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References to the I.L.O.

The Communique issued by the Government of India announcing the date and agenda of the 15th Session of the International Labour Conference and inviting recommendations from organised representative associations of employers and workers to guide Government in the nomination of non-Governmental delegates to the Conference has received wide publicity in the Indian press. The communique has been published by the Times of India of 25-10-30, the Hindustan Times of 26-10-30, the Pioneer of 24-10-30, the Hindu of 24-10-30 and by all the ^{other} leading papers.

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The Times of India of 20-10-30 publishes a summary of the replies forwarded by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, to the Government of India in reply to the questionnaire issued by the latter on the Regulation of Hours of Work on Board Ship.

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The I. L. O. received considerable publicity when Mr. S.C. Joshi, the Indian Workers' delegate to the 14th Session of the Labour Conference, was entertained at a meeting convened by the members of the Currency Association, Bombay, to congratulate Mr. Joshi on his return from the Labour Conference. Mr. Joshi addressing the meeting described ~~to~~ his experiences at the Conference and compared the conditions of labour in the various European countries which he visited with Indian conditions and expressed the hope that, with the help of Geneva, similar conditions will be established for the workers of India in the near future.

A summary of Mr. Joshi's speech is published in the Times of

India of 2-10-30.

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The Unionist, Nagpur, the organ of the Central Provinces branch of the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union, publishes in its October issue (Vol. II - No. 7) the report of the Indian workers' delegation to the 14th Labour Conference dealing with the work done at the Conference by the Delegation (For summary of the report see page 5 of the Report of this Office for September 1930).

* * * * *

Young Utkal, a Weekly from Cuttack, Orissa, publishes in its issue of 17-10-30 (Vol. IV - No. 43) an editorial article under the caption "Position of Feudatory States in Separate Orissa Province" in which it has invited the special attention of this Office to the system of forced labour prevailing in the Orissa Feudatory States. The article states that forced labour is not only prevalent in the states but that it has been recently legalised. The same Weekly published in its issue of 26th September 1930, an article on "Forced Labour in Backward Orissa States". The article is reproduced in extenso in the section of this report dealing with conditions of labour (See page 16-18)

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The General Letter issued by the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Union in its October issue (Vol. IX - No. 7) publishes an editorial article on the work of the 14th Session of the Labour Conference. The article is based on the Geneva article on the above subject which has been supplied to the Indian Press by this Office. Besides giving a summary of the work of the session, the article briefly describes the working of the International Labour Organisation.

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The Hindustan Times of 27-10-30 publishes an article under the heading "Indian States and the I.L.O." sent to it by this Office. Copies of the article have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute No. H.2/1693/30 of 30-10-30.

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The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, the organ of the B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union, publishes in its October issue (Vol.VII No. 1) a message sent by the Director of this Office under the heading "Forward; the Dawn is breaking". ~~The article~~ In the course of the article references are made to the extent to which the influence of the I.L.O. has been instrumental in securing improved conditions of labour for Indian workers.

* * * * *

The Indian Post, the organ of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, publishes in its August issue (Vol. I - No.2) an article on "India and the 14th International Labour Conference" contributed by Mr. K. E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office.

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Conditions of Labour.

Medical certificate for sick leave: Protest of G.I.P. Railway
workers.

A meeting of the G. I. P. Railway Accounts and Administrative Staff Unions was held on 12-10-30 at Bombay under the presidentship of Mr. A. H. Kirtiker, Bar-at-Law, to consider a new order issued by the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway, which required that even for a single day's absence owing to illness workers in the G. I. P. Railway should produce medical certificates. Mr. S. C. Joshi, ^{the} Indian workers' delegate to the 14th International Labour Conference, was one of the speakers at the meeting. The meeting adopted the following resolution:-

"This meeting views with considerable alarm the recent order of the Agent in regard to the production of medical certificates for absence from duty on account of sickness, even for a period of one day, inasmuch as it not only fails to achieve its main object in view, viz., rendering prompt and adequate help in case of serious illness, but also throws unnecessary and uncalled for restrictions on all classes of employees, who might not be seriously ill, and it takes away the privileges so far enjoyed by the staff. This meeting is, therefore, of the considered opinion that the ruling, far from being beneficial to the staff, is decidedly retrograde, and will cause incalculable suffering to the workers, and requests the Administration to cancel forthwith the said order". (The Times of India.-15-10-30).

Conditions of labour in Coimbatore Cotton Mills.

The following facts regarding the conditions of work of the operatives in the cotton mills of Coimbatore, South India, are taken from the published results of an investigation conducted by a local (Coimbatore) Committee appointed to enquire into the health and working conditions of the Coimbatore mill-workers. There are five cotton mills in Coimbatore and they employ between them a daily average of about 6,000 workers. A new mill with a capital of over Rs.6,00,000 is almost completed and is expected to start work before the end of the present year.

The workers are mostly illiterate and the average monthly wages earned by them vary from Rs. 5 to 50. Most of them live in far away villages in dirty surroundings due to the high rents in vogue in Coimbatore. In the absence of any cheap means of transport some workers have to walk nearly 10 miles a day to and ~~fro~~ from their work, thereby impairing their health and efficiency. The mill authorities ~~x~~ have not provided any free quarters.

Each cooly has to work for 10 hours a day in two five-hourly shifts. Some have to work both in the fore-noon and after-noon, some in the fore-noon and night, and some in the after-noon and night. The coolies doing forenoon and night work are particularly handicapped as they have to make two journeys to and from the mills, a considerable task for those living in distant villages.

The general appearance of the average worker could only be called fair and his health poor ~~and~~ fair. Many of them were found to be prone to headaches, fatigue, cough, indigestion and dyspepsia. The medical relief afforded by the mills is of a very rudimentary nature, only first aid being given when the condition requiring it is not of a serious nature. The more serious cases, including accidents, are sent to the Government Hospital for treatment.

The investigation further revealed that there are no Co-operative Societies, no recreation ~~of~~ education facilities and no mid-wifery aid. No maternity leave is granted to women and no maternity benefits. Among the complaints made ~~kk~~ to the Committee by the workers were (1) inadequacy of tiffin-sheds in the mills, (2) bad effects of night-work owing to lack of proper facilities, (3) lack of general medical aid. Complaints were made to them also with regard to low pay, heavy fines, insecurity of service and overwork. The report concludes

with the remarks that the mill labourer has the odds against him since he has to cope with strenuous and tedious work, especially night work, and that the general health and efficiency of the labourers would be very much improved if suitable housing accommodations within easy reach of the mills could be provided. This ought not to be difficult, for, there is plenty of available land adjoining most of the local mills.

(Taken from The Indian Labour Review,
Coimbatore (Vol. III. No. 7) September
1930.)

Proposals for economy in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs
Department.

According to the statistics published in the Annual Report of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, for the year 1928-29, (reviewed at pages 26-29 of the report of this Office for May 1930), the Department employs altogether a staff of 129,902 workers. Of these, 28,251 are sub-postmasters and clerks on the time scale, 22,094 urban postmen and 9,003 village postmen, 1,521 branch postmasters (departmental) and 16,446 branch postmasters (extra-departmental) and 15,322 runners and 13,367 inferior servants. At the close of the year 1928-29, the Department, (according to the above Report), showed a deficit of nearly 5.4 millions rupees and the first half of 1930 saw a continuing deterioration of the financial position of the Department. The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, therefore, ^{invited} from the Heads of Circles and others generally, constructive proposals for effecting economy in the Department. From the suggestions received by him, the Director General has arrived ^{at} certain decisions which ^{he} has communicated in a circular letter on the 8th September 1930 to all Heads of Circles for necessary action and

report. The decisions of the Director General, as far as they relate to the employees of the Department, are as follow :-

1. Avoidance of unnecessary transfers.
2. Reduction of the number of deliveries in large cities. The Heads of Circles are to consider this question in the case of each large city in their jurisdiction and try to reduce the number of deliveries. A reduction in the number of deliveries is to be accompanied by a reduction in the numbers of postmen, the number of clearances of letter boxes and reduction of the staff of letter-box peons. The men thus set free are to be absorbed as far as possible in other branches of the postal department.
3. The abolition of unimportant town Sub-offices.
4. Reduction of the number of runners on the lines where double sets are entertained for the ~~safety~~ safety of mails and the introduction, as far as possible, of the single runner system instead.
5. Withdrawal of office bicycles from delivery peons and payment to them at foot rates on their purchasing bicycles for themselves (under consideration).
6. Introduction of labour-saving appliances.
7. Reduction of the staff of mail overseers, owing to the increased use of motor services for the conveyance of mails.

Though a large number of postal and Railway Mail Service employees will be thrown out of service as the result of these decisions, ^{it} is expected that the retrenchment will not cause any considerable hardship because of the provision for simultaneous absorption in other departments, contemplated in decision No. 2 given above. The Director General has assured ^{the employees} in his circular letter, that it is contrary to ~~this~~ express wishes "that any economy should be practised which would adversely affect the conditions of service of the staff, their health or well being".

(The Unionist, Nagpur (organ of the C.P. Postal and R.M.S. Union), Vol. II No. 7)

Nevertheless, there are reasons to believe that postal employees are not satisfied with the above scheme of retrenchment. At the 9th Sessions of the Conference of the United Provinces branch of the

All India Postal and R.M.S. Union which was held on the 26th and 27th October, at Allahabad, resolutions were passed, expressing alarm at the contemplated measures of retrenchment and hoping that they would not be applied to the subordinate employees of the postal department.

(The Pioneer .- 28-10-30).

Indebtedness of Railway Employees: Scheme for Relief.

