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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

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Report for November, 1931.

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Co-operation.

Co-operation in Bihar and Orissa, 1930\*.

The following information regarding the progress of the co-operative movement in Bihar and Orissa during 1930 is taken from the Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the period issued by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa.

General Progress.- The policy of registering new societies with great caution and weeding out the bad ones, continued to be followed throughout the year. Only 286 societies were registered during the year, at the end of which the total number of working societies of all kinds stood at 9,404, an increase of only 88 over the previous year's figure. The number of societies whose registration was cancelled during the year was 261, as against 180 in the preceding year. The report states that the rate of progress in regard to working capital, reserve fund, profit and deposits did not keep pace with that of the preceding year, and there was a decrease of 6,766 in the total number of members of societies, obviously due to the large number of societies liquidated during the year. New loans advanced to societies amounted to only Rs. 3,624,935 against Rs. 4,938,107 in 1929.

Provincial Bank.- According to the report, the provincial Bank had another successful year's working, and continued to maintain its previous high standard of efficiency. The working capital of the bank amounted to Rs. 7.76 millions at the end of the year, an increase

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\*Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1930. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna, 1931. Price.- Rs. 2 annas 8. pp.46 + xxxiii.

of over Rs. 0.4 millions. There was a slight decrease in profits from Rs. 104,245 to Rs. 98,842 owing to the conversion of old loans at higher rates into fresh loans at current reduced rates and to the large sums (about Rs. 100,000 in all) locked up in societies under liquidation. The paid up share capital increased by over Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 576,600. Deposits of all kinds held by the bank at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 6.75 millions of which nearly Rs. 1.3 millions came from central banks and societies. Deposits from individuals increased by over Rs. 0.5 millions during the year, and as the increase was more rapid than was needed to meet the bank's requirements the rates on all fixed and savings deposits as well as upon the floating deposits of central banks were lowered still further at the end of the period under review.

Investments in central banks and societies stood at Rs. 3.78 millions in loans and nearly Rs. 0.54 millions in the form of cash and maximum credit accounts or Rs. 4.32 millions in all as against Rs. 4.25 millions in the preceding year. The Provincial Bank has been steadily reducing its lending rate, which stood at 8 per cent. in 1926 but had been reduced to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by 1929. During the year 1930 the average rate showed a further reduction to 6.3 through the replacement of old loans by fresh loans at a lower rate. The minimum rate to banks is now 6 per cent.

Central Banks and Unions.- The number of central banks remained unchanged at 67 with an average membership of only about 136 societies. No less than 22 have under 100 societies affiliated to them. The report shows an increase in paid-up share capital and reserves (including bad debt and other funds) over last year's figures by Rs. 62,741 and Rs. 231,112 respectively, and an increase of nearly Rs. 0.35 millions in the total working capital, which now stands at Rs. 23.25 millions. The reserve fund of the banks increased by just over a hundred thousand to Rs. 843,491, of which Rs. 458,059 or 54.3 per cent. was separately invested. The total of reserve and other funds rose to rather over Rs. 1.5 millions. All funds except the Education Fund continued to increase.

Agricultural Societies.- The principal kinds of agricultural societies were purchase and sale societies, dairy societies, rent-paying societies, and irrigation societies. There was an increase by 102 in the number of agricultural societies of all classes, the total number at the end of the year being 8,817. Membership of such societies, however, decreased by 8,839 to 227,554. The working capital, which amounted to Rs. 24,147,000 at the end of the year, shows a decrease of Rs. 146,000. The paid up share capital, profits (including overdue interest) and reserve fund increased respectively from Rs. 1,506,000 to Rs. 1,610,000, Rs. 428,000 to Rs. 464,000, and Rs. 3,051,000 to Rs. 3,224,000. There was further improvement in the proportion of share capital and reserves, which formed 20 per cent. of the working capital as against 18.7 per cent. last year. Following the more cautious policy of financing societies adopted by the Central banks the amount of loans given out to members decreased by Rs. 1.05 millions to Rs. 3.37 millions. ~~Fix~~

Non-Agricultural Societies.- The principal kinds of non-Agricultural societies were wage-earners' societies, salary earners' societies, fishermen's societies, home industries associations, housing societies, artisans' societies, public health societies and societies for the depressed classes and weavers' societies. The total number of non-agricultural societies was 333 with a membership of 26,908 as against 338 societies and 24,835 members in 1929. The working capital in 1930 was Rs. 3,752,956 as against Rs. 3,686,694 in 1929. Commenting on the general working of non-agricultural societies during 1930 the report states:

"Industrial societies of all kinds have not only been generally unsuccessful but have played a prominent part in undermining the financial stability of the central banks. All our experience emphasises the wisdom of sticking to the simplest forms of co-operation in its present state of development and eschewing all grandiose schemes for societies of special type or multiple purpose. Unfortunately such schemes exercise a peculiar attraction, which tends to obscure the infinitely greater importance of the ordinary village credit and thrift society. With the limited means at our disposal for the organisation and supervision of societies it is particularly important that our energies should not be so diffused as to be wasted. ~~The~~ I (the Registrar) have therefore issued instructions that no fresh societies of special type are to be registered without my previous approval".

