movement; Physical Training Camps were established for school teachers; a revised curriculum for primary schools, covering a course of four years instead of five, was published; and a series of valuable reports on girls' education in Bengal, on the deprovincialisation of Government colleges, on new rates of pay for the subordinate educational services, on scales of pay for gazetted educational officers and on the reorganisation of the Bureau of Education, India. Education in India in 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 3 or 5s. pp. 138.

Inspectorate were issued during the year under report. In the United Provinces, the year 1938-39 was devoted mainly to preparing reorganisation. Various committees were set up to examine the whole field of education with a view to suggesting what changes were necessary and how they were to be carried out. The first of these was the Secondary and Primary Education Reorganisation Committee consisting of members of both Houses of Legislature, educationists and officials; the second was the Universities' Reorganisation Committee. Other committees dealt with Sanskrit studies, the reorganisation of the Sanskrit College, Benares, and the question of the type of physical training (including military training) to be given in secondary institutions.

In Bihar, an important event of the year was the adoption of a resolution moved in the Legislative Assembly which asked Government to make adequate provision for military training in schools and colleges and to establish a separate military school. In the Central Provinces, a Central Board of Physical Welfare was constituted and a Chief Organiser appointed. The scheme for the establishment of Vidya Mandirs also came into effect during the year. In Sind, a committee of experts was appointed to make suggestions for overhauling the whole educational system with a view to giving vocational bias to education in ordinary schools as well as providing some technical and industrial schools. The Orissa Government set up a Board of Basic Education during the year under report.

General Progress.- The percentage of pupils under instruction to the total population advanced from 5.18 to 5.41 in recognised institutions and from 5.38 to 5.64 in all kinds of institutions. The percentage of male scholars to male population improved from 8.16 to 8.56, and of ~~scholarstotalexpopulationinpraxx~~ female scholars from 2.42 to 2.52. The wastage percentage in primary classes decreased from 70 to 69 in the case of boys and from 84 to 83 in the case of girls. 22,000 additional boys and 16,000 more girls as compared with the previous year reached the stage of literacy. Enrolment increased at all stages of education, the total increase exceeding by over 230,000 pupils the increase recorded during the previous year, which was the largest during the last nine years. The policy of eliminating inefficient and uneconomical schools was continued with success. Even more striking progress was made in adult education. Women's education also showed considerable improvement. Educationally backward communities advanced and progress in physical training, playing of games and medical inspection was also registered.

Number of Institutions.- The total number of institutions increased by 1,293 to 230,546 during the year under report, which more than made up for the decrease of 1,702 institutions during the previous year. There was an increase in numbers in all the provinces except in Madras, Bengal, Coorg, Ajmer-Merwara and Bangalore. In the first two, the fall was the outcome of the policy of closing down inefficient and uneconomical elementary schools.

Number of Students.- With an increase of 676,710 pupils - the largest increase during the last twelve years and more than that of the previous year by over 230,000 pupils - the total enrolment went up to 14,508,615. All the provinces recorded satisfactory increases except Coorg and Bangalore where ^{346 pupils had to be closed.} the numbers fell by 473 and in un-^{the increase in the number of pupils} recognised institutions amounted to 76,085 pupils. All kinds of institutions except professional colleges for women, and primary

schools for girls, which registered reductions of 2 and 24,203 pupils respectively, contributed towards the increase.

Expenditure. - The total expenditure on education in British India increased by Rs. 8.34 millions to Rs. 278,199,492 during the year under review, the increase in expenditure during the previous year being Rs. 5.89 millions only. The total expenditure is still less by Rs. 4.96 millions than that in 1930-31 when the expenditure was the highest yet recorded. Expenditure was up in all the provinces except Coorg and Baluchistan. Bombay led all the provinces in recording the largest increase of Rs. 2.42 millions followed by Bengal with Rs. 2.13 millions, Punjab with Rs. 1.36 millions, Madras with Rs. 697,000 and Sind with Rs. 365,000. In the others the increase was less than 200,000 of rupees. As in the previous year, all kinds of institutions, except professional colleges for women, shared in the increase.