Lt.-Col. H. A. J. Gidney, President, Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association of India, has addressed a memorandum to the Secretary of the Railway Board, Government of India, embodying his suggestions for effectively dealing with the problem of indebtedness of railway employees. The memorandum states that 50 per cent of the officers and 90 per cent of the subordinates of the railway service are ~~in~~ at present in debt. The chronic indebtedness of Anglo-Indian employees, according to Col. Gidney, is due to the following reasons:- (a) Improvidence, due to absence of thrift, (b) endeavour to maintain too high a standard of living, (c) illness etc., (d) high cost of giving education on European lines to their children, and (e) reduced wages and increased cost of living. The indebtedness of the Indian employees is attributed to the practice of borrowing money at exorbitant rates of interest for marriages, religious ceremonies and for litigation.

The memorandum points out ^{that} indebtedness and consequent financial worries impair the efficiency of the ~~employ~~^{employees} and that it is, therefore, to the advantage of the Railway Administration to free their employees from a chronic state of indebtedness, if it can be done at not too prohibitive cost. The scheme suggested in the memorandum for the achievement of this end is as follows :-

The appointment, for a limited period of time to each Division

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or District on each Railway, of a Personnel Officer, who should be selected more for his tact than the possession of a degree. These Officers should go into the closest contact with the staff, gain their confidence and draw up accurate details of their indebtedness. On completion of their duty their services need no longer be retained. These Personnel Officers will then jointly submit a confidential report on the debt of every employee on the Railway. This report will then be submitted to the Chief Auditor who, on receipt, will appoint a committee to examine it. This committee will place against each debtor-employee the amount of money that stands to his credit in the Provident Fund. In this way it can be ascertained if the employees debt can or cannot be paid from his Provident Fund. If it can, arrangements will be made with the Audit Department to utilize the Provident Fund to pay off these debts. Payment of such debts^{to} to be done by special Personnel Officers who will call the usurer^{to} to his office and pay off ~~the~~ debts, ^{and will} take possession of all bonds, etc., The Personnel Officer will enter into a legal agreement on behalf of the Railway with the employee to repay this advance in easy instalments from his monthly salary, together with interest at a rate he is in receipt of from the Railway authority for his Provident Fund. To prevent the possibility of an employe being stranded at the age of 55 when he retires by his Provident Fund having been employed ^{for} paying off his debts, every employe must be compelled to insure his life for an amount equal to that which has been withdrawn from the Provident Fund. To prevent employees getting into debt again, each employe must be required to enter into an agreement with the Railway Administration, ^{to the effect} that if he gets into ~~a~~ debt again he may be discharged and that he must ^{submit} a yearly financial statement to show that he is free from debt. (The Statesman .- 12-10-30).

Minimum Wages for Indian Labour in Ceylon: Proposal for Reduction.

The Government of India is understood to have intervened in the question whether the minimum wage of the estate labourers ^{in Ceylon} should be reduced. In view of the serious position of rubber, the Government recently appointed a committee to investigate and report on the case for reduction. The Government of India have now informed the Ceylon Government that before any reduction is effected in the minimum wage for Indian labour on Ceylon estates, the Government of India should be provided with a full statement showing the reasons for such a reduction, and explaining how it is proposed to distribute between the employers and the employed, the sacrifices which the situation may demand. (The Hindu.- 2-10-30).

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Factory Administration in the Punjab, 1929Conditions of work in the Punjab*

Number of Factories.- During the year under report the total number of factories, subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act, increased from 602 to 613. Of the newly registered factories, 6 were brought on the register by extending the provisions of the Act to cotton ginning factories employing not less than 10 persons on any one day during the year. 19 factories were registered during the year under review and 8 were removed from the Register of Factories, they having been permanently closed down.

Of the 613 registered factories, 521 actually worked and 92 remained closed throughout the year. Of those which remained closed, 78 were cotton ginning and pressing factories. The closure of such a large number of cotton ginning and pressing factories (i.e., 78 out of 394) is due mainly to the formation of pools at almost all big centres, and the depressed state of the cotton ginning and pressing industry in the province. The tendency on the part of the owners of these factories to form pools was greater during the year under report than in any of the previous years. The formation of such pools has been to the disadvantage of the labourers as it led to intensive work for a few to the exclusion of others: since the majority of cotton ginning workers are on daily wages, they gain nothing for the extra work they do. Pools have also led to considerable abuse and disregard of factory regulations relating to working hours, as a result, the inspection staff have been hard put to in preventing overworking in factories where the pool system was in operation.

Number of Operatives .- The total number of operatives in all factories was 49,875 in 1929 [Of the 49,875 workers, 41,986 were men, 7101 were women and 788 were children (758 boys, 30 girls)] as compared with 51,613 in 1928. This shows a decrease of 1,738 from the previous year. The marked decrease is in the case of cotton ginning factories and Railway workshops. The former show a decrease of 1,080 operatives from the previous year's figure, which is attributable to the pooling of cotton ginning factories resulting in fewer being worked and consequently a less number of workers being employed, as already stated. Returns from the Railway authorities show that 10,935 persons were employed in 1929 as against 12,125 in 1928. This shows a decrease of 1,190 operatives which is due to the advancement in labour-saving devices rather than a reduction in the work undertaken.

Certification of Children .- The total number of children certified by the certifying surgeons during the year was 1,003 as compared with 827 in the previous year. Of these, 548 were rejected as being either under 12 or over 15 years of age, 37 were declared to be medically unfit to work in a factory. No certificate was cancelled during the year.

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act, in the Punjab for the year 1929. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1930. Price: Re.1-6-0 or 2s. 1d. pp 32 + XVIII.

Inspections .- Of the 521 factories which worked during the year, 381 were inspected once, 97 twice and 15 thrice. The number of inspections, therefore, was 620 as compared with 667 during the previous year. Of the total number of inspections, 65 were made by night (before 5-30 A.M. or after 7 P.M.) resulting in 27 prosecutions for the overworking of labour. 28 inspections were made by district officials (ex-officio Inspectors). In addition to the above, a number of visits were paid to several industrial concerns with a view to bringing them within the purview of the Act. 52 special visits were paid to factories for the purpose of investigating accidents. 18 inspections were made by the officers of the Public Health Department who were notified as Additional Inspectors. 28 factories remained uninspected as compared with 30 during the previous year. Most of the uninspected factories were those which were found closed at the time of Inspector's visit.

Water Supply and Sanitary Conditions .- Water-supply throughout the province continued to be generally satisfactory and sufficient for the needs of the operatives. Lighting arrangements showed a slight improvement over the previous year, due chiefly to old factory premises being gradually given up and newly constructed factories with advanced lighting arrangements installed being used in their ~~places~~ places. The report states that the progress in this direction must be slow, but notes that improvement is distinctly noticeable. The sanitary conditions in factories remained much the same as reported in the previous year. In the case of old and congested factories very little could be done to improve ^{their} conditions without demolishing them entirely. Orders were issued in several instances for the construction of pukka drains and new and sanitary latrines and they were readily complied with.

Ventilation .- Ventilation in modern and newly erected factories was found to be good. In the case of smaller factories and printing presses which are situated in congested city areas it was necessary to issue orders for alterations in the existing methods of ventilation. Ventilation in cotton ginning and pressing factories remained much the same as in previous years. A further development in this respect is that all newly erected cotton ginning factories are being built in large open spaces with ample window and roof ventilation.

Humidification .- Rules with regard to the control of humidification in the cotton spinning and weaving mills were framed under section 37 of the Indian Factories Act and they came into force in May 1929 for a period of one year in the first instance. One of the principal rules is that live steam shall not be introduced into any work-room where the dry-bulb temperature exceeds 85°E. These rules applied to 3 mills and affected work-rooms in which on an average 730 operatives were employed daily. Spraying of roofs did much to keep down the temperature and enabled managers to comply with the rules. Some difficulty was, however, experienced during the 2 hottest weeks in May when ~~the~~ maximum high temperature for the past 10 years was recorded, and special means had to be adopted to keep down the temperature.

Wages of Labour .- The report notes that the cost of skilled and unskilled labour decreased considerably during 1929, and attributes the fall in wages to the general trade depression, which has caused increased unemployment and thus cheapened labour. Thus, in the category

of skilled labour while the average monthly wages of an engine driver was Rs. 44 in 1927 and Rs. 43 in 1928, in 1929 ~~his~~ his wages had fallen down to Rs. 41. A skilled weaver's average monthly wages were Rs. 40 in 1927, Rs. 38 in 1928 and Rs. 32 in 1929. The wages of unskilled labour also registered a corresponding decline. The average wage per day of a male worker working on a cotton gin which stood at Rs. 0-8-0 in 1927 and 1928 fell down to Rs. 0-7-0 in 1929. The corresponding figures for a women worker was Rs. 0-6-0 in 1927 and 1928 and Rs. 0-5-6 in 1929.

Health and Housing .- On the whole the health of factory operatives was reported to be good. There were no epidemics amongst factory workers. The larger perennial factories continued to provide housing accommodation for the majority of their employees at a lesser rent than could be obtained elsewhere. Little progress is reported either in the erection of new quarters or in maintaining those already in occupation during the year 1929. Visits to many of the quarters provided by employers show that whilst the buildings themselves are fairly well erected and sanitation is provided for, the houses are over-crowded and not too cleanly kept. In several instances it was found that a worker earning Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per month was renting accommodation at Rs. 2-8-0 a month and subletting part of it to other workers. The factory occupier places no restriction on such subletting, the result is that most of the quarters so provided are very much overcrowded. Less than 5 per cent. of all workers are housed in quarters provided by the factory-management, whilst the rest live in houses outside the factory premises where the Factory Inspection Staff has no jurisdiction.