(The report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929 is reviewed at pages 51-54 of the report of this Office for November 1930).

Anglo-Indian Colonisation: Mc Cluski Scheme.

Reference was made at pages 37-38 of the report of this Office for February 1931 to a colonization scheme for Anglo-Indians sponsored by Mr. E.T. McCluski, M.L.A. At a meeting of the Anglo-Indian community of Calcutta held on 11-11-1931, it was decided to inaugurate the scheme as a Colonisation Co-operative Society.

Mr. E.T. McCluski, M.L.A., who had fathered the scheme, pointed out that 4,319 people in other parts of India were willing to join the society, and nearly Rs. 400,000 had been promised for the purpose. So far as land was concerned, there were 5,000 acres of land near Bilaspur which could be secured, if they were given a perpetual lease and if they were satisfied as to the fertility of the soil.

Some of those present doubted the feasibility of turning a town people into farmers in the course of a few years. There were two amendments, one asking for a committee of investigation to go into the scheme and the other appealing to the British Government to grant the land to the community free. These were however lost.

A resolution for forming the Society and for enrolling members was adopted by the meeting. (The Hindu, 12-11-1931).

Women & Children.

Bill to Amend Madras Children Act, 1920.

A Bill (Bill No.29 of 1931. Madras Children (Amendment) Act, 1931) was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. A.B. Shetty with the object of amending the existing Madras Children Act, 1920, <sup>for</sup> the protection of children and young persons under eighteen who are either ill-treated by their parents or guardians or are living in brothels and for the prevention of juvenile begging. The following is the full text of the Statement ~~and~~ of Objects and Reasons for introducing the Bill:-

"The Madras Children Act, 1920, does not deal with child beggars though it has been modelled on the English Children Act. There is a considerable body of opinion in favour of the view that ~~the~~ child beggars should also be dealt with under the Children Act. This view is also supported by the report of the Beggar Problem Committee appointed by the Corporation of Madras in 1925 and adopted by that body. Provision has ~~not~~ also been made to bring child beggars under the age of 18 years under the operation of the Madras Children Act.

In the evidence recorded by the Select Committee on the Bill for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic, it is observed that the provisions of the Madras Children Act are inadequate to deal with children under eighteen years of age living in a brothel and also to rescue children who are the victims of other people's misconduct. The provisions of the Act are also inadequate to meet the cases of minors being procured for the purpose of prostitution. Provisions have been added to remedy these defects"

(The Fort St. George Gazette, 17-11-31, No.19 Part IV

Pages 275-278).

Plea for Social Reform:

Resolutions by Women's Conferences.

During the month under review ~~there were~~ several provincial and District Conferences of women held in different parts of the country. The proceedings and resolutions passed at some of the more important of these conferences are summarised below:-

5th Oudh Women's Conference, Lucknow, 1931. The fifth annual meeting of the Oudh Women's Conference was held at Lucknow on 1-11-31 under the Presidentship of Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade of Gwalior. In the course of <sup>her</sup> the presidential address, Rani Lakshmibai referred to the deplorable conditions of labour of women workers of India and said:

" I would like to put a word for our sisters who work in mills and factories. We are all aware of the conditions in which their work is carried on. Due to dire poverty and for want of knowledge of even their bare human rights, they allow themselves to be exploited. Unfortunately there are no adequate laws for their protection, and at times they have to carry on their work even in those delicate conditions of health, which generally precede and follow confinement. The All-India Women's Conference devoted a whole session last year to the discussion of ways and means of bettering their lot, and there is also going to be held a women's labour conference next February in Bombay."

Referring to the need for birth control she said; "Another problem of national importance is that of limiting the excessive growth of the population. The figures of the last census show an appalling increase of well nigh 30 millions of human beings. This is nothing but an unnecessary addition of perhaps so many decrepit specimens of humanity to our already overgrown population. If India is to take her proper place in the comity of nations, her first concern should be to rear a race which would be worthy of the name of man. This can only be achieved by proper attention to eugenics, which necessarily involves the practice of regulating births. This will not only save the womanhood of India from undue physical and mental strain but will also help partly to solve the grave economic problem with which we are face to face today."

The following are some of the more important resolutions passed

at the Conference:-

This Conference calls upon the local Government immediately to provide adequate facilities for the rapid expansion of compulsory Primary Education of girls in this province and urges upon the District and Municipal Boards to nominate women members on their Education Committees.

