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Report for May 1942

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India.-

Draft Bill to provide Holidays with Pay for Industrial
Workers ✓ +

Workers in non-seasonal factories in the country will enjoy annually a minimum period of a week's holiday with pay when the Bill drafted by the Government of India for the purpose is enacted into law. The Bill (which extends to non-seasonal factories only) is now being circulated to provincial Governments and employers' and employees' organisations for eliciting their opinion. Stipulating that the minimum of seven days' paid holidays must run in one block, the Bill lays down that the qualifying service for entitling any worker for such a period of holidays is one year and that the holidays cannot be accumulated. Further, the Bill provides that half the wages due for the period must be paid at its commencement. Workers are prohibited from undertaking remunerative work during the holidays. No provision has been made for the continuance or otherwise of local and other customary holidays at present given by individual employers, the matter being left for mutual adjustment between employers and employees.

The present move is the result of the decision of the last three sessions of the Labour Ministers' Conference.

(The statesman, 12-5-1942.) +

Bengal.-

Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas)
Amendment Act, 1942.

Reference was made at page 1 of our May 1941 report to the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941, which seeks to prevent theft of unidentifiable articles from industrial areas. The Bill has now been passed; the Act is published at pages 12 to 13 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 4-6-1942. ✓x

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SOCIAL POLICY

Sind Government appoints Advisory Board of Labour for the Province. ✓₄

The Sind Government recently appointed an Advisory Board for Labour consisting of Members of the Provincial Legislature (several of the Members selected having pro-labour sympathies) and representatives of Municipalities, Port Trusts, Chambers of Commerce and important industrial concerns in Sind. The functions of the Board are; (a) to offer expert opinion and advice on all important matters concerning Labour; (b) to conduct survey of Labour; (c) to examine comprehensively problems of Labour in all their aspects; (d) to devise schemes for the development of better relations between employers and employees; (e) to call for information and advice regarding Labour developments of special value or interest to Sind; and (f) to examine any other question on the subject considered suitable by the Board.

The term of the Board is to be for two years.

(Press Note No. P-187 dated 28-5-1942:
The Sind Government Gazette, Part I,
dated 4-6-1942, pages 1198 to 1199.) ✓₄

Welfare of Workers:

Government of India appoints Adviser for Labour Department.

One of the subjects which Sir Stafford Cripps discussed with the Labour Member to the Government of India, Sir Firozkhan Noon, during his recent visit to Delhi, was the question of assistance to Indian labour. On his return to London, Sir Stafford Cripps is believed to have consulted British organised labour. It is likely that, as a result, the Government of India will have an Adviser for the Labour Department from England, whose main function will be to make proposals regarding new legislation.

The Government of India has appointed recently another adviser to the Labour Department to look after labour welfare; Mr. R.S. Nimbkar (Indian Workers' Delegate to the 25th session of the I.L. Conference), the Bombay labour leader, who was recently released from detention, has been selected for the post. These two advisers will work in close co-operation both with the Central and the Provincial Governments and assist in developing cordial relationships between employers and workers.

The Government of India is anxious that labour disputes should be settled speedily in a manner satisfactory to both sides; and they consider that the appointment of these advisers would facilitate such a policy being carried out. ✓

(The Hindustan Times and the Hindu,
21-5-1942.) ✓₄

Labour Dispute in General Motors (India) Bombay:
Arbitrator's Award. ✓

The award made by Mr. Justice Chagla, of the Bombay High Court, who was nominated Arbitrator by the Bombay Government to decide the dispute between General Motors (India) Ltd., and its employees, has been published by Government in the Bombay Government Gazette. The dispute was composed by an agreement arrived at in April 1942, the parties settling certain points in dispute and agreeing to refer others to arbitration.

Wage Scales.- Mr. Justice Chagla in his award on the demands states that the first demand of the employees is that there should be a regular classification of the workers employed by the Company with definite minimum and maximum scales of pay with proper grades fixed for each occupation. His award on the demand was that the minimum wage and the annual increase proposed by the Company in its classification should remain the same, but the annual increments in each case should be increased and the maximum wage proposed by the Company should be altered accordingly. The Company will pay wages at the rate of 49½ hours a week. The Company will continue to pay dearness allowance at a flat rate of seven annas a day for each worker.

Hours.- The second demand of the workers, which related to the Stores Department and the Service Garage Department, was not pressed. With regard to the third demand, for the minimum of eight hours work and/or equivalent wages per day and 26 working days per month, Mr. Justice Chagla stated that at present the workers are working 45 hours a week and are receiving wages at the rate of 49½ hours a week. The Company has agreed to continue the present arrangement and has agreed not to exact from the workers work beyond 48 hours a week. The Company has given an undertaking that on the basis of normal working it will see that the workers are assured of securing work for an average of 26 days in a month. A list of holidays, it is recommended, should be drawn up in consultation with representatives of the workers.

Mr. Justice Chagla stated that the Company also pressed him to allow the factory to be closed for about a week for ^{the} purposes of taking an inventory without making it incumbent upon it to pay the workers for those days. He did not think this proposal of the Company reasonable. The Company could arrange so to take an inventory as not to deprive the worker of his right to receive wages for 26 days a month on the average.

Bonus.- The fourth demand was for an annual bonus of one month's pay. In view of the recent suggestion of the Government of India, a bonus equal to 1/12th of the total earnings of the workers from January to December, 1941, including dearness allowance and overtime, has already been paid by the Company and, therefore, the question about the bonus did not call for any decision.

Gratuity.- The fifth demand related to the gratuity scheme framed by the Company which the employees wished to be revised. In the

Arbitrator's opinion, the scheme was basically sound, but certain minor alterations had to be made in it. He, therefore, made the following award: ~~That~~ if a worker is compelled to leave the service of the Company either due to ill-health or old age, the minimum of 30,000 hours of actual work should be waived in his case and he should be paid whatever he has become entitled to on the basis of 90 hours' pay for every 2,000 hours of actual work. It should be left to the Trustees of the Gratuity Fund to decide whether the worker is leaving service due to ill-health or old age. The maximum benefit should not be limited at 1,080 hours. To the credit of each worker's account ninety hours' pay should be credited for every 2,000 hours of actual work for as many years as he has served the Company, and he should be paid on the basis of the number of hours' pay standing to his credit calculated on his basic pay at the time he leaves service. Mr. Justice Chagla said he made his award because he felt that as the Company did not pay any pension to its workers, it would not be fair to fix a limit to the gratuity which a worker could earn.

Leave with Pay.- The next demand of the employees was for three weeks' leave yearly with pay instead of one week as they had been receiving. The award made by Mr. Justice Chagla on the demand was that after a worker has been in the service of the Company for a period of three years, he should be given two weeks' leave yearly with pay instead of one week. For the first three years he would continue to get one week's leave as at present. The award was to have retrospective effect so that all those who have been in the service of the Company for three years or more will become entitled to two weeks' leave yearly with pay.

Wages during Strike Period.- The final demand was for full pay to the workers during the time of the strike. The award made on the demand was that the Company should pay immediately to all the workers who went on strike three-quarters of the pay from March 9 to March 22, 1942, which they would normally have drawn during that period.

(The Times of India, 30-5-1942.) ✓ +

Madras Bus Drivers' Dispute:
Details of Arbitration Award. ✓ +

At page 5 of our April, 1942, report it was reported that the arbitration award given by Sir Sidney Burn in the dispute between the Madras Motor Drivers' Union and the Madras bus owners and Companies' Association has been submitted to the Madras Government. The award has now been published; the following is a summary of the award:

Arbitration Award.- As to the question whether the bus owners have correctly interpreted and kept generally to the terms of the award dated the 28th April 1941 and the subsequent agreement dated the 12th June 1941 (vide pages 7 to 8 of our July 1941 report), the arbitrator states that it cannot be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'. Some of the terms of the award have been misinterpreted by the owners and some have not been observed. In some cases it was not possible for the owners to adhere to the terms of the award and in some they were making preparations to do so when the strike broke out.