Hours of Employment.- Hours of employment in all perennial factories remained within the limit of 60 hours per week. Textile factories took full advantage of the 60 hours a week fairly regularly throughout the year. Printing presses and iron foundries seldom exceeded 54 hours per week, whilst the Railway Workshops and other Government factories found 48 to 50 hours a week sufficient for their requirements except on rare occasions. Flour mills, oil presses and ice factories worked 24 hours a day, arranging shifts of workers so that the operatives were not employed more than 10 hours a day. Difficulties in persuading cotton ginning factories to ~~work~~ to factory regulations were not lessened during the year under report and it was necessary to institute 67 prosecutions against factory occupiers and managers for overworking their employees. All these prosecutions were successful, the average fine per case being Rs. 28. The report states that there is still considerable overworking in cotton ginning factories.

Welfare work.- The depressed state of trade throughout the year has not encouraged employers to start any new welfare schemes and little progress has been noticed in this respect. Several well organised factories continued to take an interest in the welfare of their employees after working hours and there is ~~considerable~~ considerable evidence that the interest taken by the employers was appreciated, but much sound welfare work which could be accomplished by factory owners and which would be of benefit both to the employers and the employees remains to be done. ⁷ factories ~~now~~ maintained medical dispensaries and in certain cases ^{also} a whole-time doctor who is available free of charge both to workers and their families. Creches have been started in 2 factories for the benefit of women workers whose children remain

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with them during their term of duty in the factory.

Children in Carpet factories .- During the year under report Government considered the possibility of improving conditions of child workers in carpet factories which are at present not amenable to the Indian Factories Act. The owners of the carpet factories expressed their willingness to consider to some extent the welfare of their child workers and put ~~for~~ forward proposals for the limiting of the hours of work in carpet factories, providing for their education and assuring that regular holidays would be observed. The adoption of such proposals would certainly be a step in the right direction and would go a long way towards improving the conditions of workers in carpet industry.

Accidents .- 990 accidents were reported to have occurred during the year as compared with 1,019 in the previous year. Of these 990 accidents, 14 were fatal, 47 serious and 929 minor accidents, the corresponding figures for 1928 being 29, 36 and 954 respectively. The decrease in the number of accidents is due to the decrease in the number of operatives employed, but the percentage of accidents actually shows a slight increase; it being 1.99 as compared with 1.97 during 1928.

Prosecutions .- During the year under report 152 cases were instituted against the occupiers and managers of 47 factories as compared with 130 cases against 41 factories in 1928. Of these, 137 resulted in conviction; in 6 cases the accused were acquitted and 9 cases were withdrawn. The increase in the number of prosecutions was necessary in order to prevent ~~the~~ ~~an~~ deliberate disregard of Factory Law. Fines inflicted show an average of Rs. 34 per offence. Whilst this is an improvement over previous years, the amount of fine is still quite insufficient to be of any real value, particularly for serious offences such as the illegal employment of women and children and not guarding dangerous machinery which might, and ~~it~~ did in some cases, lead to serious accidents. The report states that it is unfortunate that some of the factory occupiers and managers are those who have to be prosecuted year after year and there is no doubt that they deliberately violate Factory Law because it is profitable for them to do so.

Factory Administration in Bihar and Orissa, 1929*

Number of Factories, Operatives and Inspections.- The number of factories at work in Bihar and Orissa during 1929 was 303 as against 261 in 1928. The establishments added during the year amounted to 42, of which, however, 9 were re-instatements of factories previously struck off. 8 factories were removed from the Register during the year, and 11 remained closed but with a prospect of re-starting. The number of persons employed rose during the year by 626, from 68,100 to 68,726. The increase is mostly in railway workshops, foundries and generating stations. Of the 68,726 workers employed, 61,845 were men, 6,103 women, and 778 children (713 boys and 65 girls). The number of factories inspected during the year was 182, as against 154 in 1928; and the total number of inspections was 260 as against 220 in 1928.

Sanitation and Health of workers.- The rules regarding the provision of sanitary accommodation have been well observed. Exemption has been most sparingly given and there has been no reported case of an order being resisted. The most noticeable condition in this connection is that though ~~the~~ accommodation is provided, it is not, speaking broadly, very much desired by the operatives in rural districts and is not made full use of. During the year there was no observed case of insufficient or unhealthy drinking water. Having got rid of the worst cases of insufficient ventilation and day-lighting, the aim during the year was mainly to collect data upon which it may be possible to lay down a standard of lighting. The report states that it is the intention of the inspecting staff to obtain so far

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1929, Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa. 1930. Price Re. 1-4-0. pp 34.

as is practicable a comparison of the eyesight of operatives in insufficiently or improperly lighted factories with that of operatives in factories where the lighting is acceptable, and to take the result into account before fixing a minimum standard. Orders for the better night-lighting of factories continue to be passed. The health of employees appears to have been normal. No epidemic and no industrial disease has been observed.

Women and Children .- The decline in the number of women employed noted for several years was checked in 1929, and the female quota of the total increase in the number of persons employed was 421. The decline in the number of children, which was checked in 1928, again appears in the year under report, the figure being 156 less than in 1928. With 778 children, the ratio is roughly one child to every 88 adult workers.

Accidents and Fencing of Machinery .- Progress continued to be made in the ~~xy~~ style of fencings for machinery, and there were few accidents traceable to inadequate fencing. Bamboo and wooden fencings are being eliminated, and metal frames with expanded metal or wire-net panels are coming to be appreciated for their durability in spite of their cost. There was a decline in the number of fatal accidents from ~~43rd~~ 43 in 1928 to 21 in 1929 a figure not touched since 1923. The other classes of accidents increased, and the total was 2,163 as against 1,849 in 1928. Of the 2,163 accidents, 21 were fatal, 492 serious and 1650 minor accidents, the corresponding figures for 1928 being 43, 420 and 1386 in 1928.

Forced Labour in backward Orissa States.

Several previous references have been made in the reports of this Office to the existence of conditions of forced labour in ~~several~~ ^{different} parts of India, particularly in the more backward of the Indian States (See pages 29-30 of June 1929 Report; pages 27-31 of ~~the~~ July 1929 report and pages 28-33 of October 1929 report.). One of the worst parts of India in this respect is the province of Orissa, where there are a number of feudatory states, all of which are in a backward condition. Forced labour of various kinds are exacted from the poor and illiterate villagers of these states. The following article written by a native of one of these states and published in Young Utkal, a weekly ~~published~~ from Cuttack, Orissa, gives an objective account of the extent of forced labour in the Orissa States. The article is reproduced in full :-

"The various facts governing the administration of Orissa Feudatory States, local condition of the subjects and the measures adopted for educational and agricultural improvement, are generally not published in any newspaper and the Political Agent and Commissioner who is the advisor ~~to~~ ⁶⁶ the Orissa Chiefs, seals everything and scarcely reveals any-thing concerning the inward administration of the States, and every attempt is made to put matters of grave importance in perpetual darkness. The general public of the Orissa States, who have been intentionally kept in dark ignorance and out of touch with the influences of modern civilisation, for the sole satisfaction of luxury and pleasure of their masters, are silent and do not ventilate their grievances, misery and burden of various kinds of taxation and assessment, on pain of forfeiture of property and expulsion from the States. I ~~am~~ beg to bring to light the various kinds of forced

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labour prevalent in the Orissa States, specially in Keonihar as a specific instance. The question of the abolition of forced labour which has been a subject for deliberation in the International Labour Conference at Geneva has been treated as a mere scrap of paper by the Orissa Chiefs and the following is a summary of the various forms of forced labour for which village headmen are required to supply coolies:

1. For carrying camp equipments, luggages and furniture of the Ruling Chief, Dewan, officers ranging from Senior Divisional Officers to peons and forest guards ----- without any wages.
2. for transport of parcels of the state, and that of higher officers, from the railway station to head quarters and vice versa.
3. for shikar (hunting) of the chiefs and Dewan which is a daily occurrence and during the inspection of the Political Agent and Commissioner and on the occasion of the visit of the European and Anglo-Indian friends of the Dewan of the State without payment of any wages and forcing them to stay in jungles for days together in starvation.
4. for transporting a motor cars and vans without any wages over nullahs (fords).
5. for thatching palace walls without wages.
6. for drawing temple cars and for various other duties during the car festival.
7. for stacking rubble on the roads maintained by the State Public Works Department, and to properly dress the road, extending nearly 96 miles, for smooth driving of motor cars, without wages.
8. for repairing and morruming (macadamising) the petty roads not maintained by the State Public Works Department without wages.
9. for ~~constructing~~ constructing new roads and trestle-bridges by paying nominal wages to them.
10. for repairing the garden of the rajbati (chief) and clearing the compound without any wages.
11. for thatching school houses and boardings all over the State and repairing their compounds, in spite of payment of School-cess of 6 pies per ~~rupee~~ rupee by the Rayats (subjects).
12. for thatching police out-posts, barracks and repairing their compounds in return for a nominal wages.

13. for clearing the boundary line of the State Reserve lines and Protected jungle lines in return for nominal wages.
14. for transplanting trees in jungles and nourishing them, creeper-cutting, opening new forest block lines etc., by payment of nominal wages.
15. for thatching forest beat houses of the forest offices all over the state, inspite of payment of Nistar Cess of 1 anna per rupee by the rayats.
16. for constructing leaf huts during the visit of Political Agent^{use} and Commissioner, for any ceremonial function of the Chief, and at the halting stations of the Dewan and the Senior Divisional Officers on tour to the maffasil centres.
17. for extinguishing fire outbreaks in jungles at nights without payment of wages.
18. for transplanting trees and repairing roads without any payment of wages.
19. for carrying the Tamjans of the Senior Divisional Officers without wages and for drawing water without wages.

(Young Utkal, Vol. IV-No. 42, dated
26-9-30.)

Industrial Organisation.
Employers' Organisations.

The Indian Railway Conference, 1930.