This Conference emphatically resolves itself against any amendment introduced in the Assembly intended to limit, weaken or hamper the operation of the Sarda Act, and, further, it hereby calls upon all individuals and organisations interested in social reform to resist such attempts.

This Conference resolves itself in favour of universal adult franchise as the basis of the new constitution. The women of India have no desire for any special treatment for themselves, as long as full and equal citizenship is recognised in practice as it is in theory .

That this Conference calls upon the Government of India immediately to take the necessary steps to implement the recommendation of Whitley Committee Report in respect of the improvement of the condition of female labour in India.

(The Pioneer, 8-11-31)

1st U.P. Women's Social Conference, Lucknow, 1931. - The first

United Provinces Women's Social Conference was held on 3-11-31 at Lucknow under the presidency of Begum Mohamadullah Jung of Allahabad. Women from all parts of the province attended. The delegates numbered over a thousand.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions condemning child marriage, dowry system <sup>and</sup> polygamy, and opined that these should be made penal, and expressed the opinion that women should have the right to seek divorce from immoral husbands and widows should have the right to remarry.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-11-31)



The 4th C.P. Women's Conference, Nagpur. - The fourth session of the Central Provinces Women's Conference was held at Jubbulpore on 13-11-31 under the presidentship of Lady Butler. Resolutions were passed by the Conference urging women to use their influence to bring down the expenditure of large sums of money on entertainments, marriages, births, and dowries; the opening of an Industrial Home for women at Jubbulpore; starting Temperance Associations; urging Government not to weaken the Sarda Act; asking women to join the nursing profession and requesting educational authorities to pay increased attention to the physical education of girls.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-11-31)

The 5th Andhra Women's Conference, Guntur. - The fifth session of the Andhra Provincial Women's Conference was held on 21-11-31 at Guntur under the presidentship of Srimati A. Vasundhara Devi, M.A., B.Sc(London). Resolutions were passed by the Conference unanimously requesting the Government, local boards and municipalities to introduce as early as possible, compulsory elementary education for boys and girls; advocating mixed education for boys and girls in institutions with women-teachers; appealing to the Government to start at least one medical school for women in Andhradesa and to locate the same at Guntur in the newly constructed medical school buildings, and urging the establishment of adult schools and industrial schools for the benefit of uneducated adult women and emphasising the need for promoting and encouraging Indian industries.

(The Hindu, 23-11-31).

Agriculture.

Progress of Agricultural Research in India, 1929-31\*

The following information regarding agricultural research in India is taken from the first Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the period 21-6-1929 to 31-3-1931.

Origin of the Council:- Since 1920, when on the inception of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms agriculture was made a transferred subject, the need for some organisation which would co-ordinate and encourage the activities of Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry among themselves and with such Central Institutions for research in these sciences as existed became increasingly apparent. In matters of research some organisation was required which while drawing its strength from the Provinces transcended in its working provincial boundaries. In the words of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, "However efficient the organisation built up for demonstration and propaganda, it cannot achieve a full measure of success unless it is based on research; the lack of co-ordination in agricultural research has prejudicially affected progress; there is a wide field open for the co-operation of the Government of India and of Provincial Governments in regard to agricultural research; and it is the duty of the Government of India, in the discharge of their ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the vast agricultural population of this country, to advance research in every way possible without encroaching upon the functions of Provincial Governments in that sphere". The plan conceived by the Royal Commission on Agriculture to meet this need was the constitution of a body on which the Provinces would be represented, which would be endowed with funds and which would allocate them for the development of agricultural and animal husbandry research. A conference with Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and other provincial representatives was held in 1928 to examine this recommendation, among others, made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

Constitution of the Council. - The Council consists of an Advisory Board and a Governing Body. On the Advisory Board are the Heads of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments of all the Indian Provinces including those of such Indian States as have elected to join the Council, representatives of Indian Universities, of the Co-operative Movement in India, of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and a few others.

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\* Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 - Calcutta : Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931 - Price Annas 12 or 1s.3d. PP. 47.

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The Governing Body is composed of the Ministers of Agriculture of all the Provinces, three representatives of the Indian Legislature, two representatives of Commerce as well as two members elected by the Advisory Board, with the Member of the Governor General's Council in charge of the portfolio of Agriculture as Chairman. The Governor-General in Council has the right to nominate additional members both to the Advisory Board and to the Governing Body. This power is intended to provide for additional representation of interests as need arises without having to make an amendment to the constitution every time. The function of the Advisory Board is to examine and make recommendations on schemes of research submitted to the Council by Provincial Governments, Universities or private institutions. Recommendations of the Advisory Board are submitted to the Governing Body which accepts them or not as the case may be. It is the Governing Body which has control of the research funds of the Council. These consist of lump sum and annual grants made by the Government of India and donations from any other source. (For further details see pages 3-4 of February 1930 report and pages 69-70 of June 1929 report of this Office).