In regard to the question whether the circumstances in which the strike was started justify the advice given by the Government in their

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press communique dated the 19th July, 1941, that workers who have not been convicted of crimes of violence should be taken back to employment, it is reported that the circumstances in which the strike was started do not justify the advice given to the owners by the Government in their communique dated 19th July, 1941, ~~that workers who have not been convicted of crimes of violence should be taken back to employment.~~

Observations by Government.- The Madras Government observes that the findings of the Arbitrator on the specific allegations of breaches of the Commissioner of Labour's award made by the Union are generally in favour of the bus owners, except in regard to the following matters :- (a) payment of Re. 1 per month to conductors in addition to their 'duty' wages; (b) washing allowance; and (c) grant of 'days off'. His findings in regard to item (c) is qualified by remarks about the unworkability of the award. It does not appear that these were sufficient grounds for going on strike without further reference to the Commissioner of Labour or attempts at negotiation. It would appear from the examination of the specific allegations made by the Arbitrator that the Commissioner of Labour's report on which Government relied when they issued their communique dated 19th July 1941 was not sufficiently accurate in its presentation of the case. The Government therefore withdraws that communique and has decided to take no further part in the dispute beyond directing the Commissioner of Labour to see that the owners implement his award in regard to (1) the Re.1 payment to conductors, (2) washing allowance, and to frame a clear workable scheme of 'days off' that shall be in accordance with his award. As the owners bound themselves to abide by the ~~terms~~ terms of the Arbitrator's findings, it is presumed there will be no further difficulty about this.

Views of Workers on the Award.- Mr. S. Guruswami, President, The M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union, Madras, in the course of a statement on Sir Sydney Burn's award says that it is a very unsatisfactory one. It is pointed out that after a prolonged controversy the Government and the employers successfully resisted the demand of the workers to include all the essential questions in dispute when framing the terms of reference, which were artificially and improperly narrowed down. This material omission itself vitiated the whole enquiry, but none was prepared for the self-contradictory positions assumed in the report and for the expression of ~~the~~ views on fundamental principles which organised labour cannot in any event accept.

In ~~the~~ discussing whether the owners have been guilty of mis-interpretation and breach of the award of 28th April, 1941, and the subsequent agreement dated the 12th June, 1941, the arbitrator gives expression to three views which organised labour cannot accept on principle:

(a) That an agreement between employers and a trade union of workers on collective working conditions of the workmen cannot be questioned if there is any breach affecting workers who are not members of the Union.

(b) That concession of one day off in seven would certainly be reasonable provided that the workers would agree to be paid a weekly wage and would ~~fr~~ refrain from insisting on a monthly salary.

(c) That the Government would not be justified in asking the

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employers to take back into service strikers not convicted of crimes of violence even though the strike was declared legally after exhausting all avenues of negotiation and conciliation and when there have been proven breaches of the awards and agreements, by the employers. In regard to point (a), Mr. Guruswami quotes certain passages from the I.L.O. publication: "Freedom of Association", Vol. I, in support of his contention:

(The Hindu, 22-5-1942)

It is reported that Mr. M. Sitaram Naidu, General Secretary of the Madras Motor Drivers' Association, has decided to visit Delhi to meet the authorities and request them to have the issue of the Madras City bus workers' dispute reopened and to suggest the setting up of a fresh tribunal to go into the affair.

(The Hindu, 27-5-1942.) ✓₄

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SOCIAL INSURANCE

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Sind
during 1940 * ✓

Proceedings before Commissioners.- There were 14 cases pending at the commencement of 1940 and 48 were ~~filed~~ filed during the year, making a total of 62 cases. Of these, 50 cases were disposed of, leaving 12 cases pending at the end of the year. Of the 50 cases disposed of, 35 related to award of compensation under section 10 and the remaining 15 were on account of distribution of deposits under section 8. Of the 35 cases of award, 6 were in respect of fatal accident, 13 in respect of permanent disablement and the remaining 16 were on account of temporary disablement. Of the 15 cases of deposit, 9 were in respect of fatal accidents and the remaining 6 were miscellaneous cases under section 8 (2).

Statistics of Workmen, Accidents and Compensation.- According to the statistical returns there were 24,227 adults and 351 ⁱⁿ in employment in Sind during the year under review. Of the cases of injuries in respect of which final compensation was paid during the year, 6 resulted in death, 28 in permanent disablement and 291 in temporary disablement. Rs. 7,800 was paid as compensation in fatal cases, Rs. 11,181-4-7 in cases of permanent disablement and ~~Rs~~ Rs. 4,098-2-7 in cases of temporary disablement. The total number of accidents was 325 in respect of which a sum of Rs. 2,307-7-2 was paid as compensation. No case of industrial disease was reported during the year. ✓

Provident Fund for Industrial Workers:
Views of the South India Chamber of Commerce. ✓

One of the subjects discussed at the 3rd Labour Ministers' Conference held in January 1942 (vide pages 3 to 5 of our January 1942 report for proceedings) was the institution of provident funds for industrial workers. Recently, the Government of India is understood to have approached industrial interests in the country through Provincial Governments to gather their views on the proposal. The Committee of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, in its communication on the subject to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, points out that the present time is not propitious for the undertaking of a legislative measure of such importance, although ~~it~~ it recognises that the proposed scheme is sound in substance. It expresses the opinion that from all points of view the more outstanding problems to workers, such as holidays with pay, sickness insurance, unemployment insurance, provident fund, etc., should all be tackled together in a comprehensive legislative measure. The Committee presumes that the proposed scheme is to be on an all-India basis and adds that if individual provinces

* Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1940. Price: As.3. Karachi: Printed at the Government Press. 1942. pp.12.

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are to take independent action on the proposal, it would be undesirable and most ~~more~~ detrimental to the industrial growth and development of the provinces which undertake such legislation. It is urged that the Indian States should necessarily come in line with the British Indian provinces in this matter of all-India importance.

The absence of all reference to the Government's obligations in the details of the proposal, the Committee points out, is a serious omission. The Committee is emphatically of the opinion that in consonance with the obligations that the Governments of different countries have shouldered in the matter of labour welfare, the Government of this country, as also the Governments of the States, should accept the responsibility for contributing their share towards any labour welfare fund that may be instituted.

(The Hindu, 30-5-1942.) ✓

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AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural Statistics of British India, 1937-38* ✓

Classification of Area and Net Area Sown.- According to the Agricultural statistics of India for the year ending 30-6-1938, the actual area of British territory (excluding Burma) for which statistics are given in the volume is 511,302,000 acres, as against 511,794,000 acres according to professional survey. Of the total area, 68,001,000 acres, or 13 per cent., are occupied by forests; and the area not available for cultivation, i.e., land absolutely barren or unculturable or covered by buildings, water, and roads, or otherwise appropriated to uses other than agriculture, amounts to 92,402,000 acres, or 18 per cent. The balance, 350,899,000 acres, or 69 per cent., represents the area available for cultivation. Of this, 91,969,000 acres or 18 per cent. of the total area, represent culturable waste other than fallow, i.e., land available for cultivation but not taken up or abandoned, and 45,437,000 acres, or 9 per cent., land kept fallow in the year of report. The net area actually sown with crops during 1937-38 was therefore 213,493,000 acres or 42 per cent. of the total area, as against 213,719,000 acres in the preceding year. If, however, areas sown more than once during the year are taken as separate areas for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 246,863,000 acres, as against 248,192,000 acres in the preceding year.

Irrigation Statistics.- The total area irrigated in 1937-38 was 52,833,000 acres, as against 50,158,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this area, 24,653,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 3,611,000 acres from private canals, 12,569,000 acres from ~~wells~~ wells, 6,251,000 acres from tanks, and 5,749,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. In India irrigation is ordinarily resorted to on an extensive scale in tracts where the rainfall is most precarious. In Assam, eastern Bengal, and the Malabar Coast (including the Konkan), where the rainfall is ordinarily heavy, the crops hardly need the help of irrigation, unless there is an unusual scarcity of rain. Of the total area irrigated in 1937-38, the Punjab accounted for 31 per cent., the United Provinces 22 per cent., Madras 17 per cent., Bihar and Sind 8 per cent., each and the other provinces for the remaining 14 per cent. The above figures of irrigated areas do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. Counting areas sown more than once as separate areas for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops was 57,314,000 acres in 1937-38. Of this area, 83 per cent. was under food crops and the remainder under non-food crops. Of the former, 18,426,000 acres were under rice, 12,011,000 acres under wheat 2,548,000 acres under barley, 1,331,000 acres under jowar, 987,000 acres under bajra, 1,360,000 acres under maize, 2,229,000 acres under sugarcane, and the remaining 8,428,000 acres under other food crops. Of the irrigated non-food crop area, 4,556,000 acres were occupied by cotton.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops covered, as stated before, 246,863,000 acres in 1937-38. Of the total sown area, food crops occupied about 197,322,000 acres, or 80 per cent. and non-food crops 49,541,000 acres, or 20 per cent. Of the food-crops, food-grains (cereals and pulses) covered as much as 186,762,000 acres, or 76 per cent. of the total area sown, and other

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food-crops (condiments and spices, sugar, fruits and vegetables, and miscellaneous food-crops together) some 10,560,000 acres, or 4 per cent. of the total. Of non-food crops, fibres (such as cotton, jute, hemp, etc.) occupied 18,944,000 acres or 8 per cent. and oilseeds 16,985,000 acres or 7 per cent. of the total area sown. The other non-food crops - dyes and tanning materials, drugs and narcotics (tobacco, tea, coffee, opium, etc.), fodder crops, and miscellaneous non-food crops together - occupied about 13,612,000 acres, or 5 per cent. of the total.