Of the total expenditure on education, 44.1 per cent. was contributed by Government, 15 per cent. by local bodies, 26.3 per cent. met from fees and 14.6 per cent. from "other sources", which include endowments and benefactions. ✓

Wages

War Bonus to Sholapur Textile Workers. ✓

Reference was made at page 45 of our January 1942 report to the additional dear food allowance granted to textile workers in Sholapur. Simultaneously with the increase in the rate of dearness allowance, the managements of all the cotton textile mills in Sholapur decided to grant a war bonus equivalent to two annas in the rupee on the total earnings during the year January-December 1941 to all their workers. The conditions and details of the bonus are as follow:

1. (a) A War Bonus equivalent to 2 annas in the rupee on their total earnings in the period from 1-1-1941 to 31-12-1941 inclusive, is granted to all cotton mill workers who are on the permanent and badli (substitute) musters of the mills in Sholapur on 31-12-1941 and who continue to be on such musters till the date of payment, except to those badli workers who have put in less than an aggregate period of 75 days' work during the year.
 - (b) That the bonus will be calculated on the earnings exclusive of the dearness allowance.
 - (c) That in the case of women who have been on maternity leave in the period referred to in (a), the actual maternity allowances drawn by them will be included in their total wages for the purposes of calculating the bonus payable.
2. That the bonus will be paid to the workers on 21-2-1942.

(Labour Gazette, Bombay, January 1942 issue). ✓

Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government Servants in Bombay Province: Increased from Rs. 2/- to Rs.3/- per month. ✓

The dearness allowance granted to low-paid Government servants in Bombay Province has been increased by the Government of Bombay from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a month. The allowance is dependent on increased cost of living.

Only those Government servants, who, if employed in Bombay City are in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 49 a month or, if employed in the mofussil are in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 34 a month are eligible to the revised concession. Government servants in Bombay City whose emoluments exceed Rs. 49 a month but not Rs. 52 a month and Government servants in the mofussil whose emoluments exceed Rs. 34 a month but not Rs. 37 a month will be granted such allowance as is necessary to make their emoluments equal to Rs. 52 a month and Rs. 37 a month respectively.

The average cost of living index figure for the three months ending January, 1942, was over 130. The revised rate, therefore, has been applied retrospectively from February 1. +

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The concession of dearness allowance has been extended also to the whole-time daily rated staff from March 1. They will be paid an allowance of 2 annas a working day subject to a maximum of Rs. 3 a month. If, however, the average cost of living index is below 130, but not less than 117 for any three consecutive months, the rate of allowance will be reduced to 1 anna and 3 pies a working day subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 a month.

(Bombay Information - issued by the Government of Bombay - dated 28-3-1942). +

~~(XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)~~

Increased Dearness Allowances for Tramway Employees in Bombay.

In June 1940, the Board of Directors of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company had agreed to grant a dearness allowance of Rs.3 per month to each employee whose gross monthly earning capacity was Rs.100 and under, and one anna and six pies per day to daily paid labour whose gross monthly earning capacity was Rs.100 or less. These rates were to have effect from 1-6-1940 and were to continue for the duration of the present war or until the monthly cost of living index figure for Bombay remained lower than 105 during three successive months, whichever was earlier. In view, however, of the recent rise in the cost of living, the Board of Directors recently reviewed the position and have sanctioned a revised scale of dearness allowance to be paid from 1-7-1941 to all employees, daily rated as well as monthly paid, whose individual gross monthly earning capacity is Rs.100 and under. The dearness allowance payable on the basis of the Bombay Cost of Living Index figures ranges from Rs.3-2-0 to Rs.5-4-0 per month for cost of living from 121 to 135.

(The Labour Gazette, Bombay, December 1941)

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Control Measures

Control of Electric Supply. ✓

The Government of India has decided, with the consent of all Provincial Governments, to assume, for the duration of the war, full authority for controlling and restricting the supply of electricity by public electricity supply undertakings throughout India to such extent as may be found necessary. To enable it to exercise these and other ancillary functions, the Government of India has set up with effect from the 6th February 1942, a Central Electric Power Control Board, with Mr. H.C. Prier, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, as Chairman.

The functions of the Board will be - (a) to advise the Government of India where in its opinion it is considered necessary that any measure of control should be applied to any public supply undertaking; (b) to administer such control, as may have been approved by the Government of India in the case of any public electric supply undertaking and, in particular, to issue permits for new supplies of electricity or for restriction of existing supplies in accordance with the general principles laid down by the Government of India; (c) to collect such information from public electricity supply undertakings as it considers necessary in order to be in a position to advise Government regarding the necessities of control and as to the areas in which surplus electric power is likely to be available; and (d) to collect such information as may be required to assist in co-ordinating the development and utilisation of electric power on the best lines in furtherance of the general interests of the war effort and industrial development of India.