The Council held its inaugural meeting on June 21st and 22nd 1929 and passed its draft Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of the Council. At this meeting, representatives of the Provinces reported the progress made by Provincial Governments in the preparation of schemes for assisting the sugar industry and decided to set up a Sugar Committee.

The Sugar Committee. - During the period under review, the Committee, which had received a general mandate from the Council to examine and report on measures necessary for the development of the sugarcane industry in India, held three meetings at which a series of recommendations were made by the Committee. In this Committee the Council has a qualified and representative body to which it can and does refer all questions affecting the welfare of the sugarcane industry in India. One of the first recommendations of the Committee was that the Government of India should be asked to institute an enquiry through the Tariff Board in regard to the question whether any protection should be given to the Indian sugarcane industry. This recommendation was accepted by the Council and the latter's representations were successful in inducing the Government of India to order such an enquiry. Pending full consideration of the Tariff Board's report, the Government of India have already taken action and raised the duties on imported sugar as from the year 1931-32. The Council has also accepted all the major recommendations of this Committee, for example, the establishment of a chain of ~~sugar-growing provinces~~ sugarcane research stations embracing all the sugar-growing provinces of India; the appointment of a technologist whose advice is available to existing and prospective sugar manufacturers in India and the endowment in collaboration with the Government of the United Provinces of a model sugar factory at Cawnpore.

Locusts Committee. - Another Committee set up by the Council was the Locusts Committee to combat the menace of locusts in northern and north-western India. This Committee held its first sittings at Delhi in February 1930 and issued an interim report containing measures to be adopted to bring the locust swarms, which had then begun to descend under control. The suggested measures were put into execution with the

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help of the Governments of the United Provinces and the Punjab as also with the help of those of the Indian States which were affected by these swarms and the situation was brought under control. A second meeting of the Locust Committee held in May 1930 considered the question of locust research and made certain far reaching recommendations. Some of the more important recommendations advocated: (1) The establishment of a central organisation for collecting and broadcasting the information received from the provinces; (2) the establishment of provincial organisations for locust control and intelligence work; (3) the establishment of a central store of materials for locust control operations; and (4) the employment of a special research staff under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for research on the ~~the~~ desert locust. Subject to two considerations, namely, (1) that as far as possible locust research in India should be conducted by scientists already at work in this country and (2) that the Council should not undertake financial liabilities for work outside India, the recommendations of the committee have been generally accepted.

Rice Research. - Out of a total cultivated area of 260 million acres in India and Burma, there are about 82 million acres under rice. Hence rice research claimed the attention of the Council from the very start. A sub-committee was appointed by the Advisory Board to evolve a co-ordinated scheme for rice research from the suggestions and plans submitted by the rice-growing provinces. The sub-committee considered that there should be greater collaboration between the various rice research stations in India and Burma, and made the following recommendations: (1) there should be a free interchange of selected types between stations and farms of adjacent tracts of different provinces; (2) the fullest facilities should be given to Economic Botanists working on paddy as well as to Directors of Agriculture to meet each other from time to time at the various rice research stations; (3) at each research station or sub-station all definite unit species which are isolated in the course of plant-breeding work, should be fully described and maintained and made available to workers in other parts of India; and (4) in addition to the actual production of improved strains, each station should devote attention to the general genetics of the rice crop and to the clearing up of obscure points in connection with the inheritance of characters. The sub-committee agrees that there is scope for a good deal of more work in the direction of botanical and agricultural surveys of the rices of India; such surveys are provided for in the schemes ~~for~~ recommended for sanction. The total cost of working these schemes was estimated at Rs.1,122,408 of which the Empire Marketing Board promised to pay Rs.203,279. The ~~Government~~ Governing Body of the Council is expected to sanction the balance.

Fertilizers Committee. - Another Committee appointed by the Council during the period under review, was one to investigate problems relating to the conservation of indigenous manurial resources, the development of the use of indigenous fertilizers and the preparation of a programme of research on fertilizers. The Committee made a number of recommendations almost all of which have been accepted.

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Dissemination of Information. - The Council has, during the period under review, developed its activities in the matter of dissemination of information, which is one of its functions, in three directions: (1) by providing facilities to scientific workers in India to attend Imperial and International Conferences bearing on agriculture and animal husbandry; (2) by subscribing to Imperial and International Institutions which purvey information of value to workers in India; and (3) by means of its publications. The Council publishes the following three periodicals: (1) The Journal "Agriculture and Livestock in India" which took the place of the "Indian Journal of Agriculture" and the "Journal of the Central Bureau for Animal Husbandry and Dairying"; (2) "The Indian Journal of Agricultural Science", and (3) "The Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry". The aim of the Council's ~~work of~~ publications is to provide in India suitable media for the publication of work done in India relating to any of the sciences with which the Council's activities are concerned.