(Extracted from Agricultural Statistics of India, 1937-38, Volume I - Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1942. Price Rs. 8 or 13s. pp.365.) ✓
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"Grow-More-Food" Drive;
Government of India to Finance Scheme and Compensate Provinces. ✓
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The Central Government has, it is learnt, decided to make available Rs. 10,000,000 from the Cotton Fund for the "Grow-More-Food" drive. Out of this sum Rs. 2,500,000 has already been allotted to the Central Province. Provincial Governments have been invited to send suggestions and schemes in this connection. It is further learnt that the Central Government has agreed to compensate any loss in any Provincial Government's revenue through a change of crops under the "Grow-More-Food" campaign.

Safeguarding the Cultivator.- In connection with the food production drive inaugurated by the Government of India, the question has been raised according to a press note issued by the Government whether the position of the cultivator may not be seriously affected if a nationwide effort towards increased food production leads to such an augmentation of output as to affect the saleability of the crops. It has been suggested that in the event of a sudden termination of hostilities, the demand for foodstuffs may fall off, leading to a deterioration in prices. The Government of India regards the possibility of any such developments as remote. It therefore asks the cultivators to be on their guard against any exaggeration of these fears and to go ahead with their plans for increased food production to meet the proved need of the hour. Even after the cessation of hostilities, the demand for foodstuffs from countries now devastated by war is likely to increase rather than decrease. India herself with her growing population needs more food than she grows at present. It is, however, likely that genuine apprehensions may be felt about the transport situation and certain temporary difficulties in the marketing of crops on that account, and it was to counter such apprehensions that it was recommended at the Food Production Conference held in New Delhi on April 6 that "the Government of India should undertake, ~~when~~ should such a contingency threaten, to buy such quantities of foodstuffs in the open market as would prevent any serious deterioration in the level of prices." The Government of India has accepted the principle of this recommendation, and the details of a scheme for giving effect to it are now being worked out in consultation with the interests concerned. Meanwhile, the

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Government of India conveys the assurance to the cultivators that, should any developments take place which affect the saleability of the food crops, it will ~~be~~ buy such quantities of foodstuffs in the open market, whether in British India, or in the Indian States, as are calculated to prevent a serious fall in the prices.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 9-5-1942 and the Statesman, 26-5-1942). ✓+

Purchase of Food Crop Seeds for Bombay Province:
Government's Rs. 170,000 Scheme. ✓

A sum of Rs. 170,000 has been sanctioned by the Bombay Government for the purchase of food crop seed for being made available to cultivators at concession rates throughout the province in pursuance of the plan to encourage growing of more food crops in preference to non-food crops. ~~Where~~ Where there was seed shortage, Government proposed distributing food crop seed at two thirds of the cost price. For this purpose Rs. 50,000 each had been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Director of Agriculture in the Northern, Southern and the Central Divisions, and Rs. 20,000 at the disposal of the Divisional Superintendent, Konkan.

(The Times of India, 22-5-1942.) ✓+

Indebtedness of Public Servants in Cochin State:
Survey ordered by Government. ✓

The Cochin State Government has ordered a survey of the condition of indebtedness of the officers of the State. A notification issued in this connection states that the Government is aware that there are a number of officers in the State Service involved in debt. It is considered necessary to take a comprehensive survey and find out the persons highly and seriously involved in debt. If an officer has large debts, but has also more than enough properties to pay off the debts, there is hardly any cause for action. The enquiry will be one addressed to find out how many officers there are in a Department, including the Head of the Department, who are indebted to such an extent that there is no immediate prospect of paying off their debts. The Heads of the Department are requested to cause enquiries to be made in the matter and submit reports immediately.

(The Hindu, 8-5-1942.) ✓ +

LIVING CONDITIONS

14

Nutrition

Nutritional Deficiency in Hyderabad State: Changes in Agricultural Policy suggested. ✓

The first fruits of the nutrition survey of the Hyderabad State which was ordered by the Government of the State in 1940, and which is still in progress, are now being gathered. As a result of the study of the data collected in a number of districts in the first eighteen months of the survey, several important conclusions have been reached concerning the dietary deficiencies in the areas surveyed and proposals have been formulated by the Medical and Public Health Department.

Cause of Pellagra.- In the Siddipet Taluq of Medak district, for instance, cases of pellagra were noticed only in the areas where maize is the chief cereal cultivated and is therefore the staple diet. In the adjoining areas where rice, wheat and jawar are consumed for the most part, no cases of this disease were detected. A few cases of pellagra were also detected in some rural areas among the very poor who subsisted on a limited choice of food. It is therefore emphasised that the disease could only be eradicated by a complete change in present dietary habits in the affected areas and the recommendation had been made to the Agricultural Department to devote special attention to the cultivation of cereals like jawar and ragi in place of maize.

Deficiencies of Rice Diet.- The attention of the Agricultural Department has also been called to the case of poor families in the rice-eating areas whose staple diet is made up of rice and condiments. It is suggested in their case that attempts should be made to improve the nutritive value of such diet, at least in certain essential respects, and that it would be better if, as a matter of policy, special attention is paid to the increased cultivation of millets such as jawar and ragi in the Tellingana districts which comprise the rice-eating areas.

Neglect of Pulses.- It has also been ascertained that the rice-eaters' intake of pulses, which supply some of the food factors in which rice is deficient, also falls short of what is desirable. To remedy the deficiency it has been suggested that the Agricultural Department should aim at increasing the cultivation of pulses in the rice-eating districts by developing improved varieties.

Vegetables.- At the same time the nutrition surveys in Medak, Mahboobnagar and Raichur districts have shown that the vegetable intake in the rural areas is far below the desirable level, whereas vegetables of any kind would improve the standard of nutrition in these areas. It is pointed out, for instance, that leafy vegetables are a valuable supplement to poor rice diets since they are rich in vitamins "A" and "C" and calcium. For this reason the Medical and Public Health Department has suggested to the Agricultural Department the desirability of taking up the study of leafy vegetables in particular and endeavouring to increase their production. Special emphasis has been laid on the need for developing kitchen gardens in villages where manure and water are easily available.

(Hyderabad Information, May 1942) ✓

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Planning War-Time Nutrition:
Uses of Soya Bean.

A judicious system of crop planning, encouragement of larger cultivation of those crops that are likely to make up the deficiency in the national diet, and introduction of suitable marketing and distribution machinery, were some of the suggestions made by Dr. A. C. Ukil, in a talk on "Planning Wartime Nutrition" before the Calcutta Rotary Club on 12-5-1942. In order to study the subject in all its aspects, he proposed the mobilisation of a body of scientific experts. In Dr. Ukil's opinion, soya beans would go a long way towards solving the country's food difficulties and ~~the~~ he recommended a more extended cultivation of this crop. "There is no other crop known to us", he said, "which can feed and clothe the peasant and build his hut at the same time. To take the place of milk, there are hardly any other foods that are equal to soya beans and soya bean milk." Elaborating his suggestion, he said that people should be induced to mix 20 per cent. of soya beans with rice. In the Philippines, a combination of 80 per cent. rice and 20 per cent. soya beans, with the incorporation of such vegetables as were possible to grow in the compound of every house, made a balanced diet for the adult population. It had been shown that milk consumption, both of adults and children, could be reduced to half by mixing equal parts of milk and steam-processed soya beans. Human milk might be largely or entirely replaced by groundnut soya bean milk for feeding infants. He said that the mixing of soya beans with rice would entirely meet the shortage of rice occasioned by the stoppage of export from Burma. As regards Bengal, the speaker said that with intensive cultivation and crop rotation, Bengal could not only obtain self-sufficiency as regards her food requirements, but would probably have a surplus. He expressed the opinion that further extension of tea cultivation should be restricted, if possible, and any available land in the tea gardens should be utilized for growing catch crops and soya beans.

(The Statesman, 14-5-1942.) ✓+

Rural Problems in Indore State:
Maharaja sets up Enquiry Committee. ✓

The Maharaja Holkar of Indore State appointed towards the middle of May 1942 a committee consisting of the Revenue Minister, the Education Minister and the Commerce Member of the State for the purpose of reporting within three months on the needs, in order of urgency, of the rural population of the State that call for early action.

(The Statesman, 22-5-1942.) ✓

Employers' Organisations

Employers' Association of Northern India:
5th Annual Meeting, Cawnpore, 28-5-1942. ✓+

The 5th annual meeting of the Employers' Association of Northern India was held at Cawnpore on 28-5-1942, Lala Padampat Singhania, Chairman of the Association, presiding.