(Resolution No. A. 826 dated 6-2-1942:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
14-2-1942, pages 356 to 357.) ✓

The Healds and Reeds Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Government of India has promulgated the Healds and Reeds Control Order, 1942, which applies to cotton healds, wire healds and reeds used by the textile industry other than jute and hemp. The Order prohibits the sale or other disposal of the controlled articles without a licence for the purpose. Persons desiring to purchase the controlled articles are to apply to the Assistant Director General, Cotton Textiles, Central Government.

(Notification No. SS/44/42 dated 17-3-1942:
The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated
18-3-1942, page 333.) ✓

The Rubber Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Government of India promulgated on 24-3-1942 the Rubber Control Order, 1942, which is to come into force on 1-4-1942. An "Indian Rubber Control Committee" is to be set up, with the following functions:

The Committee will - (a) receive consolidated indents of requirements of rubber from the Controller of Rubber Manufactures; (b) approve estates and dealers for the purposes of this Order and maintain a register of approved estates and dealers; (c) allocate demands according to indents received and grant permits to approved estates and dealers for sale or transfer of rubber in the Indian market; (d) submit to the Central Government every month a report ~~(ix)~~ showing (i) the permits granted by it during the preceding month, (ii) the stocks of all grades of rubber held by each approved estate or dealer, and (iii) an estimate of all grades of rubber expected to be available for distribution in the three months following the date of the submission of the report; (e) carry out such other functions in respect of this Order as the Central Government may from time to time assign to it.

Purchase or other acquisition of rubber will have to be done by applying to the Controller of Rubber Manufactures. Restrictions have been imposed on manufacturers from, or disposal of, stocks held by manufacturers.

(Notification No. 271 (1) Tr. (I.E.R.)/42 dated 24-3-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 24-3-1942, pages 358 to 362.) ✓

Sind House Rent Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Government of Sind has promulgated the Sind House Rent Control Order, 1942, which extends to the whole Province, but ~~it~~ comes into force on 1-4-1942 in the first instance in a few urban areas, including Karachi, and Hyderabad. A Rent Controller, appointed under the Order, is to fix a "fair rent"; such rent for a house is the rent charged on 1-12-1941 or earlier, plus ten per cent.

(Notification No.S.D-133/13-A/56, dated 30-3-1942: The Sind Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part I, dated 30-3-1942, pages 664 to 667). ✓

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Production

War Purchases of Supply Department up to 31-12-1941
total 2300 millions: Effect on Industries. ✓

The value of war purchases made by the Supply Department, Government of India, from the outbreak of war to December 31, 1941, amounted to nearly Rs. 2300 millions.

Classified according to major trade groups, the figures were:-

	<u>Rupees in millions</u>
Engineering, Hardware, Miscellaneous, etc.	976.7
Cotton Textiles ...	504.1
Woolen Materials ...	175.5
Other Textiles ...	288.1
Foodstuffs ...	161.5
Leather Materials ...	101.8
Timber and Woodware ...	92.0
	<u>2299.7</u>

It is to be borne in mind, however, that besides the purchases made by the Supply Department, considerable war orders were also placed by the purchasing organisation of the Defence Services.

(Indian Information, 1-4-1942.) ✓

American Technical Mission to India ✓

The military situation in South-Eastern Asia emphasizes the need of developing as fully and as rapidly as feasible the industrial resources of India as a supply base for the armed forces of the United Nations in the Middle and Far East. The Government of the United States of America accordingly enquired whether the Government of India would agree to the despatch to India of a Technical Mission which could examine and report on the possibilities of American assistance in such developments. The Government of India have expressed their readiness to receive such a Mission.

The Eastern Group Supply Council warmly welcomed the decision to send a Technical Mission. A fresh survey of India's potentialities by those who can rapidly assess the assistance which the U.S.A. could give to developing production in India should prove of inestimable value both to India and to the Eastern Group as a whole.

Until the summer of 1941 when the effect of the Lease/Lend legislation in the United States began to be felt in India, contacts between India and the United States had remained more or less normal. America was buying mica, manganese, and other raw materials from India, while India was buying from America motor vehicles, chassis, machine tools, and other things required for the war effort, as well as a large range of ordinary merchandise the flow of which was naturally restricted by the dollar exchange position. With the establishment of the Indian Purchasing Mission in the United States, the position has changed. India has had to state very fully her case for Lease/Lend facilities, and

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after a study of the documents presented to them by Sir Shanmukham Chetty, the American experts suggested that India might benefit considerably by the visit of a Technical Mission from America. It is hoped that the Mission may be able to fill some of the gaps in India's munitions production.