Representation at Conferences abroad. - The Council sent its representatives to the following Conferences and Congresses held abroad during the period under review.

1. Third Entomological Conference, London, June 1930; 2. Imperial Botanical Conference. Fifth International Botanical Congress, Cambridge, August 1930; 3. Eleventh International Veterinary Congress, August 1930; 4. Conference of workers interested in the problems of Fruit Production within the Empire, London, August 1930; 5. Empire Soil Science Workers' Conference, Rothamsted, England, September 1930; 6. Tenth General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, October 1930; 7. Conference preparatory to the Second International World Wheat Conference, Rome, March 1931; and 8. Ninth International Dairy Congress, Copenhagen.

#### Progress of Agricultural Education in Burma, 1930-31\*

The Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ending 31-3-1931 gives the following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in that presidency.

Agricultural College, Mandalay: - The total number of applications for

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\* Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ended the 31st March 1931 - Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma - 1931. Price Rs. 1-8 = 2s. 3d.

entry was 78 during the year under review, but this number was reduced to 40 by a preliminary selection. The Board selected 20 stipendiary and 4 non-stipendiary students, but of the latter, one did not join the College. The total number of students on the roll at the end of March 1931 was 42, the numbers for the previous four years having been 47, 40, 43 and 34.

Pyinmana Agricultural School: This school which is managed by the American Baptist Mission is situated at Pyinmana and was opened in 1923. In addition to the school there is a farm and garden area which with the building site, amounts in all to 200 acres. The school is financed partly by the Mission and partly by Government, the latter contributing an annual grant of Rs.22,000. The ~~xxx~~ object of the school is to train persons coming from the village communities so that they may take up the work of farming and marketing and successfully practise it under the conditions met in Burma. In order that village ~~communities~~ boys may come, only vernacular educational qualifications are required for entrance. Any boy who is over fourteen years old, who is strong and well and has passed the vernacular fourth standard may be admitted. The course is a four-year one of applied instructions, the lessons learnt in school being applied in the field. Since the school opened, 121 students have gained the Lower Middle Certificate by passing the first two years of the course and 54 were graduated after completing the four-year course. 92 students were on the roll during the year and 79 remained till the close of the school. The total enrolments during the past eight years have been 292 in all, thus averaging 36 per year. Of the former students, 49 are engaged in agriculture proper, 10 in gardening, 5 are village school teachers, 9 Mission agricultural school teachers, 8 are in the Agricultural Department as fieldmen and the rest engaged in miscellaneous work, except 12 whose whereabouts are unknown.

Farm Schools- There were two farm schools in the Presidency, one at Hmawbi and one at Mahlaing. Ten students were taken in at the former school of whom 9 only finished the course, and 8 passed the final examination. The total number of applicants was 22 and the course appears to be becoming popular. The Deputy Director remarks that although some of the applicants for admission hope to get appointments as fieldmen in the Department after attending the course, there appears to be an increasing number who are prepared to attend the course so that they can return better fitted to work their own lands, or to manage the lands of others. The course given at Hmawbi comprised instruction in determining the different kinds of paddy and rice, the characters of good quality paddy as opposed to bad, the principles of manuring and instruction in horticulture. The course is given by one of the Assistants ~~xx~~ at the farm and supervised by the Deputy Director who conducts the final examination.

At Mahlaing the farm school opened in April 1930, twelve students being selected for training, of whom eleven completed a nine months' course, one having left in the middle of the course. The

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Deputy Director reports that of the eleven students who passed out, eight have gone to take up agriculture on their own account while two of the remaining three have stayed on as paid hands to assist in the farm work at Mahlaing, the remaining one having been retained as a temporary demonstrator. The Deputy Director reports that much help is being received from those who passed out in previous years by their taking up improved methods of cultivation, encouraging their neighbours to do so and aiding the Assistants of the department in the course of their work.

At the Mudon Agricultural Station, two short courses, each of one month's duration, were held for cultivators during the year. Twelve students, all of whom were bona fide cultivators, or sons of such cultivators, attended these courses. All these students were found to be willing and keen workers but lack of necessary educational qualification proved a serious handicap in training them. The Director makes the following remarks on the courses:

"From what I have seen of these courses I believe that they fill a marked want and it is a pity that Government did not see its way to sanction more than two at the time that the scheme was put up six years ago. It is one of the most important lines along which the activities of the department should develop!"

Training of Adult Cultivators. - These are short courses of about a week's duration held at various times of the year on the experimental farms and attended by adult cultivators who cannot afford to be away from their holdings for longer periods. The courses are enlightening rather than instructional. The cultivators who come to the farms are brought into personal touch with the work of these and with the staff and friendly relations are established. The courses are reported to be popular. In the Southern Circle these courses were attended by 27 during the year, a falling off by 38 from the previous year. The Deputy Director considers that it will be advisable to curtail the courses to three or four days. In addition to the courses, a few selected cultivators were given practical training extending for a period of one month at experimental farms and demonstration centres.