Presidential Address: American Technical Mission.- Reviewing the political and economic situation of India during the last year, Lala Padampat Singhania referred to the arrival of the American Technical Mission in India and said that suspicion has been expressed in some quarters that America has some ulterior motive behind this move; but this suspicion has been removed by the Leader of the Mission. He said that he had met the members of the Mission along with other representatives of Indian commerce and industry and discussed with them the potentialities of Indian industrial resources and that they were assured that America has no designs to establish American capital in India, but it is with a view to give impetus to Indian industries in order to effectively cope with war pressure and also to facilitate the starting of capital war industries that America has taken this initiative. ^{Indian employers} We cross-examined them in several ways and were convinced of the genuineness of the attempt. He expressed the hope that the Mission would act promptly and that the Government would take immediate steps to implement the proposals of the Mission. It will be better, he said, if Dr. Grady, the President of the Mission, would publish his proposals for the benefit of the public.

Workers and War Work.- Stressing the importance of the labour front in the prosecution of the war, the president emphasised the need for labour to work intensively and stick to their posts. In this connection, he pointed out that it is highly desirable that employers should establish more personal contact with workers and should make all endeavours to assure them that in no case will there be any scarcity to ~~them~~ regarding their essential needs of daily food and clothing. The employers adopted a benevolent attitude during the crisis of wheat shortage in Cawnpore. They took all steps to relieve the distress. Such an attitude will go a long way in maintaining morale. He hoped that the Association would do all that is possible to keep up the spirit of the labourers.

Activities of the Association.- The Association has been rendering very useful service to ~~the~~ labour. By its Labour Bureau it is trying to register the unemployed workers and find work for them. The registration increased during the year under review; so also did the numbers of ~~Area~~ ^{find out} employment through the Bureau. The figure of literacy among registered workers is 22 per cent. There is a slight drop in the figure as compared to the percentage of the previous years. This is not satisfactory. It is hoped that the Government and the employers will adopt effective measures to increase literacy among workers. This is necessary both in the interests of industries and workers for literacy general developps elements of efficiency in a worker which ultimately improves production.

Industrial Relations.- While complimenting the workers on their loyal work, the president regretted the strike declared by them some time back for war dear food allowance, which they could have got without

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striking work. It was bad and wrong leadership by trade unions which was responsible for the strike. They seem to imagine that the main business of a Trade Union is to engineer strikes and create unhappy relations between the employers and their workers. Trade unions should aim at promoting harmonious relations and good will between employers and workers and settle all questions concerning labour by negotiations and friendly discussions. The Association has since its inception stood for the recognition of genuine trade union principles. If it could only be realised what tremendous pecuniary harm the strikes cause to the workers and how criminal it is to stop the work at a time when the nation is engaged in a terrible war, there may be a return to saner activities of getting grievances redressed by mutual appreciation of each other's point of view.

The War Dear Food Allowances and bonuses which workers in Cawnpore are getting are in no way less than what workers in other parts of the country are receiving. Without going into details, roughly calculated, workers belonging to member concerns have been paid about Rs. 3.5 millions over and above their basic wages during the year 1941-42. If one takes into account the workers of Government factories, building concerns and other industrial houses also, it would be found that in all about Rs. 7 millions extra have been paid throughout the Province during the year. The present-day wages of the workers are commensurate with the increase in prices and it is possible for the workers to effect savings out of them.

Shortage of Production.- The country has begun to feel the shortage of essential requirements of human beings: food and clothing. So far as shortage in food is concerned, the Government of India as also the Provincial Governments have launched a "Grow More Food" campaign. He emphasised the advisability of adopting substantial methods to meet with the requirements of the country so far as clothing is concerned. The Government should take up the task of further promotion of village handicrafts and increasing development of small cottage industries. Already there is shortage of yarn. There may be shortage in other materials as well in future. Transportation difficulties are there. It is therefore necessary that vigorous attempts should be made by the Government to give a momentum to village industries. If the Government would like to move in this direction and seek the aid of the employers, the Association will come forward to do whatever it can in this direction.

Labour Supply.- Lastly, Lala Padampat referred to the growing tendency among workers in villages to migrate to industrial areas and become industrial workers. With the rapid industrial expansion of Cawnpore in particular, and the United Provinces in general, on account of War production, nearly 200,000 workers are engaged in various industrial concerns. Further industrialisation is anticipated and consequently the number of workers is bound to rise. He said that it is the duty of the Government, the local bodies and the employers to see that these workers are provided with all the facilities which may make them feel at home in cities. Out of a population of about 600,000 in Cawnpore (there has been an appreciable increase after the ¹⁹⁴¹ census) no less than 20 to 25 per cent. are found without a dwelling, lying in streets. A worker after hard day's toil requires some recreation and some healthy place to sit and sleep and if that is not forthcoming he finds himself in unfamiliar surroundings and takes the first opportunity to run away. The

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Government is alive to the problem, but it has not moved fast enough in the matter. He hoped that despite numerous handicaps, all concerned would formulate a comprehensive scheme to solve the problem.

(Summarised from a copy of the Proceedings² of the 5th Annual Meeting, supplied to this Office by the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore.) ✓

Employers' Association of Northern India:
Annual Report for 1941-42* ✓

Membership and Labour Force.- The membership of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, during 1941-42 (1-2-1941 to 31-1-1942) consisted of 42 concerns (13 cotton mills, 1 woollen mill, 2 leather works, 2 sugar works, 2 jute mills, 2 hosiery factories, 2 brush factories, 2 ice factories and 16 other factories). The total labour force employed by member concerns in Cawnpore is approximately 61,703 as against 56,829 last year; and ~~the~~ estimated total of labour ~~employees~~ employed by the mills and factories of Cawnpore is 76,316.

Complaints.- During the year, the Association received and dealt with 425 complaints from workers; of these 9 were made by the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, 141 by other unions and 275 direct by workers. 52 cases went up before the Government Labour Commissioner (as against 40 in 1940-41) of which 26 were decided in favour of the Association and 23 against it, while 3 were neutral decisions. There was an increase in the number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner as compared with the previous year due to other Unions bringing forward complaints. The deadlock in regard to conciliation proceedings with the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha continued.

Labour Bureau.- The Labour Bureau of the Association registered 16,227 applicants from unemployed workers, and was able to secure employment for 11,747 (the corresponding figures for 1940-41 were 14,772 and 7,803). The report points out that there has been a continued ~~d~~ increase in the demand for labour in the leather industry. 98.39 per cent. of the workers registered were from the United Provinces and the remaining 1.61 per cent. were from other Provinces and States as against 1.12 per cent. in the year 1940-41. Of the 16,227 unemployed workers registered, only 22.15 per cent. were literate as against 25.56 per cent. in 1940-41, and the report points out that there has been a steady and increasing drop in the percentage of literate workers. The continued drop is due to the large number of leather workers who have passed through the Bureau, though there has also been a drop amongst other sections of workers due again to the increased demand for unskilled labour.

Labour Situation.- There was a large-scale strike in July 1941 involving 27,198 workers, entailing a loss of 235,975 working days, and Rs. 209,762 in wages. Including this, industrial disputes during the year in Cawnpore involved 29,754 workers, and entailed a loss of ~~210~~ 240,059 working days and Rs. 214,959 in wages. The strike in July 1941

* Fifth Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1941-42 (established 2nd August, 1937), presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 28th May, 1942. The Star Press, Cawnpore. 1942. pp. 10.

was ~~not~~ instigated by the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha to enforce a demand of war dear food allowance, although employers were considering the question. The strike was, as usual, without notice and no effort was made to negotiate before it was enforced. The Provincial Government, as a result of this illegal strike, announced that it could not continue to recognise the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha. The fight for supremacy in the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha between the so-called Socialist Group and the Communists has continued as a result of their divergent political views, and the interests of the workers from the pure trade union point of view have been pushed into the background. The result is shown in the very heavy drop in the membership of the Sabha. The last published figure giving the total membership of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha was 1,839 against 7,103 in the previous year.

The position in regard to employment in Cawnpore generally has continued to improve owing to the increase in the number of workers employed in existing concerns and to a large number of concerns opening up in connection with the war effort. This has led to a very distinct improvement in the general wage level which has been greatly assisted by the grant of further instalments of war dear food allowances.

Technical Training.- At the request of the Cawnpore Civil Training Recruiting Sub-Committee, the Association through the co-operation of its members in Cawnpore agreed to assist in this work. Later the scheme was taken over by the Government of India, and facilities were provided for the training of 80 fitters at one time. The flow of recruits was not sufficient for full advantage to be taken of the facilities offered by the scheme, and by the end of January 1942, the supply of recruits had ceased. During the time the scheme was in operation, 491 recruits were registered but only 207 completed their course; of this number 157 were accepted by the military authorities and the remainder rejected mostly on medical grounds.