The 27th Session of the Indian Railway Conference was held at Simla from 11 to 17-10-30 under the presidentship of Mr. P. Rothera, Agent, South Indian Railway. Besides Sir George Rainy, Railway Member of the Executive Council, and Mr. T. G. Russel, Chief Commissioner, Railway Board, sixty-five officers representing the various railway systems in India and Burma were present at the Conference. In his presidential address, Mr. Rothera made an appeal for 'speeding up' the railway system of India. While deploring the recent set-back which railway progress had received owing to conditions of ~~fm~~ financial stringency, he advocated that Indian railway systems, circumstanced as they are, should, instead of regarding road motor services as a competing agency with railways, encourage and develop them as an auxiliary medium to railways. A subject which was stressed by Mr. Rothera was the need for ensuring the contentment of railway workers, for which, he said, personal contact of the superior officers with the personnel of the lower ranks was an absolute necessity. After the speeches of Mr. Rothera, Sir George Rainy and Mr. T. G. Russel, the Conference resolved into four committees to consider the twenty-four items on the agenda. The main Conference again met on 15-10-30.

As the results of the deliberations of the Conference, many important decisions, mainly of a technical nature, have been reached. From the workers' point of view, however, the most useful service rendered by the Conference was the opportunity that it afforded for discussing the important subject of the establishment and maintenance

of closer relations and co-operation between the administration, staff and labour. The report of the Advisory Committee which was appointed to investigate and report on methods in use in railways and industries for maintaining personal contacts between administrations and their staffs was presented to the Conference. In the discussion which followed Sir Ernest Jackson, Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway, and Colonel Walton of the North West Railway, described at length the endeavours made by their respective railway systems to carry on "Welfare Work" among railway employees.

The Conference ended on 17-10-30.

Workers' Organisations.N.W. Railwaymen's Union: Unrest among Railway Workers.

There is considerable unrest at present among Indian Railway workers about the conditions of service obtaining in the railways. One of the exciting causes of the present discontent is the resentment generally entertained against the unsatisfactory ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances,} ~~from~~ the workers' point of view, ^{under} ~~in~~ which the last G.I.P. Railwaymen's strike was settled. (See the report of this office for April 1930, pages 16-17). Railway workers all over the country are particularly bitter against the railway administration on the score that many of the G.I.P. railway strikers who applied for reinstatement were not, contrary to the assurances of the Railway Board, reinstated in service. Railway workers are, therefore, planning to take concerted action and to try conclusions again with the administration. An emergent meeting of the Working Committee of the North Western Railway Union was held at the Union's headquarters at Lahore on 26-10-1930 under the chairmanship of Diwan Chaman Lall and several important resolutions formulating the demands of the workers and for holding a Conference of all railway unions at Delhi from 24th to 26th November 1930 were passed. The following are the more important of the resolutions passed at the Conference:-

Resolved that the General Secretary should address a requisition to the Government of India, demanding the setting up of a Board of Conciliation within four weeks. Resolved that the next meeting of the Central Council be fixed at Delhi on the 24th, 25th and 26th November, 1930. Resolved that arrangements be made immediately to enlist the support of every railwayman of the N.W.

Railway for the "Memorandum of grievances", and the President is hereby empowered to take charge of this duty as well as all propaganda along the line.

Resolved that an immediate circular be issued to all Railway Unions in India stating that:-

1. A dispute has arisen between the employees of the N.W.R. Union and the N.W.R. administration.

2. The points under dispute are:- (a) Increase in wages, (b) abolition of daily wage system, (c) recruitment of ~~staff~~ staff, (d) allowances, (e) hours of employment and periods of rest, (f) quarters, (g) holidays, (h) removal of racial discrimination, (k) uniforms, (l) medical aid and periodical examinations, (m), leave rules and leave reserve, (n) passes, (o) provident fund and gratuity (p) fines and debits, (q) insecurity of service and appeals, (r) removal of victimisation of Union workers, (s) facilities for ~~the~~ trade combinations, (t) passes for union officials and delegates, (u) formation of Works Councils to review individual grievances, (v) abolition of staff councils and (w) grievances of shop employees

Resolved that a Conference of all Railway Unions be called at Delhi on November 24 to 26, 1930, along with the Central Council of the N.W.R. Union in view of the fact that most of the grievances are common to all railway systems and suggesting joint action.

The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union have demanded the convening of such a conference, which demand the N.W.R. Union fully endorses:

"At the Conference ~~of~~ a "War Council" of all Railway Unions be formed and invested with complete Executive powers for concerted action in case of any eventuality arising".

It was further resolved that the following points be immediately raised by all Unions with the Railway Board:- (a) Full support of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union; (b) G.I.P. Railway strike settlement

The proposed conference would consider the following points:-

(1) Consideration of immediate measures to be adopted in case of the refusal by the Railway Board to effect a satisfactory settlement with the G.I.P. Railway strikers; (2) Immediate consideration of the contemplated scheme ~~being~~ suggested by Mr. A.M. Hayman and the Railway Board to form what amounts to a squad of black-leg labour to be utilised during a strike; (3) The policy of the Railway Board and Agencies to form "staff councils" on the one

side and failing to afford necessary assistance in the transaction of their business to the duly constituted Trade Unions; (4) Policy of the Head of the Personnel Department of the Railway Board and the action to be taken by the Railwaymen; (5) Increase in wages; (6) Statutory limitations of hours of work; (7) Institution of Works Councils in order to minimise and prevent arbitrary discharges dismissals and punishments; (8) Indian State Railway Leave Rules; (9) Leave Reserves; (10) Blocks in Promotion; (11) Indianisation; (12) Workers' representation in Railway Board; (13) other matters of general importance brought forward *at* the meeting of the Conference by the Unions!"

(The Times of India, 3-11-1930)

It is understood ~~that~~ that demands on the lines indicated above will be placed for consideration on the agenda of the next meeting of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which is to be held shortly.

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Economic Conditions.

The New Government Loan.

The Government of India issued its third loan this year on the 15th October. The first of this year's loans was issued last May and was for £7 millions sterling, while the second was an unlimited Rupee Loan issued in July, which brought in about Rs. 295 millions. This Rupee Loan, however, is said to have brought but little fresh money, the majority of the applications being for conversion. This will explain why the Government has been compelled to go once again in the money market and to offer 6 per cent for a total issue of 12 millions pounds.

This new sterling Loan has had a bad press in India. For one thing, Sir Basil Blackett who was Sir George Schuster's predecessor as Finance Member in the Indian Cabinet, had repeatedly told the Indian public that it would not be necessary for the Government of India to have recourse to foreign borrowings as there was enough money available in the country. Besides, at the present moment, money is a drug on the market both here and in Europe, and while Indian industries are able to raise loans at about 4 per cent, the Government's offer of 6 per cent is reckoned extravagantly high. The present loan is a terminable one, being in the shape of 1935-37 bonds. It is issued at par, and in spite of the 6 per cent rate offered, the India Office has had to requisition the aid of underwriters in its floatation. It is considered that these terms do justice neither to the credit worthiness of India, nor to the Indian tax payer who is now saddled with the burden of having to pay annually nearly 10 millions of rupees as interest alone. A third point about this new floatation which has provoked some hostile comments, is that the Government of India learned

of the new floatation and its terms only after the India Office in London had ~~it~~ already settled them. The question is put whether this was not a matter on which the Government of India should at least have been formally consulted, so that they could have had the opportunity of discussing the rate of the loan and its effect on the market and on economic conditions generally in this country.

This new Loan has been fully taken up.

The Indian Tariff Board on Galvanized Sheets.

The following resolution by the Commerce Department of the Government of India, announces the institution of an inquiry by the Tariff Board into the prices of galvanized iron and steel sheets imported into India :- "The Government of India have received an application from the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, requesting the Governor-General-in-Council, in exercise of his powers under Section 3(4) of the Indian Tariff Act, as amended by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act 1927, to increase the duty leviable on ~~gi~~ galvanized iron and steel sheets not fabricated under item 148 in Part VII of the import tariff on the ground that such sheets are being imported into British India at a price likely to render ineffective the protection intended to be afforded by such duty to similar articles manufactured in India".

In view of this application, the Government of India have decided that an immediate inquiry should be held by the Tariff Board with the following terms of reference :- To report whether galvanized sheets of British manufacture not fabricated are being imported into British India at such a price as is likely to render ineffective the protection intended to be afforded by duty imposed on such galvanized sheets under part VII of the second schedule of the Indian Tariff Act 1894 as

amended by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act 1927 to similar articles manufactured in India, and, if so, to consider

- (a) In what form and for what period the additional protection required should be given;
- (b) If the grant of a bounty on manufacture is recommended whether alone or in combination with an increase in duty, subject to what conditions and in what manner such bounty should be paid; and
- (c) If an increase in duty on galvanized sheet is recommended, what increase may be necessary in the duty on other articles made from galvanized sheet and chargeable with duty under part VII of the second schedule of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, and for what period and to make recommendations.

In the course of his address to the annual general meeting of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., the Chairman pointed out how severely the Company has been hit by the weakened financial situation of the Government which was its principal customer, and by the world-wide economic depression of the present time. A frequent criticism of the Company is that it has not yet secured the greatest measure of efficiency in management and output, and as if to forestall this criticism, the Chairman gave a brief summary of the possible production of the Company as computed by the Tariff Board and compared with the production already attained. He said "The Tariff Board estimated that we should produce a yearly average of 60,000 tons of pig iron available for the sale after meeting the requirements of our steel furnaces and foundries. Our average production of saleable iron for the three years April 1927 to March 1930 has been over 1,15,000 tons and we expect to increase this. The average production of rails was to be 1,95,000 tons a year; yet last year all the Railways in India ordered from us only 121,000 tons and for the year now current only about 90,000 tons. This automatically limits our production of rails. The average output of sleepers was to be 15,000

tons and of fish-plates 7,000 tons, but for neither of these articles were we able to obtain adequate orders from the Railways last year. The Tariff Board estimated that, during the seven years, we should make an average of 70,000 tons of structural sections, allowing for the increased output which will be obtainable when we are equipped to roll these sections on the new Mill. That equipment is not yet ready; but even so we made 63,000 tons of these sections during last year and our average production for the first four months of this year was over 6,500 tons a month. As regards our other products,- bars, plates, sheets and tin-bars - the Tariff Board estimated that our average combined output of these products ~~could~~^{should} be nearly 18,000 tons a month. Actually we made during 1929-30 an average of about 16,500 tons a month, and during the first four months of the current year we have averaged nearly 20,000 tons a month. You will thus see that, apart from railway material, our production and sales came well up to expectation already in the third year of protection and after the disastrous strike. Our orders for rails last year fell far short of the quantity estimated by the Tariff Board. In the current year, however, the Company loses still further by the shortage of rail orders, in that we can now make all the ingots required for an average production of 40,000 tons of finished steel a month or even a little more, but our rail orders are even lower than last year and by to-day we have completed the rolling of all the rails required for 1930-31!