Progress of Agricultural Education in Madras Presidency,  
1930-31.\*

The following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in the Madras Presidency is taken from the Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture of the Madras Presidency for the year 1930-31.

\* Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency for the year 1930-31. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent Government Press. 1931. Price. 1 rupee 2 annas. pp. 54 + 2

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The activities of the Madras Agricultural Department in matters of educational consist in the running of a College affiliated to the University of Madras, an agricultural middle school and three farm labourers' schools.

Agricultural College, Coimbatore.- During the year the number of applications for the course of studies in this College rose from 303 to 365. Out of these, 28 students were finally selected. The restriction in the selection of students to 48 provoked the criticism of the members of the committee, who opined, that steps should be taken to permit more students joining the College, as it appeared to them that this course was becoming more and more popular. The cause of its popularity was, however, not investigated. A number of special lectures on subjects like plant nutrition, bacteriological technique, base exchange and kindred subjects which are dealt with only in an elementary way in their usual course were delivered by the staff of the college during the year. The increase in the number of students in each class made it inadvisable to continue the former practice of conveying students on tour from one part of the country to another, as it meant great expense and insufficient individual attention. Tours were, therefore, restricted to the agricultural research stations and their immediate surroundings.

Agricultural Middle Schools.- The Report observes that the only school of this nature maintained by the Department did not function as satisfactorily as it used to during the early years of its existence, 12 boys were admitted into the first year, of whom 4 left in the course of the year. In the second year there were 8 so that the total strength of the school was only 16 as against 23 in the (year previous). The history of the school dates back to 1922 and although it seems to have enjoyed some popularity during the first few years, it is clear, that for this kind of education, there is no demand from the agricultural classes. The report states that since this course is intended mainly for the sons of farmers who would go back to their land, two years seem too long a period for the boys to be kept away from their parents who need their presence during the busy agricultural seasons. If, on the other hand, this course was intended also for non-agricultural classes, it is not sufficiently attractive to them inasmuch as it does not help to qualify them for employment under the Government, as the college degree course does. It is, therefore, obvious that this course does not meet the need of either the agricultural or the non-agricultural community. If the agricultural middle schools are to be more popular, it is evident that the present order must change. The report suggests that one way of mending this unsatisfactory condition seems to lie in the direction of instituting allied branches. The period may extend from a few weeks to a year depending on the kind of courses given. Facilities should be available for young men from the country who wish to take short courses in insect pests and diseases, dairying, poultry management and the like, which would enable them to utilize the training with profit when they go back to their farms. The Government has deputed the Director of Agriculture, Madras, to investigate the causes of unpopularity of this type of education.



25.8

Farm Labourers' Schools.- These schools continued to function at Anakapalle, Palur and Coimbatore, with a fair measure of success. At Anakapalle, there were 33 boys in the day school against 35 in the previous year, and 21 as against 22 in the night classes. At Palur, there were 14 and 16 boys in the day and night classes respectively, as against 14 in each in the year previous. At Coimbatore there were 14 in the day and 11 in the night classes, as against 8 and 11 respectively in the previous year. The report expresses its gratification that these schools are supplying a want, viz., the education of the children of labourers at and near the agricultural stations who, otherwise, are likely to be deprived of it. These schools also aim at inculcating to the boys improved methods in farming practices obtaining in their neighbourhood. The opinion is expressed that it seems desirable that these schools are made permanent and the experiment be extended to other agricultural stations where there is ~~an~~ scope for this kind of education.

Programme for 1931-32.- The programme of work of the Department for 1931-32 include continuation of the Degree course at the College; attempts at short courses at the College and agricultural middle school; and continuation of farm labourers' schools.

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References to the I.L.O.

The Hindustan Times of 23-11-1931, the Times of India of 24-11-1931, the Pioneer and the Hindu of 25-11-1931 publish in full a lengthy communique issued by this Office on 21-11-1931 on the decision of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. to authorise the Director to consult the Governments of Asiatic countries and the States Members of the Organisation having territorial possessions in Asia on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour Conference.

The communique gives a brief resume of the history of the Asiatic labour conference idea and points out that "the holding of the proposed conference will ~~thus~~ bring together all sections of labour thought in Asia and <sup>it</sup> is expected that the strength of labour opinion ~~is~~ created thereby will exert pressure, on the one hand, on individual Asiatic Governments to ratify as many conventions as possible and, on the other, on Geneva, to make reasonable allowances for the differing conditions prevailing in the East.

(Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1347/31, dated 26-11-1931).