War Dear Food Allowance and Bonus.- Details of the War dear food allowance granted by members of the Association in 1940, and 1941 and 1942 were given at pages 49-50 of January 1940 report, 35-36 of August 1941 report and page 44 of January 1942 report respectively of this Office.

The Committee of the Association also considered the question of the payment of bonus generally by all members of the Association and it was agreed that a bonus should be paid. ✓

Progress of Trade Unionism in Bombay, 1940-41. ✓

Number of Registered Unions and Membership.- There were 73 unions, including one Federation, on the register on 31-3-1940. The registrations of 13 of these unions were cancelled during the year under report. Two other unions were dissolved during the year, and their dissolution registered. There were thus only 58 odd unions which were still on the register at the end of the year. To these were added 13 new unions which were registered during the year. The control of 8 unions whose objects were not confined to one province was also transferred to the Registrar of ~~the~~ this Province from the Registrar of Central Trade Unions, Delhi, with effect from 1-4-1941, bringing the total number of unions on the register from 1st April 1941 to 79. The report under review is based on the annual returns from 64 unions, including one Federation.

The total membership of the reporting unions at the end of the year was 141,578 as against 132,475 at the beginning of the year. Important among the groups which contributed to this rise were "Engineering" - 44.15 per cent., "Textiles" - 40.33 per cent. and "Miscellaneous" - 14.97 per cent. The groups which recorded decreases in membership were "Railways (including Railway Workshops) and Transport other than Tramways", "Printing Presses", "Seamen" and "Docks and Port Trusts". The decreases in the membership of "Printing Presses" and "Seamen" were particularly marked, being 49.34 per cent. and 41.05 per cent. respectively.

The position as regards female membership showed improvement during the year. In the year 1939-40, there were 21 unions having 6,713 female members on their rolls; during the year under report, however, the numbers increased to 26 and 7,089 respectively, the highest so far reported.

Finances of Unions.- The principal liability of the majority of the unions was the general fund. It formed the only liability of 25 unions, while four unions had liabilities other than the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was 314,490 and other liabilities amounted to 71,902 as against total assets amounting to Rs. 386,392. The figure for total assets includes ~~an~~ an amount of Rs. 109,569 for unpaid subscriptions due, the real value of which is doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of "Railways (including Railway Workshops) and Transport other than Tramways" and the "Textiles" groups, amounting to Rs. 31,791 and Rs. 30,853 respectively. Securities valued at Rs. 93,980 were held by nine unions, of which the Bombay Postmen Union held securities worth nearly Rs. 41,000.

Number and Membership of Unregistered Unions.- According to the quarterly review published in the Labour Gazette, at the beginning of the year the number of the trade unions registered and unregistered in the Province of Bombay was 180 with a membership of 187,732. Eighty of the unions were registered under the Act. Of the remaining unions, 30 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department.

(Labour Gazette, Bombay, March,
1942.) ✓ +

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Recognition of Trade Unions:
Views of N.W.R. Employees' Union. ✓

Reference was made at page 1 of our April 1942 report to the draft Bill to amend Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to provide for "recognition" of trade unions. The N.W.R. (North Western Railway) Employees' Union, Lahore, has made the following criticism about the provisions:

Conditions of Recognition.- Regarding the power given to Provincial Governments to prescribe minimum strength of unions for recognition, the suggestion is made that this provision would not be fair to railway unions, the field of activity of which embraces several thousands of employees over a route mileage of several thousands of miles.

Rights of "Recognised" Union.- As regards the rights of recognised unions, prescribed in the Bill, the N.W.R. Employees' Union disagrees with the exclusion of individual matters from negotiation between employers and Unions. Where an individual has been gravely wronged, or wronged in a manner which involves a principle affecting a class of its members, it should be a subject for representation and the employer should enter into negotiations with the Union executive. In support of this demand, the Union refers to (i) the existing provisions in the General Manager's Guidance Notes in dealing with Unions on the N.W. Railway, and (ii) the Railway Board's recent communication to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the subject of policy regarding individual cases presented by recognised unions addressed to railway administration.

As regards the provision that an employer need not re-open cases where he has arrived at a certain conclusion whether in agreement with the Union executive or not, the Union suggests that a limitation of 6 to 12 months can be placed on the re-opening of such cases; this should also be possible if new facts are advanced.

(The Railway Herald, Karachi, 18-5-1942.) ✓

Attempts to form Federation of Labour Unions in Mysore. ✓

Attempts are being made to form a federation of labour associations in Mysore State. This is the result of the new Mysore Labour Act which, inter alia, provides for the formation of trade unions. Several labour associations that have come into existence under the new Labour Act have now come forward with proposals to establish a central labour organisation and a special sub-committee has been busy drafting the constitution and rules of the labour federation. A conference of representatives of the several labour associations was held recently, when Mr. K.T. Bhashyam was elected president of the Mysore Labour Federation. The conference resolved to represent to Government to consider giving statutory recognition to the Mysore ~~Lab~~ State Labour Federation.

(The Times of India, 26-5-1942.) ✓

Miscellaneous

Recognition of Trade Unions:
Views of Bombay Millowners' Association on Draft Bill to amend Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 ✓

Reference was made at page 1 of our April 1942 report to the draft Bill to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to provide for recognition of trade unions. Opposition to certain proposals in the draft Bill has been expressed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association in a letter to the Government of India. The Committee asserts that employers should not, under any circumstances, be compelled by statute to recognise unions and points out that where a trade union consists of bona fide workers, is managed by representatives of workers, adopts strictly trade union methods in securing redress of its members' rights, and is further in a position to impose its will upon its members in securing due observance of all the agreements and undertakings given by it in its negotiations with employers, then recognition by employers follows as a matter of course without any compulsion whatsoever.

The Millowners' Association is also unable to accept the Government's recommendation to employers to adopt a liberal policy towards trade unions and its workers even though they may feel some doubt regarding the leaders of those trade unions. The Association points out that their experience in Bombay has unfortunately been extremely bitter. Active leadership and initiative in all trade union matters pass, owing to the lack of workers in sufficient numbers with experience in trade union methods, into the hands of outsiders "with destructive views, and these leaders have not hesitated to use the union machinery in their hands as a convenient weapon for advancement of their personal aims and objects, regardless of the interests of the union which they are supposed to represent and of the industry affected." To substantiate this statement, the letter quotes from published reports of enquiry committees appointed by the Government in regard to labour disputes. The Millowners' Association, however, stresses that the proper time to go into the various proposals of the Government will be when the war is over and when normality has been restored. For the duration of the war, it suggests for those provinces which have not passed any such labour legislation like that of the Bombay Act, to have a statute on the lines of the Bombay Trade Disputes Act of 1934.

(The Statesman, 24-5-1942.) ✓

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Prisoners as Labour Battalion:
U.P. Government adopts Scheme. ✓

The U.P. Government has finally approved a scheme for forming a labour battalion of prisoners at present confined in the U.P. jails. The strength of the battalion will be 1,400 and it will work under the Defence Department of the Government of India. It is learned that about 2,000 prisoners have volunteered their services for war. The Government will now select the required number and give them training in a camp. The prisoners will be given the same wages and facilities as members of other labour corps, and they will be set free after the war when the battalion will be disbanded.

(The Statesman, 30-5-1942.) ✓
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Hours

Reduction of Hours of Work in Jute Mills from 60 to 54 per Week.

The virtual closing of the Port of Calcutta has had repercussions on the jute mill stocks. Commercial hessians are up by over 85 millions. Sacking goods on commercial account register an advance of 45 million yards. As regards goods held on Government account, sand-bags show an increase of 22.5 million yards. Overhead, therefore, the increase in stocks at the end of April as compared with the end of March amounts to almost 36 per cent. Government goods have increased by 22 per cent. and commercial goods of all sorts by 42 per cent. though the increase is much more marked in hessian at 59 per cent. than in heavy goods at 31 per cent. Steps had to be taken to regulate production nearer to the offtake and at a meeting in the first week of May 1942, the Indian ~~Mills~~ Jute Mills Association decided to recommend that working hours should be reduced from 60 per week to 54, and that, at the same time, 10 per cent. of the looms should be sealed. It was decided that this alteration should be brought into force from 18-5-1942.

At the same time it was agreed, as a measure of compensation to the mill labour force, to increase the "amenity allowance" (koraki) from a monthly payment of one rupee to a flat rate payment of twelve annas per week. The increase now granted is tantamount to giving the labour the same return for 54 hours week as they have been receiving for 60.