(Indian Information, 1-4-1942.) ✓

Development of Small-Scale Industries: Government of India Convenes Conference.

On March 23 and 24, 1942, a conference was held at New Delhi, at which representatives of the Department of Supply of all provincial Governments, of some ~~representatives~~ of the important States and a representative of the Chamber of Princes were present, to work out a scheme to increase the production of small scale industry with a view to meeting the largely increased requirements of the Department of Supply.

In the year 1941-42 manufactures of small scale industry of the value of Rs. 49,800,000 were taken by the Department of Supply. It is expected that additional orders for the manufactures of small scale industry to the extent of Rs. 51,000,000 will be placed in the year 1942-43.

It was agreed that all provincial Governments and States participating in the scheme should establish official agencies with whom the Department of Supply would contract for the supply of certain goods which can suitably be manufactured by small scale industries. The provincial agencies would make their own arrangements through their Directors of Industries and (or) Registrars of Co-operative Societies. The supply of raw materials, provision of finance, instruction in manufacture, inspection during manufacture and final supply of goods to the Department of Supply would be done by the official agency. The Government of India would, however, give financial assistance within certain limits, if required. The Government of India expect to pay for these goods prices slightly higher than those for goods of organised industry.

This scheme will keep a large number of small scale rural and urban workers busy for the whole year. It would also increase the sources of supply for goods required by the Department of Supply and would also serve as an insurance against loss of production on account of dispersal of labour, damage to factories, etc.

(Leader, 27-3-1942). +

Price Control

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Chambers of Commerce urge Need for Greater Price Control

In December 1941 the Madras Chamber of Commerce in addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India quoted a specific instance of profiteering in Madras by certain holders of stocks of galvanized iron wire and stated that it was considered that market conditions generally were such as to warrant the Government of India taking drastic steps to control prices of not only foodstuffs which could perhaps be best dealt with on a provincial basis, but of iron, steel and hardware generally, yarn, dyes, chemicals and other products which could only be dealt with on an all-India basis.

The Associated Chambers requested the views of its Member Chambers on the point raised and, in particular, asked for details of the action taken by the Provincial Government in the matter of price control and the experience of the Chambers as to the efficacy or otherwise of such action.

The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in reply stated that at the present time gross profiteering was almost universal amongst small merchants and up to the moment the Bombay Government appeared to have done little, if anything, to prevent it. A price controller had, however, recently been appointed and an advisory Committee was being set up, drawn from all classes and communities but, how effective this action was likely to be, it was impossible to say. The Committee added that it strongly supported the Madras Chamber's request that representations should be made to the Central Government, and in view of the prevailing market conditions, urged that the Government of India should take drastic steps to control prices of all commodities, which could be dealt with on an all-India basis.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the
Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce
for January 1942.) ✓+

Progress of Technical Training Scheme. ✓

There are at present 18,000 men under the technical training scheme started by the Government of India to meet war needs and some 5,000 have already passed out to join the service and industry. This, it is claimed, more than realises the first aim set for the Government of India's ~~2nd~~ Technical Training Scheme to train or have under training 15,000 men by March 1942. The aim now is to train 48,000 men by March, 1943, and since most centres now have sufficient equipment and special training centres have been opened for instructors, its achievement will depend almost entirely on the pace of recruitment. A hundred British instructors have been brought from England and a number of "Bevin Boys" have now become instructors.

The first training centre under the scheme started working in January, 1941, and in just over a year 310 centres have been organised, of which 43 are in Indian States. The total number of seats has increased to 28,500; the most urgent need now is for more recruits. The monthly stipends paid under the scheme have recently been increased from Rs. 25 to 27 in the case of matriculates and from Rs. 20 to Rs. 22 in the case of non-matriculates.

(Unofficial Note dated 1-4-1942 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.) ✓

Central Government's Order Prohibiting
Hasty Strikes. ✓

With a view to secure the efficient prosecution of the war, the Central Government has, in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, issued the following Order:-

(1) No person employed in any undertaking shall go on strike in connection with any trade dispute without having given to his employer, within one month before striking, not less than 14 days' previous notice in writing of his intention to do so.