Cotton Growers' Problems.

There has been a voluminous correspondence between the Government of India and the Indian Central Cotton Committee as regards the protection to be accorded to Indian Cotton growers who are now faced with

prices which in some cases fall below the cost of production. This correspondence which was commenced on the 2nd August last, has, for the time being, been closed on the 6th of October, the Government declaring themselves unable to accept the suggestions made by the Cotton Committee. In his letter dated the 15th September last, to the Government of India, the Chairman of the Indian Central Cotton Committee summed up the case for giving assistance to the cotton grower. He said that ~~the~~ American Cotton had reached a very low price level and that if Indian Cotton is to be sold at this level during the coming season, the price the cultivators would get will be so low as to lead to impoverishment and ruination. In spite of the difficulties of ascertaining the true cost of production of any agricultural commodity when grown mainly by small cultivators, he urged that it was possible to ascertain, from the cultivators' point of view, the dividing line between a price level which ensures them the barest minimum of existence and one which falls below this minimum. When cotton prices fall to the level represented by Rs. 140 per Candy of 785 lbs. for Bengals, Rs. 170 for Oomras and Rs. 190 for Broach in the Bombay ~~and~~ Market, this critical level may be said to have been reached. A reduction of the acreage under cotton so as to bring about an equilibrium between demand and supply may meet a similar situation in the future, but, to-day, the orderly marketing of the 1930-31 crop will be impossible unless some assistance were offered to the grower. The Indian Cotton Committee does not want the Government to adopt a scheme whereby the Government would purchase and take off the market a certain ~~quantity~~ quantity of cotton in order to control prices. The lessons learned by the Governments in U.S.A., Egypt and Brazil from their experiments in this direction point to the futility of

any such measure. But it is necessary to examine methods by which more credit could be given, preferably through banking channels, to strengthen the financial position of the cultivator at the time of marketing his crop, and to increase the buying capacity of the merchant who handles it till it is earmarked for export or consumption. Towards this end, the following suggestions are made:-

(1) The Government of India should announce that they will definitely stand by the Indian farmer if the price level falls anywhere near the figures mentioned earlier. (2) The Imperial Bank of India should advance 80 per cent of the market value or of the value referred to above, whichever is higher, on cotton deposited with the Bank, even though these deposits should be as small as 20 full-pressed bales, as otherwise the small grower will not be assisted. The rate of interest should not be higher than the Bank rate and such advances should be given not only to ginners and traders but also to individual cultivators and specially to co-operative organisations. The middlemen who receive this consideration from the Imperial Bank of India should not charge individual farmers who may have smaller quantities of cotton than 20 bales to offer as securities, more than 1 to 2 per cent above the rate charged by the Imperial Bank. (3) The Railway freight on cotton should be reduced. (4) The high rate of ginning and pressing which prevails in certain markets must be reduced. [Some of the Governments' main objections to the scheme were (1) that it would be difficult to control the middle men (2) the difficulty of providing large storage facilities for cotton in the mofussil ^{and} (3) the practical monopoly of cotton finance which this scheme would give to the Imperial Bank. The fundamental objections, however, were that the scheme will involve the fixation of the

minimum price which may prove to be out of relation with world prices and that it aims at providing finance on terms which would encourage the cultivators and the merchants to hold up stocks in the hope of a future rise in prices. The Government also doubted the possibility of making any reduction in freight.

As a result of further consultations, the Imperial Bank has agreed to give loans against cotton in up-country centres on a reduced margin viz., 25 per cent instead of the usual 30 per cent, reserving the discretion to raise this margin in the event of a considerable rise in cotton prices.

Bombay Mill Merger.

It is now definitely understood that the proposed Bombay textile Mill Merger (Refer ^{See} ~~Refer~~ page 32 of the Report of this Office for September 1930) will, when it becomes an accomplished fact, comprise 31 of the largest mills in the city representing more than a third of the capital investment in the industry in Bombay.

The millowners who control these 31 mills have formed themselves into what is known for the present as the Merger Committee which is now engaged in doing the spade work for the carrying out of the scheme. This Committee consists of: (I) Sir Ness Wadia (Chairman) representing (1) the Spring, (2) the Textile, and (3) the Dye Works; (II) Mr. C. N. Wadia, representing (4) the Century and (5) the Zenith mills; (III) Sir Joseph Kay, representing (6) the Jehangir Wadia, (7) the Colaba Land, (8) the New Great, (9) the New City, and (10) the Bombay Industrial mills; (IV) Mr. N. B. Saklatwalla, representing (11) the Swadeshi and (12) the Tata Mills; (V) Mr. F. E. Dinshaw, representing (13), (14), (15), Shapurji Broacha mills and (16) the Madhowji Dharamsi mill; (VI) Sir Dinshaw Petit, representing (17) the Manokji

Petit, (18) the Bomanji Petit, (19) the Dinshaw Petit, and (20) the Framji Petit mills; (VII) Sir Victor Sassoon, representing (21) the Jacob Sassoon, (22) the Rachael Sassoon, (23) the E. D. Sassoon, (24) the Alexandra, (25) the Manchester, (26) the E. D. Sassoon Turket Red Dye Works, (27) the Edward Sassoon, (28) the Meyer Sassoon, (29) the Apollo, (30) the Elphinstone and (31) the David mills.

A meeting of the Merger Committee was held on the 29th September when a circular letter was approved for being sent to all the mills concerned. The circular is accompanied by three schedule forms which the mills are requested to fill in and return furnishing full and detailed information about the plant, machinery and buildings comprising each mill. Particulars about bleaching and dyeing plant, bungalows, chawls and other buildings with ground plans as well as copies of balance sheets of each mill company are also asked for. To enable the Committee approximately to arrive at a figure for the working capital that may be necessary for all mills coming under the merger, the mills are also asked to furnish a note as to the approximate value as on 30th September 1930 of stocks of cotton, cotton in process, yarn, yarn in process, cloth on looms, in the warehouse and in bales, stores, coal, oil and any other articles that comprise the working stock.

The mills are requested to return these forms not later than October 15, pending the arrival in Bombay of Mr. Entwistle, the Manchester valuation expert, who is expected to commence the work of valuing each mill immediately on landing.

Bombay Mills and the Boycott.

October has seen a slight improvement in the situation in Bombay. Most of the mills which had given notice of closure at the end of

September decided to keep on working, and the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Company which alone had given notices of termination of services to as many as 600 clerks in their service as a sequel to the closing of 7 out of their 11 mills, has, by a mutually agreed scheme, decided to retain them in service on reduced pay until the restoration of normal conditions. The advent of the Dewali holidays was responsible for some movement of mill stocks, and the Bombay Native Piece Goods Merchants' Association was anxious to lift the Congress ban on the sale of foreign cloth so as to enable them to clear their stocks before Dewali. The Association was unable to induce the Indian National Congress to lift the ~~tax~~ ban during the Dewali season, which led them to pass a resolution permitting the dealers to resume the sale of foreign cloth from the 14th October onwards. The resolution was as follows:- "In spite of the long hartal and the protest made by the Association against the repressive policy of the Government, no change in their policy has been made, and ^athe grave situation has now arisen which the commercial community views with anxiety.

The Dewali is fast approaching, and this meeting, therefore, permits its members to open their shops for the disposal of stocks of foreign cloth on hand.

"This meeting fully sympathises with the demands of the Indian National Congress and reaffirms its resolution of May 21, not to place orders for fresh stocks. If any member is found placing orders he will be fined Rs. 101 per case, and out of the fine recovered, 50 percent will go to the informant".

Consequently, the foreign cloth shops were opened on the 14th October and were vigorously picketed by Congress Volunteers. On the 20th October, consequent on the issue of the new proclamation for the

forfeiture of Congress property and the arrests made in connection with it, another meeting was held to rescind the resolution of the 13th October permitting the disposal of foreign cloth.

In the earlier reports of this Office, frequent references have been made to the control which the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee sought to obtain over the Mills in order to stop the import and sale of foreign cloth. Those Mills which did not agree to the conditions which the Congress Committee sought to impose on them were put on the black list. Many Indian Mills and some European Mills agreed to these conditions. By the beginning of October, according to the Times of India of 3-10-30, the conditions originally laid on the Mills were revised, and many Indian mills have already accepted these condition in the form of the following letter, reproduced in the Times of India of 3-10-30.

The President,
The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee.

Dear Sir,

"At ^a meeting between Pandit Motilal Nehru and representatives of the Bombay Millowners, and between representatives of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee and of the Bombay Millowners, various questions connected with the protection of Khadi from competition by the mills and the encouragement of the production and use of swadeshi cloth i.e., cloth made in India by Indian labour under Indian management and control from yarn produced in India were considered and certain conclusions were arrived at for the benefit of the consuming public and of the mills.

"At the outset, we declare, as the representatives of the millowners declared at the meetings, that we have full sympathy with the national aspirations of the people and appreciate the impetus given to the cause of Swadeshi by the national movement!"