(The Indian Finance, 9 and 16-5-1942.)

Wages

Increase of Dearness Allowance in Coimbatore

*In view of the recent further rise in the cost of living index since the dearness allowance of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was granted in August 1941, the South Indian Millowners' Association has recommended member mills to increase the present dearness allowance of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 2 annas in the rupee to $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. or 3 annas in the rupee. This is to be continued so long as the need exists and the Mills can afford the expenditure. This increase is to come into force from 1-5-1942. Together with the bonus, this increase amounts to $27\frac{1}{12}$ per cent. in wages.

(The Hindu, 22-5-1942.)

Industrial Relations

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Industrial Relations in War Time: Government of India's Letter to Employers' Organisations. ✓

The Government of India is reported to have sent on 3-3-1942 a letter (No. L1882) to the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, and to the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi, regarding the handling of labour in war time. The letter ~~recalled~~ recalled recent discussions with representatives of these organisations and of labour in regard to the maintenance of morale among labourers in the event of enemy action and states that the Government is satisfied that one of the first essentials is that there should be close contact between representatives of the employees and their employers, and that in order to ensure such close contact in present circumstances it is necessary that employers should adopt a liberal policy in regard to the recognition of trade unions. The Government of India, it is pointed out, will be consulting these and other organisations regarding its proposals for compulsory recognition of trade unions, but it is suggested that the two organisations would be well advised to issue at once general advice to their members that they should adopt a liberal policy towards any trade unions of their workers even though they may feel some doubts regarding the leaders of those trade unions.

Some ~~n~~ further measures indicated as being useful for the purpose in view are the use of propaganda. The nature of propaganda to be used and the methods of using it can probably best be decided by individual employers, but the Government thought it essential that any such propaganda should be ~~n~~ accompanied by the adoption of every possible measure to ensure the safety and comfort of workers. The adequate provision of slit trenches for workers stand out as a first essential, while storing within factory premises of stocks of grain with adequate arrangements for cooking, ~~n~~ and other welfare works of a similar nature may prove of great value. Provided that the worker sees that ~~the~~ steps are being taken to look after his interests and to ensure his safety and comfort, he will probably be readier to face the dangers and difficulties likely to result from enemy action.

(The Railway Herald, Karachi, 18-5-1942) ✓

Employment

Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Ordinance, 1942. ✓

The Government of India has promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, so as to make the provisions relating to the continuance in service of essential personnel more specific.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 28-5-1942, pages 709 to 710.) ✓

Separation Allowance to Government Employees in
Evacuated Areas in Bengal. ✓

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With a view to assisting their employees ~~to meeting~~ the additional expenditure involved in evacuating their families from certain places in the coastal belt of the province, the Government of Bengal proposes to declare certain areas as "non-family" areas. Any Government servant in a "non-family area" who, in accordance with the advice given by the Government, has sent his family away will be given a separation allowance. This allowance will range between ten and twelve per cent. of the monthly pay of an employee.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-5-1942.) ✓*

Bengal Essential Services (Maintenance) Rules, 1942.

The Government of Bengal has published the Bengal Essential Services (Maintenance) Rules, 1942, extending to the whole of Bengal. The Labour Commissioner, Bengal, is empowered to issue directions regulating the wages and other conditions of service of persons or any class of persons engaged in any employment or class of employment declared under section 3 of the Ordinance to be an employment or class of employment to which the Ordinance applies, subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) that directions regulating the wages and other conditions of service of persons engaged in such employment or class of employment shall not be given except after a summary inquiry in respect of such wages or conditions of service and due consideration of the views of the representatives of the employers of such persons as well as of the representatives of such persons;
- (b) that in case of any dispute between such persons and their employers any direction increasing or reducing the wages or allowances of such persons by more than twenty per cent. of the wages or allowance which were being drawn by such persons at the time when such dispute arose shall not be given without the previous sanction of the Provincial Government;
- (c) that any direction specifying any condition on which the service of any person engaged in such employment or class of employment may be terminated shall not be given without the previous sanction of the Provincial Government.

(Notification No. 788 Com.(C.D.) dated
26-5-1942; The Calcutta Gazette, Part I,
dated 28-5-1942). ✓*

Control Measures.

Orissa House Rent Control Order, 1942. ✓

The Orissa Government has gazetted the Orissa House Rent Control Order which (1) prohibits the charging of salami or premium by landlord when leasing a house; (2) provides for the continuation of existing tenancies from month to month and bars any increase in rent; and (3) appoints a Controller who is empowered to fix "fair rent". (Notification No. 2472-D(c) dated 25-5-1942; The Orissa Gazette Extraordinary dated 25-5-1942.) *

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Reducing Imports into India:
Government Scheme. ✓

The Government of India is reported to be engaged in working out a scheme for further curtailment of imports into India. The main object of the proposal is to weed out imports of non-essentials, thereby providing space for war material to come out to India in larger quantities.

When the import control system was first introduced, the main objective was economy in the use of difficult currencies, particularly dollars. Subsequently, control has been used in a few cases in connection with the conservation of supplies goods that were in great demand everywhere for war purposes, particularly metals such as steel and aluminium. The emphasis has now shifted. Considerations of currency and supply are as important as ever, but even more important is the necessity for economy in the use of shipping.

(The Times of India, 11-5-1942.) ✓

Madras Government applies House Rent Control Order, 1941,
to entire Province.

The Madras House Rent Control Order, 1941, has been made applicable to the whole of the Madras Province, except the City of Madras, and owners of house properties in the mofussil, including hill stations in the Province, have been prohibited from changing any rent in excess of fair rent as entered in the records of the municipality or the local board concerned.

According to the Order, Revenue Divisional Officers have power to hold a summary inquiry and determine the fair rent in any case where, on complaint or otherwise, they have reason to believe that excessive rent is being charged. Such fair rent is to be fixed with due regard to the prevailing rents for the same or similar accommodation in similar circumstances during the 12 months prior to April 1, 1940, and to the rental value for that period as entered in the records of the municipality or the local board.

(The Statesman, 5-5-1942.) ✓

Cochin House Rent Control Order, 1942. ✓

Under the Defence of India Act and the rules framed thereunder, the Cochin Government have issued ~~provisionally~~, the "Cochin House Rent Control Order of 1117" (1942) prohibiting the landlords of the State from charging any rent in excess of the "fair rent" in respect of houses. After the announcement of this order, an increase in rent shall be permissible only where some addition, improvement or alteration not included in the necessary repairs which are usually made to houses in the local area has been carried out at the landlord's expense since the rent was fixed. Such increases in rent, it is stated, shall not exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the cost of such addition, improvement or alteration and shall not be chargeable until such works have been completed. Any dispute ~~with regard to~~ ^{between} the landlord and the tenant in regard to any increase in rent claimed will be decided by the Controller who will be the Tahsildar (Revenue

Official) of the Taluk concerned. When on a written complaint, the Controller has reason to believe that the rent in houses within the local limits to which the order is applied is excessive, he shall hold a summary enquiry and if he is satisfied that the rent of the houses is excessive, he is empowered to determine the fair rent to be charged for the houses. The order extends to such areas within the State as are notified by the Government.

(The Hindu, 5-5-1942.) ✓

Food-Grains Control Order, 1942 ✓

On 21-5-1942, the Government of India promulgated the Food-grains Control Order, 1942, which prohibits any one from engaging in any undertaking which involves the purchase, sale, or storage for sale, in wholesale quantities of any food-grain except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by the Provincial Government.

(Notification No. Econ. Ad (P.C. 550/52 dated 21-5-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 21-5-1942, pages 599 to 602.) ✓

Food-Grains (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1942

The Government of India promulgated on 28-5-1942 the Food-grains (Futures and Options Prohibitions) Order, 1942, which prohibits any one save with the permission of the Central Government from entering into any "futures in foodgrain" or pay or receive, or agree to pay or receive, any margin in connection with any such futures, or from entering into any options in foodgrain. The Order also prohibits any one from permitting his premises being made use of for concluding any futures or options with regard to food grains.

(Notification No. Econ. Ad. (P.C.) 7/41 (A) dated 28-5-1942: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 28-5-1942, pages 711 to 712.) ✓

Price Control

Control of Hotels in Bombay ✓

* 1942 The Government of Bombay issued an order during the middle of May under the Defence of India Rules for the control of hotels and lodging houses. It will come into force with immediate effect in Bombay City, Lonavla and Khandala and may be extended to other places by notification. The Controller, appointed under the Order, is authorised to inquire into complaints of excessive charges in hotels or lodging houses and to fix a fair rate. A charge in excess of the fair rate fixed is not allowed and the management of a hotel or lodging house is required to put up a list of approved rates.