The Times of India of 27-11-1931, published a leading article on the subject under the caption "An Asiatic Labour Conference" based on the communique issued by this Office. The paper warmly supported the idea. The following is a relevant extract from the article:-

"The news that the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has authorised the Director to consult the Government of the Asiatic countries and the States' members having territorial possessions in Asia, on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour conference under the auspices of the International Labour Office, will be read with special interest."

it and it is significant that Moscow has made several attempts to organise a conference, under Communist auspices, of Asiatic workers. A Communist conference, of course, would not be interested in labour except from the point of view of revolution. Certainly, labour could not expect to benefit from a purely political body. It may be assumed that a conference held under the auspices of the International Labour Office would devote itself exclusively to the amelioration of labour conditions, more especially in the direction of social legislation."

... ..

The November 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.XI, No.3) publishes at page 201 in its "Month in Brief" column the news re: the decision of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. to authorise the Director to consult the Governments of Asiatic countries on the desirability of holding a separate Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu of 17-11-1931 publishes the views of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce on the questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. on the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations which have been communicated to the Government of India. The Chamber is of opinion that the application of any Convention on the subject would be premature as far as India is concerned. They observe:

"The general literacy of the people is extremely backward and the observance of the provisions of any such law in non-industrial occupations would be a matter of considerable difficulty for some years to come. No system of compulsory primary education has yet been adopted in India except in a few municipalities and until such time as it is extended throughout India, any law shutting out the boys and girls from their occupations would only mean enforced idleness. The minimum age for occupations ought to be definitely correlated to the school-going age. Moreover, India is too poor to be deprived of what support the families would get from the grown up children. Nor are the climate, customs and social system of the people favourable to the adoption of as high a minimum age as in other countries".

... ..

Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, addressed a meeting of the Economic Society of the Arabic College, Delhi, on 19-11-1931 on "Some Aspects of the Indian Labour Problem". In the course of the speech extensive references were made to the stimulus given to labour legislation in India by the I.L.O.

A short summary of the speech is published in the Hindustan Times of 21-11-1931.

... ..

The Times of India of 26-11-1931 publishes the principal points of a resolution adopted by the Advisory Committee of the I.L.O. on Salaried Employees, requesting the Office to take all measures calculated to hasten the adoption of international regulations of inventors' right for salaried employees.

... ..

The Indian Trade Journal, Calcutta, dated 12-11-1931 (Vol.CIII, No. 1325) publishes the news that the meeting of the Tripartite Technical Advisory Committee which was to have opened at Geneva on 8-12-1931 for the discussion of certain maritime questions has been postponed.

... ..

According to the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October 1931, the Government of India have sent a circular letter to all local Governments and administrations urging them to examine the Whitley Report with a view to taking early action thereon. One of the reasons put forward by the Government of India for the adoption of a generous labour policy is the need for the fulfilment of

the pledges given by India as a member of the I.L.O. The letter says:  
 "By her membership of the International Labour Organisation, India is pledged to a policy of continuous progress. The Government of India, therefore, hope that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour will receive early and sympathetic consideration by all concerned".

... ..

The November 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol.XI, No.3) reproduces at page 236, the announcement in the "Industrial and Labour Information" of 5-10-1931 regarding the ratification by the Government of India of the Convention concerning the "Marking of the Weight on Heavy Packages Transported by Vessels".

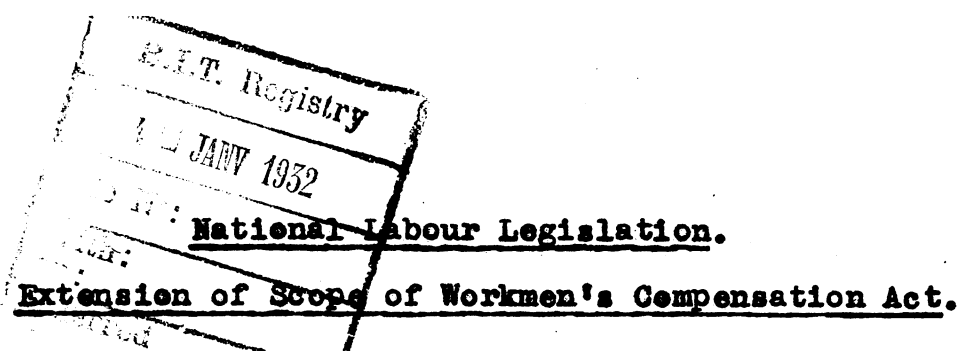
... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the month of September 1931 publishes in full the statements made in the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on behalf of the Government of India on 2-10-1931 and 5-10-1931 respectively regarding the possibility of giving effect to the I.L.O. Recommendations re: Prevention of Industrial Accidents.

... ..

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, during the month of October 1931, publishes the views of the Committee on the Blue Report on the Protection of Seamen in case of Sickness. The Committee is of opinion that Great Britain's reply as given in the Report adequately covered the ground at the present stage and that the discussion of details should be left over until the Convention was finally drafted.