"For the protection of Khadi, the members of our Association agree not to stamp or style or sell ^{as such} any cloth manufactured at their mill and not to manufacture any cloth below 10s. counts except of certain sorts to be agreed upon by the mills and your committee".

"To preserve and promote the swadeshi character of our mill industry, the following scheme was approved of, and the members of our ~~mill industry~~ Association agree to and accept the same, namely,

(a) That the ownership and management of the mills ^{are} is and will continue, ^{as} Indian and national in outlook and spirit pledged to safeguard Indian interests

(b) That no person connected with the management of the mills will engage in any anti-national activities.

X (c) That no less than 75 per cent. of the Share Capital of every company ^{which} ~~who~~ is a member is and will continue to be held by Indians except in cases and to the extent agreed to by the President of the Congress as special cases.

X (d) That no less than 66 per cent. of the Directors, apart from the ex-officio directors of every such company, are and will continue to be Indians.

(e) That the management and control of every such company will remain and continue Indian except in the case of mills, a list of which is settled by consent, which are now managed by non-Indian Mill Agents and which have accepted these terms saving this ~~clause~~ clause.

(f) That recruitment of staff will be restricted to Indians excepting for special reasons.

(g) That the mills will confine their purchases to Indian swadeshi products as far as possible and will place their business with Indian Banking, Insurance and Shipping Companies as far as possible.

(h) That the mills will not dye or bleach any foreign yarn or cloth, or cloth which has been declared non-swadeshi by the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee.

(i) That the mills will not use foreign yarn and will not use mercerised yarn and artificial silk and silk after 31st December, 1930.

(j) That the mills will stamp every piece of cloth with their name.

(k) That no millowner, mill agent or other person connected with the control and management of the mills will directly or indirectly import or deal in foreign yarn or piecegoods.

(l) That the mills will not exploit in their own interests the spirit of swadeshi generated and encouraged by the national movement and will guard against profiteering by middlemen and will make swadeshi goods available to the consuming public at reasonable rates and in particular:

(i) will sell during the period ending 31st December, 1930 the current sorts produced at mills at current rates or rates prevailing on 12th March, 1930, whichever at the time be lower.

(ii) will publish and circulate for the information of the general consuming public the selling prices of current sorts prevailing from time to time.

(iii) will meet the representatives of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee from time to time and adopt such further means as may be mutually agreed upon to prevent profiteering and to secure a constant supply of swadeshi piecegoods to the consuming public at reasonable prices.

A result of the slight improvement in the sales towards the opening days of the month was that the unemployment figure which stood at 50,000 mill hands towards the close of last month was reduced to 33,000 by the end of the 1st week of October. The position then was, that out of a total of 78 mills in the city, 16 were closed entirely and 15 were working partially while the remaining 47 mills were working normally. By the 22nd October, 3 more mills of the E. D. Sassoon Group had resumed work, and the remaining 4 mills in the group are likely to be opened at the end of the current month.

Jute Industry.

At page 27 of this Office's report for September, an account was given of the conditions in the jute industry consequent on the disastrous fall in prices. There have been several consultations between the land owners, cultivators, financiers and traders and other interests affected by the critical position to consider and devise remedies, and at a representative Conference held on the 12th October at Tagore Castle, Calcutta, the following resolutions were passed:-

"That this conference urges the Government to direct all banks, under the supervision and control of the Government, to advance money on reasonable interest to the cultivators on proper security to enable them to resist the necessity of selling the jute at the present ruinous and uneconomic price"

"That this conference urges upon the Government to direct the Department of Agriculture and other Departments of Government and all District Officers to take necessary action, by propaganda and otherwise, in restricting and regulating the sowing of jute according to the needs and requirements of the trade, and thereby drastically reduce the acreage under jute cultivation for the ensuing year to ~~17.7~~ 1.7 millions acres at the least"

"That this conference urges upon the Government to issue and distribute broadcast necessary forecasts in the vernacular before the commencement of the sowing ^{season} of jute every year, showing the stock in hand of jute, both inland and foreign, including that ^{with all balers and shippers} and the total demand of jute of the

world for the ensuing year, in order to enable the cultivators to restrict and regulate their sowings".

"That this conference requests the Government to direct all banks under the control and supervision of the Government, to advance money to landholders on the security of lands, in order to meet Government revenue and other public demands."

"That this conference urges upon the Government to form a Jute Board, with proportionate representation of different interests for the purpose of educating the ryots regarding the growth and sale of jute".

It was also decided to organise a deputation to wait on the Governor. At the annual General Meeting of the East Indian Jute Association held in Calcutta on the 16th October, the President exhaustively discussed the present plight and hoped that the Conference which was organised by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce would be able to arrive at satisfactory results. This latter Conference met on the 17th and adopted resolutions inviting the Finance Member of the Government of India as well as Officials of the Provincial Agricultural Department to meet them in Calcutta to discuss the situation and expressing the opinion that the Government should expedite the formation of a Central Jute Committee as recommended by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. It recognised the need for propaganda for the restriction of next year's crop, but left the modus operandi to be decided upon after the discussion with the officials.

Unemployment.European unemployment in Rubber Plantations.

The slump in rubber prices and the consequent unemployment among labourers in the Malaya plantations to which reference has been made in the report of this Office for September 1930 (See pages 60-61) have caused conditions of acute unemployment among the European staffs of the plantations recruited for the superior grades. The fall in prices has compelled managements to effect the most rigorous economies, one of the first steps resorted to for the achievement of this object being the serving of notices of termination of services to the comparatively highly paid European employees. In view of the extent of the hardship caused, the Incorporated Society of Planters, Kuala Lumpur, has recently issued a circular to its members and to shareholders in rubber companies drawing attention to the plight in which many Europeans employed on rubber estates in the Near East will find themselves by reason of the policy of economy. The circular urges shareholders to satisfy themselves whether members of their Eastern staffs have been turned out to swell the ranks of the unemployed, and, if so, whether any saving worth the name has been effected thereby. The circular also urges that for those retained in employment, a living wage, at least, should be given during the duration of the period of the emergency.

Social Conditions.Servants of India Society.

Interesting particulars as to the activities of the Servants of India Society are given in the ^{Society's} latest annual report, which covers the period April 1, 1928 to June 12, 1930.

Dealing with the political activities of the Society, mention is first made of the Right Hon'ble Mr. V.S. Srinivasa Sastry's appointment as the first Agent of the Government of India in South Africa. Dealing with politics at home it is pointed out that in the turmoil that began last April with the starting of the Civil Disobedience movement, the Society, consistently with its principles, has been opposing both that movement as well as the excesses of the Government in putting it down. This attitude of the Society has made it more or less unpopular with both parties, and its finances and the work of the Society have somewhat suffered in consequence.

With a view to promoting a careful study of public questions among young men engaged in political or social work, or aspiring to do so, study circles have been organised in some centres of the Society. With regard to Indian States, the "Sansthani Swarajya" ^{movement} has been doing yeoman service in the cause of constitutional advance among them and though the financial responsibilities involved in conducting the periodical have been heavy, the Society is glad that it has begun to be an effective organ in States' politics. The Organisation of Labour and the promotion of Trade Unionism have become the special activities of the Bombay Branch of the Society, and though the labour activities of the Society were misunderstood and misinterpreted for some time in certain quarters, the prejudice was gradually removed, and the Society is being reorganised as an institution standing for the healthy growth and harmonious development of industries in the country.

The Society has, as is well-known, always given a prominent place to social service in its programme of work which includes the organisation of relief, on occasions of widespread distress, the elevation of the Depressed Classes, the economic and moral uplift of the rural population and the education and training in social service of women. In the social sphere, Mr. G.K. Devadhar, C.I.E., has continued to give the same close attention to the work of the Poona Seva Sedan Society as in previous years. For several years now it has been the best known institution of its kind in India, providing general and vocational education to many hundreds of adult women in Poona and elsewhere and enabling them not only to support themselves but to render most essential social service to their kind as doctors, health visitors, nurses, midwives and teachers. Further, Mr. Chitalia has continued to give his whole time for the Bhagini Samaj of Bombay which conducts literary and industrial classes for women, organises lectures, talks and study circles for them and promotes social service of various kinds.

The co-operative movement has always appealed to the members of the Servants of India Society as a beneficent and potent instrument for the moral and economic uplift of the people, especially of those living in the countryside, and, therefore, several members working in different parts of the country have for a long time been giving their time and energy for the development of co-operative propaganda. The report goes on to refer to the successful activities of the Society's members among the Aboriginal and Depressed Classes and to the relief work during periods of devastation caused by floods.

In conclusion the report adds that while the Society is sincerely grateful to the public for having generously enabled it to serve them during the last 25 years, its financial condition is causing it grave anxiety with regard to the future and an earnest appeal is addressed to all who appreciate the objects and methods of the Society to give to it whatever material support they can and thus help to fulfil the cherished objects of its founder.

(The Times of India, 2-10-1930).

The Indian Census of 1931: New Features.

The next decennial census of India is to be taken in 1931, the exact time fixed for the final enumeration being between 7 p.m. and the midnight of 26th February 1931. The forthcoming census is expected to furnish material for a number of enquiries upon new lines, some of which are bound to be of great interest to students of social problems. November and December will be spent in checking the completeness of house-numbering and in conveying instruction in enumeration to the staff by whom it will be effected. In January, a preliminary enumeration will be made and on the 26th February 1931 all that will have to be done is a correction of the record of this preliminary enumeration to make it represent the actual condition of things between 7 p.m. and the midnight of that date.