(The Times of India, 19-5-1942.) ✓

Curb on Strikes and Lock-outs:
Central Government Amends Section 81-A of Defence of
India Rules. ✓

The Government of India has gazetted a notification to amend Sec. 81A (1) (vide pages 14 to 16 of our January 1942 report) of the Defence of India Rules. The amended section empowers the Central Government to issue general or special orders to make provision:

- (a) for prohibiting, subject to the provisions of the order, a strike or lock-out in connection with any trade dispute;
- (b) for requiring employers to observe for such period as may be specified in the order such terms and conditions of employment as may be determined in accordance with the order;
- (c) for referring any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided in the order;
- (d) for enforcing for such period as may be specified in the order the decisions of the authority to which a trade dispute has been referred for adjudication;
- (e) for any incidental and supplementary matters which appear to the Central Government necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order;

Provided that no order made under clause (b) -

- (i) shall require an employer to observe terms and conditions of employment less favourable to the workmen than those existing in the undertaking any time within three months preceding the date of the order;
- (ii) where a trade dispute is referred to adjudication under clause (c), shall be enforced after the decision of the adjudicating authority is announced by, or with the consent of the Central Government."

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated
23-5-1942, page 905).

Post-war Reconstruction

Post-war Reconstruction Committee:
Meeting held on 22-5-1942.

The Post-war Reconstruction Committee (trade, international trade policy and agricultur policy) which was recently constituted, met in New Delhi on 22-5-1942, Sir Alan Lloyd, Commerce Secretary, presiding. Thirty members, out of 32, attended the meeting; Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, was also present. The meeting, it is learned, considered the question of prescribing conditions for the payment of the Government's contribution under the Excess Profits Tax compulsory saving scheme for developing industries. The meeting made several suggestions, which will now be considered by the Government and final decisions reached.

(The Statesman, 24-5-1942.) ✓

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Post-war Reconstruction in India:
Views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay.

Reference was made at pages 35 to 37 of our June 1941 report to the setting up by the Government of India of a Post-war Reconstruction Committee to consider the problem of transition from a war time to a peace time economy and to prepare such plans as might be considered desirable. This Committee was subsequently divided into the following five groups: (1) Labour and demobilisation, (2) Disposals and Contracts, (3) Public Works and Government purchases, (4) Trade, International trade policy and Agricultural developments, and (5) Co-ordination. A Consultative Committee of economists was also appointed to help the Committee in their work.

Though the main question of post-war reconstruction was thus to be considered by the Government of India, it would appear that the matter was also referred to the Provincial Governments. The Government of Bombay accordingly informed the Millowners' Association, Bombay, that it proposed to convene a conference of officials and non-officials representing the commercial and industrial interests of Bombay for an informal and preliminary discussion on the problems connected with post-war reconstruction. In a note outlining the points for discussion at the conference, the Government observed that the Province of Bombay was likely to feel the shock of change-over from war to peace time economy more than the less industrialised provinces, and though no effective consideration of the industrial problem could be made until the Government of India had declared its own policy, especially its future tariff policy, it would, in the meanwhile, be helpful if representatives of the commercial and industrial interests of Bombay would give any views and suggestions, especially with regard to the probable conditions in urban ~~an~~ industries and the effects on urban labour at the end of the war and during the period of transition to a peace-time organisation. In the opinion of Government, it was clear that the cessation of war orders might cause unemployment of labour and that the transition to utilising industries now employed on war orders for production for peace purposes might require considerable time and some dislocation of trade and business. This might mean an influx of labour from ~~the~~ industry, especially from the Munition and Ordnance factories, back to the villages, with a resultant surplus of agricultural labour and local distress in the rural areas of the Province. The Government of Bombay thought that it might perhaps be advantageous for industrial and commercial organisations now to start consideration of possible post-war problems and advise them both as to what information it would be desirable now to collect in order to help consideration of the problem and as to any legislative or administrative measures which they might undertake in order to assist the process of transition.

The conference met on 10-2-1942. As a result of the discussions which took place at the conference, the Government of Bombay invited the views of the commercial and industrial organisations on the desirability of considering at this stage the short-term post-war problems likely to arise in the Province of Bombay on account of the change-over from a war time to a peace time industrial economy and the measures which might be taken to tide over the possible dislocation of industry and labour. The matter was considered by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, which felt that the Government's energies should, for the time being, be solely directed to the all-important object of seeing the war through. There was no indication

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at present as to the nature and extent of reconstruction which would be necessary after the war, or the extent to which the country's finances would be strained during the war, and it was, therefore, suggested that these ~~might~~ might be gone into when the end of the war was in sight.

(Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for April 1942.) ✓

Production

Expansion of Steel Production in India. ✓

The Government of India, says a Press note issued by it recently, is giving all possible aid to a scheme for expanding India's production of finished steel by a further 300,000 tons per annum. The expansion will be effected by increasing the steel ingot capacity of an existing factory by some 400,000 tons per year. There is a sufficient surplus of pig iron capacity in the country, so no difficulty is apprehended in meeting the additional demand for pig iron required for increasing the output of steel ingots. The firm responsible for the scheme will finance it themselves, and their estimated outlay is Rs. 6.7 million. Measures to import the necessary plant and equipment are already in hand, and every effort is being made to launch the scheme as speedily as possible. It is estimated that when this and other expansion schemes already in hand are all completed, India's output of finished steel will be more than double the peacetime figure. The possibility of evolving indigenous substitutes for ~~tinned~~ plate, especially for use in munitions factories, has been engaging the attention of the Ordnance Factories Directorate of the Supply Department. As a result of recent investigations it has been decided that jute fabric treated with shellac will henceforth be used for making cylinders for holding shell cartridges, which had hitherto been made of ~~tinned~~ plate. Both jute and shellac being readily available in large quantities, it is expected that the use of shellac treated jute may play an important part in future substitutes.

(The Statesman, 30-5-1942.) ✓

Increased Production of Power-Alcohol as Motor Fuel ✓

In view of the present war situation, it is becoming increasingly necessary to augment the existing supplies of motor spirit by the domestic production of rectified spirit and power alcohol from surplus molasses, according to a communiqué issued by the Government of India. The Government of India understands that, while the plant necessary for the manufacture of rectified spirits can be produced in this country, plants for the production of power alcohol have to be imported from the United States of America. The Government is prepared to give all possible assistance in obtaining priorities for the supply and shipment of power alcohol plants to individuals and firms in India interested in the speedy production of ~~power alcohol~~ power alcohol from molasses.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-5-1942.) ✓

Development of Mineral Resources:
Utilisation Branch of Geological Survey of India established. ✓

The decision of the Government of India to establish a Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey marks an important stage in the development of India's mineral resources, says a Press note recently issued by the Government of India. The work of the Geological Survey consisted only in the discovery of mineral resources; it will now, by the formation of the utilisation branch, be able to carry the work a stage further and show the ways in which the less well-known of India's mineral resources can be utilised to the full. The country is being searched for minerals essential for war purposes and deposits which have not been visited for many years are now being re-examined. This new branch, estimated to cost Rs. 1.2 million in 1942-43, will provide the link between the possibilities envisaged in data provided in Geological Survey reports and the stage of commercial development. It will demonstrate the practicability of commercially establishing the production of minerals, ores, metals, etc., which have not previously been fully utilised in India. The ~~exploratory~~ exploratory work already done by the Geological Survey shows that the newly-formed utilisation branch will in time lead to the fullest possible utilisation of India's mineral wealth. Although this organisation has been set up to explore India's war potential in minerals, it will also make an important contribution to India's post-war potential, and may well become a permanent part of the Geological Survey of India.

(The Statesman, 16-5-1942.) ✓,

Preliminary Report of American Technical Mission ✓

The American Technical Mission, headed by Dr. Henry Grady, which arrived in India in the middle of April 1942, submitted on 22-5-1942 a preliminary report to the Viceroy. The object of the Mission, sent out by the Government of the U.S.A., was to devise ways and means of speeding up the war production programme of India so that India's production may become of greater value to the United Nations. Soon after its arrival in India, the Mission conferred with the Government of India and the leading industrialists, and later toured the principal production centres of India to obtain first-hand knowledge of Indian conditions. The main points brought out in the preliminary report submitted to the Viceroy are briefly noticed below:

Need for Speeding up Production.- The report points out that, even though war production has made a fairly good start in India, India's war effort has to be developed to a much greater extent if India is to become the arsenal of the Middle and Near East. For the fulfilment of this object, the Mission considered two kinds of help - immediate and long-term.