(2) When any trade dispute has been referred to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929), or for conciliation or adjudication under an order made under rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, no person employed in any undertaking concerned in the dispute shall go on strike until the expiry of two months after the conclusion of the proceedings upon such reference.

(3) Sub-rule (5) of rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules shall apply to the interpretation of this Order.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
7-3-1942, pages 507 to 508.) ✓ +

Transfer of Power to Provincial Governments to curb strikes under
Defence of India Rules. ✓

Reference was made at pages 14 to 16 of our January 1942 report to the addition of a new section 81A to the Defence of India Rules so as to curb strikes and lock-outs. It is now notified that the powers conferred upon the Central Government by sub-rule (1) of rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, excepting the power under clause (a) thereof to prohibit any strike or lock-out, shall, in respect of trade disputes within any Province be exercisable also by the Provincial Governments.

(Notification No. L.3005 dated 12-3-1942:
The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
14-3-1942, page 561.) ✓ +

Safety Measures.

Air Raid Shelters in Premises: Amendment to
Defence of India Rules.

The Government of India has amended the Defence of India Rules so as to provide that if in respect of any premises the Central Government or the Provincial Government considers it necessary or expedient so to do for the purpose of affording protection to persons living or employed therein or thereon, that Government may by order require the owner of the premises to construct therein or thereon an air raid shelter, ~~withxxxx~~ within such period and in accordance with such requirements as to lay-out materials and construction as may be specified in the order.

If any person directed to construct shelters fails to do so, the Government has taken powers to construct the shelter and recover the cost from the owner of the premises.

(Notification No. 1293-OR/42, dated 7-3-1942; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 14-3-1942, page 548). +

List of the more important publications received in this Office during
March, 1942 ✓

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Printed letter No. G.-1721/4470-G.J. dated 4-9-1941 from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Department, Shillong, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, embodying the Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, for the year 1940.
- (2) Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1940-41. Vol. I. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 3 or 5s.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Government of the Punjab. Budget for the year 1942-43, with detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. Presented to the Legislative Assembly by order of His Excellency the Governor. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1942.
- (2) Proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, 30th and 31st January, 1942. Vol. XVIII, No. 5 and 14th February, 1942, Vol. XVIII, No. 6. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942.
- (3) Government of Bombay. Civil Budget Estimates for the year 1942-43. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. 1942. Price Rs. 3-6-0 or 6s.
- (4) Government of Bombay - Budget Memorandum for 1942-43. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. 1942. Price Rs. 2-2-0 or 4s.
- (5) Government of Bengal. Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal. Progress Report of the Board for the term 1939-41. Prepared and issued under the authority of the Board by N.C. Chakravarti, Secretary, Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1941.

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-

Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Madras Province for the co-operative year ended 30th June 1941. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1942. Price Re.1/-.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Speech of Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting held on 7th March, 1942, at Delhi. 1942.
- (2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi. Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee for the year 1941-42. Vol. I. 1942.
- (3) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, N 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi. Correspondence and relevant documents relating to important questions dealt with by the Federation during the year 1941-42. Vol. II. 1942.

Organisation, Congresses, etc. (continued)

- (4) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Resolutions as finally recommended for the Fifteenth Annual meeting by the Committee. 1942.
- (5) Speech of Sir Shri Ram, President, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, at the Ninth Annual Meeting held on 8th March, 1942, at Delhi. 1942.
- (6) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers. Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1941-42. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- (7) Speech of Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, President, Indian National Committee, International Chamber of Commerce, at the thirteenth annual meeting held on 8th March, 1942, at Delhi. 1942.
- (8) International Chamber of Commerce, Indian National Committee. Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1941-42. 1942. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- (9) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Province of Bombay, 1940-41. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price As. 2 or 3d. 1942.
- (10) Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India held in Calcutta on the 15th December, 1941. Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

Public Health.

- (1) Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1940-41. The Pooran Press, 21, Balaram Ghose Street, Shantabar, Calcutta.

Education.

- (1) Report on Public Instruction in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1940-41. Printed and Published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1942. Price Rs. 3-2-0.
- (2) Bureau of Education, India. Education in India in 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs. 3 or 5s.
- (3) The Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association. Seventh Annual Report, 1941. K.R. Cama Oriental Institute Building, 136, Apollo Street, Museum East, Bombay. ✓