At the census of 1921 a special industrial return was prescribed, but industrial particulars will not be recorded in the same detail on the present occasion. The general schedule, however,

will contain a column for the entry of industry in the case of organised employees. The intention of including this column is to estimate the growth of organised industry throughout India. Some difficulty is anticipated as regards the exact definition of an organised industry. The Indian languages do not contain any expression current in colloquial use which has the same connotation as the English terms, and it has been necessary to fall back upon a very simple criterion, namely, whether the person enumerated exercises his occupation on his own or as the paid employee or an employer who similarly employs and pays other persons.

A second innovation, so far as concerns the particulars to be recorded in the general schedule, is the provision for the record of bilingualism or polylingualism. The results of this enquiry, which is directed to ascertaining the extent to which the inhabitants of India are accustomed to employ in common or domestic use more than one language, should throw a very interesting light upon the interaction of different cultures. It is hoped that the return of literacy will also furnish other interesting materials. It has been decided to record not only whether a person is or is not a literate, but also the various languages in which he is literate. There will, no doubt, be a tendency amongst educated persons to return as a language of literacy such tongues as Sanskrit or classical Persian, which they are never called upon to use ordinarily in their daily life. Such returns are not desired and it is the intention to restrict the return of literacy to those languages which are elsewhere recorded in the schedule as being ordinarily employed in common or domestic use. It is possible also that, in connection with the return of literacy, an attempt will be made

to ascertain what proportion of literates have not proceeded in their ~~xx~~ studies beyond class V. The return~~s~~ of literacy, particularly, if these details are also added, will be of interest and of importance to any committee which may be called into existence to deal with the question of franchise when the constitution of India has been further revised by the legislation enacted after the Round-Table Conference has reached its conclusion.

A further enquiry will be undertaken in the course of the present census, which will certainly arouse a great deal of interest. With a view to ascertaining the extent of unemployment among the ~~intelligent~~ educated classes, every person claiming to be literate in English will be given an opportunity of filling up ^a form showing particulars of his educational qualifications and the employment for which he considers himself thereby fitted.

(The Hindu, 26-10-1930).

Co-operation.The Mysore Provincial Co-operative Conference, 1930.

The Mysore Provincial Co-operative Conference was held at Mysore on the 28th and 29th October 1930. The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference :-

"That this Conference recommends that Government may be requested to introduce the necessary changes in the regulation with a view to exempt co-operative societies from payment of the income-tax on their income derived from all sources including business transacted by the societies with non-members".

"This Conference recommends that construction of buildings for the use of co-operative societies be treated as a public purpose, and the acquisition of sites for this purpose be permitted under the Land Acquisition Regulation".

"That the All-India Co-operators' Day be celebrated every year and the Government be requested to declare the day as a general holiday throughout the State".

"That the subject of introduction of Text-books on Co-operation in Schools and Colleges ~~may~~ be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for getting further information".

Women and Children.Training in Reformatory schools, Bombay Presidency 1929-30*

The following facts regarding the training of youthful offenders in the Bombay Presidency are taken from the reports of the Reformatory School, Yeravda, and the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institute, Matunga, for the year ending 31st March 1930.

Reformatory School, Yeravda .- At the commencement of the year ending 31-3-1930 there were 172 boys in the school. During the year 78 boys were admitted. The number of juveniles discharged during the year was 48. Thus, at the end of the year there were 202 boys (172 + 78 - 48) in the school. The average monthly number undergoing detention was ~~naturally~~ higher than in the previous year, viz., 189.3 as against 166.8 of the previous year. The ages of the 202 boys were as follows :- Two boys were 10 years of age, 32 were ^{between} 11 and 12, 91 were ^{between} 13 and 14, 71 were ^{between} 15 and 16, and 6 were 17 years of age. According to castes and creeds the distribution of these 202 juveniles would be as follows :- 65 Muhammadans, 9 Brahmins, 38 Depressed classes, 5 Christians, 4 Lingayats and 81 other Hindus. The respective percentages of these communities would be 32.2, 4.4, 18.8, 2.5, 2, 40.1 as against 27.3, 3.5, 16.3, 3, 1.7 and 48.2 of the last year. This shows decrease among Christians and other Hindus while there was increase among the other communities. 43 boys were discharged during the year - 17 in the first half and 26 in the second half

* (1) Annual Report of the Reformatory School, Yeravda for the year ending 31st March 1930. (Price - Anna 1 or 1d.). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1930. pp 12.

(2) Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga for the year 1929-30. (Price Annas 2 or 3d.) Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1930. pp 23.

Both the publications are obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing & Stationery, Bombay, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognized Bookseller.

of the year. The 17 boys, who were discharged during the first half of the year, had received instruction as follows :- One was taught carpentry, 2 smith's work, 6 tailoring, 2 book-binding, 2 gardening, and 4 agriculture. It is a matter ^{for} of satisfaction that the question of the after-career of boys is now receiving more attention than it did in the past. The Released Prisoners' Aid Societies gave substantial help in this connection. The same trades were taught in the school as in the previous year and the 200 boys, who were in the school, were taught different trades as follows :- 42 were taught carpentry, 16 smith's work, 20 painting, 15 book-binding, 34 tailoring, 32 gardening and 41 agriculture.

David Sassoon Reformatory Institution, Matunga.- The average number of boys in this institution during 1929-30 was 366 against 351 in the previous year. The number of admissions decreased from 123 to 117 and the number discharged increased from 78 to 116. Of ~~the~~ 117 admitted, 113 were sent by the Children's Court under the Bombay Children's Act and the remainder by the Magistrates under the Apprentices Act. Of the 116 boys discharged during the year, 9 have been taught carpentry, 10 blacksmith's work, 3 fitter's work, 11 painting and polishing, 48 spinning, 7 gardening, 14 cane - weaving and 14 tailoring. The Salvation Army is maintaining an After-Care Home at Byculla, Bombay, with the object of providing suitable lodgings for discharged inmates of the Institution earning their living in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay is planning to set up a Borstal Institution at Dharwar in the near future to deal with youthful offenders of all ages in the Presidency.

Women and Children.The Ensuing All-India Conference of Women on Labour, Bombay.

The subject of the welfare of women engaged in industrial occupations in India has of recent years been engaging increased attention but up to the present no definite steps have been taken to organise any meeting or conference which would have as its special purpose the consideration of labour problems in so far as they affected women workers. The National Council of Women in India, a representative organisation of Indian women, has now taken the lead in the matter, and has decided to convene an All-India Conference of Women on Labour, in Bombay between 28-11-30 and 5-12-30. The Conference is to discuss a wide range of subjects concerning the special interests of women in industry, some of the most important being, maternity benefits, creches and nursery schools, women factory inspectors, unregulated industries, women in mines, general health and welfare and women's contribution to the trade union movement. Some spade work in this field has been already done by the All-India Women's Conference on Education and Social reform held at Patna from 3rd to 7th January 1929 (See report of this Office for January 1929 pages 43-44), and a Committee appointed by the Conference had already drawn up and circulated a questionnaire on subjects concerning the welfare of women workers. The information thus gathered is being utilised by the National Council of Women in India, the convening body of the proposed Bombay Conference, to form the basis of the discussions at Bombay. The Council has invited suggestions from all interested and it is expected that the forthcoming conference will discuss the position of women in industry in all its aspects and frame constructive proposals for the amelioration of the conditions of work of women in Indian industries, whose numbers in Indian factories alone, according to the

latest report on the working of factories in India amounted to 2,52,933 in 1928 (See page 34, July 1930 report).

(The Times of India .- 16-10-30.)

Juvenile Court ~~in~~ for Madras City.

At pages 47-48 of the report of this Office for September 1930, reference had been made to the efforts of the Government of Madras to deal with juvenile delinquents and to the scheme of education and industrial training carried on in the Borstal Schools of the Presidency. The Government of Madras has taken further constructive action in this direction, ~~The Government of Madras~~ ^{and} has decided to establish a Juvenile Court in Madras City under Section 30 of the Madras Children's Act consisting of a salaried magistrate and an honorary magistrate. The question of establishing similar courts in the districts of the Province will be considered later, after gaining experience in the working of the new court in the city.

It is understood that police officers attending this court will be required to wear ordinary dress. (The Hindustan Times .-9-10-30).

Migration.Emigration.General.

x The Hindu of the 9th October has a leading article dealing with the international aspect of Indian emigration. The ^{wording} ~~wording~~ of the article is that the history of the treatment accorded to Indians overseas is a striking proof of the fact that dependant India has not been able to afford her nationals abroad that help which she could have given if she had been free. The greater the degree of representative government enjoyed by the British Colonies into which the Indian has immigrated, the greater has been the degree of difficulty experienced by the Indian settlers. Even in Ceylon, the Denoughmore Commission has reported that the conditions of Indian labourer there "are still capable of improvement and must be bettered before they can be described as satisfactory". The economically helpless ~~xxxx~~ position of the Indian emigrant workers and their utter lack of organisation have also been remarked upon by the Commission. Ceylon is by no means a stray case. As Ceylon has profited by the presence of Indian labourers, Kenya, Fiji, British + Guiana, Mauritius, have also developed principally by Indian labour. Of Kenya, Mr. Winston Churchill has remarked that it was the Indian trader who, more than any one else, developed "the early beginnings of trade and opened up the first slender means of communication". There is another class of countries, ~~of~~ which ~~xxxx~~ Surinam, Trinidad and South Africa are examples, to which Indian labour went on invitation; but their plight in their new homes is by no means any better than in the countries to which they emigrated of their own accord.