Immediate and Long Term Objectives.- Immediate aid included improvement of the available machinery by the removal of bottle-necks caused by shortage of machine tools and plant, and the speeding up of production by further organisation on western lines. To achieve this the Mission had already cabled to America thirty-five specific recommendations for machine tools, plant and skilled personnel, and according to a press statement made by Dr. Grady, the head of the

satisfactorily,

Mission, before he left Bombay, Washington has responded ~~splendidly~~ and material immediately required would reach India soon. The question of long term aid will be discussed by the Mission with President Roosevelt, the Department of State and the Board of Economic Warfare on its return to the United States. No details are given in the Preliminary report of the type of long term assistance which the Mission considers necessary, but it is presumed that it includes the despatch to India of heavy plant.

Suggestion for War Cabinet.- Various suggestions have been made by the Mission as to how India might adapt her governmental organisation to increase her war output. Though the Report has recommended no particular organisation, it is learnt that one of the suggestions is the creation of a War Cabinet which can effectively tackle the problems of supply, defence and transport on a co-ordinated basis.

Improvement of Transport & Communications.- With the strengthening of the Government organisation and the mobilisation of industry, the Mission thinks, the full conversion of peace-time production to a war-time basis may be brought about, while the shipment of tools and materials which it has requested by cable, coupled with the improvement of transport, communications and the handling of cargo at ports, will lay the groundwork for national production on a considerably augmented scale. The preliminary report therefore emphasises the possibility of extending output by improving upon the available machinery, taking steps to minimise congestion in harbours, and by increasing transport facilities. More stress has, therefore, been laid on the question of repairs.

Types and Quantities of War Material needed to be reviewed.- The Mission has asked the Government of India to review the plans of the military authorities with regard to quantities and types of war production in the ~~area~~ not only for India but also for the other United Nations in this sector of the war front. With the determination of objectives based on current military planning, the Mission will then recommend to the United States Government the sending of equipment for plant extensions and for the establishment of such new plants in India as the carrying out of the programme will require.

U.S. Technicians to be sent out to India.- In order to continue in the U.S.A. the work of securing for India the things needed to make the country increasingly effective in producing materials essential to the winning of the war, the Mission will maintain for the time being its organisation in Washington. Its representative will be attached as Economic Adviser to President Roosevelt's Representative in India who will act as a liaison officer and will be in close touch with the plan for developing India's war potentialities. There will also be sent to India on the basis of the Mission's recommendations a number of technicians and production executives who, under the direction of the Government of India, will work in the various plants and thus assist them to achieve the objectives for which the Mission was sent to India.

Continuation Work.- Speaking at a press conference on 22-5-1942 on the eve of his departure from Bombay to U.S.A., Dr. Grady, the Chairman of the Mission, said that the Mission, on its return to the United States, would confer with the President, the Department of State and the Board of Economic Warfare and give a report of its survey and the recommendations it had made to the Government of India. It would also have a number of recommendations to make to the United States Government in addition to the recommendations already cabled from India. The Mission would then promptly prepare a comprehensive report

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of its work in India for the Government of India and the Government of the United States. The function of the Mission, he said, was to make recommendations after investigating the ways and means by which the U. S. Government could assist India in augmenting her war production. The work of the Mission, therefore, had been directly related to the common war effort of the United Nations and was in no way connected with the post-war industrial and commercial problems of India.

(The Times of India, 22-5-1942.) ✓

Clothing

Stocking Cloth for Poorer Classes: Bengal Government to make wholesale Purchases.

It is understood that the Government of Bengal proposes to purchase several million pairs of dhotis from various mills in India in order to build a reserve for future consumption in the province. The step is being taken with a view to ensuring supplies for the province during any period of emergency. Details have not yet been settled.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-5-1942.) ✓

Food Policy

Establishment of Eating Houses in Madras: Government promises Financial Assistance.

According to a Press Communiqué issued by the Government of Madras on 30-5-1942, the Government has had under consideration the question of the supply ~~in~~ of cooked food to the inhabitants of ~~the~~ Madras City during an emergency.. Financial assistance and various assurances have been given to the proprietors of professional eating houses. The Government also circularised a scheme for the supply of cold food packages, but it has been abandoned for lack of support. This was perhaps due to firms not requiring such assistance as they had arranged to feed their own staff. The Government suggested to all firms to start such messes now and advise their employees to patronise them. The Government, however, recognises that the poorer classes, generally speaking, cannot organise such messes. Financial assistance has been offered to public-spirited people, recommended by the Mayor's City Safety Committee, who are willing to run eating houses for feeding the very poor. It is hoped that greater use will be made of this assistance. The Government have also decided to finance the Salvation Army in opening three eating houses in the poorer parts of the City and volunteers of all castes and creeds will be welcome to help to run these eating houses. Hot meals at competitive prices will be provided.

(The Hindu, 31-5-1942.) ✓

War Risk Insurance

Insurance of Employees against War Injuries: Scheme under Contemplation of Government.

In addition to the War Injuries Scheme, which only provides the

minimum amount of relief to cover all classes of the population, the Government of India is reported to be contemplating the introduction of a scheme for insuring employees against war injuries, thereby bringing the total relief up to approximately the scale of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The tentative scheme on which the views of employers' organisations have been invited by Government provides for the payment of pensions and allowances to members of the public who are temporarily or permanently incapacitated by war injury from carrying on their usual occupations. Every one living on a salary or wages is covered by the scheme and the pensions and allowances are the same for all irrespective of status or income. The full rate, which is payable only in the case of total incapacity, is Rs. 20 per month for men and Rs. 16 for women. Provision is also being made for the dependents of the injured persons and to the widow and children in case of death of the wage earner.

(The Times of India, 28-5-1942.) ✓

Insurance of Immovable Property against War Risk: Bengal Enquiry.

Since the outbreak of the war, the Government of India, at different times, passed Ordinances and framed schemes under them to cover possible risks to life, limb and property that may arise out of any hostile enemy action in this country. But immovable property, other than buildings, plants and machinery of factories as defined under the Factories Act, 1934, has been hitherto excluded from the scope of these schemes. While both the Central and the Provincial Governments have recognised that it is desirable to close this gap in the existing system of war insurance schemes in the country, the practical difficulties which seem to confront ~~them~~ the application of any scheme of insurance to immovable property in general have so long prevented a close examination of the problem. In response to representations from several quarters, the Bengal Government has, however, now decided to institute an immediate detailed enquiry into the subject, and has accordingly appointed a Committee consisting of persons connected with the business of insurance and representing the interests of landholders ~~and~~ property owners of Calcutta.

Mr. D.P. Khaitan is the Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. D.L. Mazumdar, I.C.S., Additional Deputy Secretary, Commerce and Labour, the Secretary. The Committee has been requested to submit its report to the Provincial Government by the middle of ~~June~~ June 1942.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 25-5-1942.) ✓

List of the the more important publications received in this Office
during May 1942. ✓

Economic Conditions.-

Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1940-41. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1942. Price Rs. 1-10 or 2s.5d.

Agriculture.-

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, North-West Frontier Province for the year ending 30th June 1941. Printed and Published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, North-West Frontier Province, Peshawar, 1942. Price Rs 1/10/- or 2 0-2-6.

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-
Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Ajmer-Merwara for the year ending 30th June, 1941. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1942.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) The Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore. Speech by L. Padampat Singhania, M.L.A., Chairman; Fifth Annual General Meeting, 28th May, 1942. The Star Press, Cawnpore.
- (2) Fifth Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1941-42. Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 28th May, 1942. The Star Press, Cawnpore. 1942.

Social Conditions.-

- (1) Census of India, 1941. Vol. XIV. Baluchistan. Imperial, Provincial and Sample Tables. By Major E.H. Gastrell, O.B.E., Superintendent of Census Operations, Baluchistan. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs. 3-4-0 or 5s.3d.
- (2) Census of India, 1941. Vol. XV. Coorg. Tables. By D.H. Elwin, O.B.E., I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.1-14-0 or 2s.9d.
- (3) Census of India, 1941. Vol. VI. Punjab. Tables. By Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazli-i-Ilahi, P.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Punjab. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs. 3-2-0 or 5s.
- (4) Census of India, 1941. Vol. X, North-West Frontier Province. Tables. By LD. Scott, I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, North-West Frontier Province. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 2-10-0 or 4s.3d.
- (5) Census of India, 1941. Vol. XI. Orissa. Tables. By R.C.S. Bell, I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Orissa. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 4-2-0 or 6s.6d.
- (6) Census of India, 1941. Vol. II. Madras. Tables. By D.H. Elwin, O.B.E. I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 3-8-0.
- (7) Census of India, 1941. Vol. V. United Provinces. Tables. By B. Sahay, I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, U.P. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs.5-6-0 or 8s.6d.

Miscellaneous. -

Marketing Series No. 33. Agricultural Marketing in India. Handbook of the Quality of Indian Wool. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Annas 8 or 9d. ✓