Referring to a paper on the international aspect of Indian emigration, which was submitted to the last Imperial Conference, the Hindu observes that the frugality of ^{the} Indian standard of living does not indicate that it is of a lower scale of civilisation than the more expensive standards of Europeans. The author of the paper submitted to the Imperial Conference quotes Lord Crewe as saying with reference to the standard of living of Indians abroad: "There is nothing morally wrong in a man being a vegetarian and a teetotaler and his wife and family also, and being able to live much more cheaply than people who adopt the European standard of comfort. ...
x If a man is ^{tempt} ~~condemned~~ to live on rice and water and does not require pork, beef and rum, he naturally is able to support his family on a much ~~more~~ lower scale." The point of importance is that, if the Indian settler carries out his civic responsibilities in the new country, any invasion of his lawful rights is ~~obnoxious~~ in international law. Exclusion of Indians on racial grounds has been effected in the United States of America, French Indo-China, Dutch Indies, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay and Turkey. The case of the Dominions is well-known. In Australia and New Zealand many of the restrictions on the civic rights of Indians have been removed. In Canada and South Africa, the position is as unsatisfactory as before. In the Colonies under the direct control of the British Government, the position is somewhat better, though in Kenya such of the proposals as are satisfactory from the Indian point of view have yet to be carried out. "If racial discriminations cannot be abjured in the case of fresh emigration, at least the rights of the existing domiciled communities should be safeguarded." The reciprocity

resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1918 exists only on paper, and India's membership of the League of Nations has not yet been able to secure for her nationals better treatment abroad. Nevertheless, these two circumstances may have to be invoked in the near future for retaliation and ~~an~~ arbitration respectively".

Transvaal.

The introduction of the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill has been the occasion for renewed agitation on the part of the Indian colony there. The South African Indian Congress assembled early in October to consider this Bill which affects important trading rights and restricts Indian residence in certain areas, and adopted a resolution requesting the Indian Government, in the event of the Union Government's failure to withdraw the Bill, to press for a Round Table Conference. South African papers like the Star and the Natal Witness comment~~d~~ editorially on this resolution, and while deploring the resolution of the South African Indian Congress requesting the Government of India to withdraw their agent from South Africa and break off diplomatic relations with it, consider that the Indians have just cause for anxiety and that the persistence in the new ~~Anti-~~Indian legislation in South Africa will seriously complicate the task of the two governments concerned and of the Government of the United Kingdom as well. The Natal Witness, in particular, directs attention to the grave injustice which would be perpetrated if the Bill were passed into law, and says that it disregards the spirit of the Capetown agreement.

X

Land

As revised by the Select Committee, the Asiatic Tenure Bill constitutes a drastic measure which would ruin hundreds of Indian families with considerable landed interest. It prohibits ownership of land anywhere except in specified localities; places a ban on Asiatic companies holding fixed property, though hitherto such companies have been registered by the State; makes it an offence for a person to hold fixed property on behalf of or in the interest of an Asiatic, the properties so held prior to the 15th of May 1930 being protected; and debars Indians from holding shares or debentures in companies holding fixed property.

As a compromise between the Bill as put forward by the Select Committee and the Indian plea for equality of privileges, it has been suggested by Indian students of South African problems that the new Bill should be so amended as to protect the British Indians in trade, residence, occupation and acquired rights as existing at the present moment, whether ~~illegally~~ acquired or not, and that effective measures may be made to prevent further illegitimate encroachments of any kind by Indian residents. The speech of the South African Minister of the Interior, Dr. Malan, at the South African Nationalist Congress which was in session at Vryheid during the third week of October would seem to show, however, that the prospects of such a compromise are not bright. Dr. Malan is reported to have said that the best thing was to get the Indians out of the country, and that it was with this view that the Cape Town agreement had been made with the Government of India, subject to revision after the agreement had been in operation for five years. According to him the time was now ripe for the question of the revision of the agreement to be

carefully considered. Though no confirmation was available that the above is a correct summary of Dr, Malan's remarks, General Hertzog's recent speech in London, as reported by Reuter, would go to show that Dr. Malan's statement represents the view of the South African Government. The Government of India is said to be anxiously watching the situation and realise that though the Union Government cannot withdraw the Bill, as it is a private measure, ~~it~~ ^{it} can still effectively assert its opinion by securing amendments which may meet the Indians' point of view. The Government of India will naturally press for the full enforcement of the Cape Town Agreement under which the Union Government undertook to uplift conditions of Indian emigrants and encourage voluntary repatriation. But as this Bill does not come before the Union Parliament till February 1931, it is considered there is ample opportunity to explore avenues leading to an agreed settlement.

In order to follow the tendencies in South Africa as regards Indian emigration, the following summary is given below:-

"The Anti-Asiatic ~~B~~ feeling in South Africa culminated in the introduction of a bill in the Union Assembly in March 1924 for the segregation of Asiatics known as the Class Areas Bill. This measure though not specifically directed against Indians, contained provisions, which could be used for the compulsory segregation of all Asiatics in certain areas. Indian opinion was deeply agitated over the prospect of this legislation. The Bill however lapsed owing to the unexpected dissolution of the South African House of Assembly in April 1924. Towards the end of 1924 the Government of South Africa gave its consent to the Natal Borough Ordinance, dealing with the township franchise to the detriment of the Indian community. This measure, while safeguarding the rights of Indians already on the electoral roll of Boroughs prevented further enrolment of Indians as burgesses.

Similarly, the Natal Township Franchise Ordinance (No.3 of 1925) was passed with a view to render Indians ineligible for township franchise in future. Further, towards the end of January 1925 news was received that the Union Government had gazetted a Bill to amend the Mines and Works Act in order to take powers to refuse certificates of competency to natives or Asiatics in certain occupations. The Government of India made suitable representations to the Union

Government, and the Select Committee, to which the measure was referred, altered its wording so as not to refer to Asiatics and natives directly. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was passed by the Union Assembly but rejected by the Senate. In January 1926 it was re-introduced and in May it was adopted in a joint session of the Senate and the Assembly.

In July 1925, a more comprehensive Bill, known as the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill was introduced in the Union Assembly. After vigorous protests to the South African Government and effective representations against the provisions of this measure, both on grounds of principle and detail, the Government of India, with the concurrence of the Union Government, sent the Paddison deputation to South Africa. The purpose of this deputation was to collect first-hand information regarding the economic condition and general position of the resident Indian community in South Africa. The facts disclosed in the deputation's report, received in January 1926, made the Government of India renew their proposal for a round table conference. They urged that if the idea of holding such a conference was unacceptable there was at least a case for a fresh inquiry before the proposed legislation was proceeded with. Neither of the suggestions was acceptable to the Union Government, but they offered to hear Indian objections to the measure by proposing the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee before, instead of after, its second reading. This offer was accepted by the Government of India, and their deputation appeared before the Select Committee early in March presenting the Indian case effectively against the Bill. The Union Government later on impressed on the Government of India that public opinion in South Africa would not view with favour any settlement of the Indian question which did not hold out a reasonable prospect of safeguarding the maintenance of western standards of life by just and legitimate means, and on this basis agreed to enter a conference, the recommendations of which would be subject to confirmation by the Governments of both countries. They also agreed, subject to the approval of the Union Parliament, to postpone further progress with the Bill until the results of the conference were available.

On the invitation of the Union Government, the Government of India sent their delegation, which sailed on November 24, 1926. The delegation was headed by the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Habibullah, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. The delegation reached Cape Town on December 16. The Round Table Conference was opened the next day by General Hertzog, the South African Premier. The Union Government's delegation was headed by the Hon. Dr. D. F. Malan.

The session lasted till January 13, 1927. A provisional agreement was reached at the Conference, and after ratification by both the Governments, the Agreement was announced on February 21, 1927. Both Governments in it reaffirmed their recognition of the right of South Africa to use all just and legitimate means for the maintenance of western standards of life. Here is a summary:-

"The Union Government recognises that Indians domiciled in the Union who are prepared to conform to western standards of life should be enabled to do so. For ~~those~~ ^{the} Indians, ~~in~~ the Union, Government recognise a scheme of assisted emigration to India or other countries where western standards are not required. Union domicile will be

lost after three years' continuous absence from the Union in agreement with the proposed revision of the law relating to domicile which will be of general application. Emigrants, under the assisted emigration scheme, who desire to return to the Union within three years will only be allowed to do so on refund ~~■~~ to the Union Government of the cost of assistance received by them.

The Government of India recognise their obligation to look after such emigrants on their arrival in India. Admission into the Union of wives and minor children of Indians permanently domiciled in the Union will be regulated by paragraph 3 of the Resolution XXI of the Imperial Conference of 1918 which lays down that Indians already permanently domiciled in the other British countries should be allowed to bring in their wives and minor children on condition (a) that not more than one wife and her children shall be admitted for each such Indian and (b) that each individual so admitted shall be certified by the Government of India as being the lawful wife or child of such Indian.

In the expectation that the difficulties with which the Union has been confronted will be materially lessened by the agreement now happily reached between the two Governments, and in order that the agreement may come into operation under most favourable auspices and have a fair trial, the ~~Government~~ Union Government of South Africa decide not to proceed further with the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill.

The two Governments agreed to watch the working of the Agreement reached and to exchange views from time to time concerning any changes that experience may suggest. The Union Government of South Africa also requested the Government of India to appoint an Agent in order to secure continuous and effective co-operation between the two Governments!

The Cape Town Agreement has been in operation these three years.
(The Times of India, 20-10-30).

Malaya

The stream of Indian repatriation from Malaya, to which earlier references had been made in these reports (vide ^{page 60 of the} September report) is still continuing. According to a news item in the Statesman of 11-10-1930, about 33,000 Indian labourers have left Malaya for India since the beginning of August, and 5,000 were still waiting at the beginning of October to secure return passages to India. The beginning of October saw the labour depots in Malayan ports filled with these labourers awaiting repatriation. Most of these ^{have now been} ~~are~~ sent back,

not because they are anxious to return to India, but as a result of the closing down of many rubber plantations. Some labourers have also resented the cut in their daily wages (vide September report, page 60). Now that assisted emigration to Malaya is practically closed, labourers who, on normal conditions, would have proceeded to Malaya as assisted emigrants, are, it is reported, now proceeding as passengers, and these are bound to swell ~~in~~ the ranks of the unemployed.