The Hindustan Times of 5-11-1931 <sup>and many other papers</sup> publishes a lengthy communique issued by this Office on the recent elections of the President and Vice-President of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. Copies of the communique were sent to Geneva with this Office's minute H 2/1303/31, dated 5-11-1931.



The Government of India have, by their Notifications, from the Foreign and Political Department, Nos. 599-I, and 600-I dated 22-10-1931, extended the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to the lands occupied by various sections of the B.B. & C. I Railway and its branches passing through the State territories of Kathiawar and Limbdi. The extension is intended to remove the anomaly of employees injured on certain parts of the line getting compensation, while those <sup>employed</sup> ~~employed~~ on certain other parts, namely, in sections running through state territory, are not compensated. The above notifications and the draft rules framed for the purpose are published at pages 996 - 1008 of part I of the Gazette of India dated 24-10-1931 (No. 43).

Working of the Labour Department, Madras, 1930-31.

The following are extracts from the Administration Report of the Labour Department, Madras, for the year 1930-31, issued by Mr. C.A. Souter, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

Number of Factories and Health of Employees.- There was an increase in the total number of factories which stood at 1,661 at the end of the year 1930 as compared with 1,623 at the end of the year 1929. The majority of the factories which accounted for the increase was perennial. There was a slight decrease in the number of women and children employed in these factories and this <sup>was</sup> due to the fact that a large number of the registered factories remained closed during the year, owing to trade depression and other causes. The health of the operatives continued to be good and there was an increasing desire on the part of the factory owners to promote the welfare of their employees by providing housing, educational and other facilities. There was an increase in the number of accidents during the year and the statistics point to the need for more frequent inspections by the departmental staff.

Labour Unions.- The number of trade unions registered during the year was 6, and this brings the total to 19 since the introduction of the Indian Trade Unions Act. No appeal <sup>was</sup> been filed against any <sup>of the</sup> decisions of the Registrar of Trade Unions. Great difficulty was again experienced, as in the previous years, in obtaining the prescribed returns from some of the registered trade unions for the year ending 31st March 1930. No employers' associations have been registered under the Act. Activity in the matter of the organisation of labour was greatly stimulated by the visit of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The number of cases filed during the year was 146, 24 relating to proceedings instituted for recovery of compensation under Section 10 of the Act, 61 to distribution of compensation to dependents of deceased workmen under Section 8, 60 to memoranda of agreement for registration under Section 28, and 1 to recovery of compensation under Section 31. The report shows that the average amount of compensation paid in cases of death was Rs. 472, in cases of permanent disablement Rs. 192, and in cases of temporary disablement Rs. 9-8-0. The total amount of compensation paid to workmen in respect of the 60 memoranda of agreement sent for registration was Rs. 15,722-9-9.

Ameliorative Work for Depressed Classes.- It is stated that ameliorative work on behalf of the depressed classes through the agency of a special staff was extended during the year to the districts of Salem and Chittoor. Ameliorative work was conducted on the usual lines and consisted of - (1) provision of house-sites for relieving congestion in cheries and for liberating the depressed classes from oppression by landlords; (2) organisation and supervision of co-operative societies; (3) organizing special schools for depressed classes, granting them scholarships, stipends and boarding grants,



maintaining hostels, etc., to facilitate the spread of education among the depressed classes; (4) provision of pathway from cheris to roads, burial-grounds, etc.; (5) provision of facilities for drinking water by sinking new wells or repairing old ones; and (6) assignment of lands for cultivation and lease of lanka lands.

Co-operation.- The organisation and working of co-operative societies among the depressed classes continued to make progress on the usual lines. The chief kinds of societies were — (1) societies for obtaining loans for the acquisition of house-sites; (2) societies for obtaining loans for agricultural purposes, such as the purchase of cattle, seeds, ploughs, etc.; (3) societies for flood-relief loans; (4) societies for credit purposes; and (5) societies for obtaining leases or assignment of lands from Government. The first three types of societies were financed by Government and credit societies were financed by private banks. There were 1,813 societies at the beginning of the year. ~~211~~ 156 societies were organised and registered during the year <sup>and</sup> 201 societies were transferred to this department from the Co-operative Department. 65 societies were wound up and 247 societies were transferred to other departments. There were thus 1,858 societies at the end of the year under report; 88 societies were pending registration at the close of the year.

(The Hindu, 25-11-1931).

#### Proposed Safety First League, Bombay.

The alarming ~~increasing~~ in the number of accidents of all kinds, accidents in factories, street accidents etc., and the resultant loss of human lives and injuries to person, has, of late, been ~~enjoying~~ <sup>engaging</sup> the serious attention of industrial leaders in Bombay city. The first step towards the formation of a Safety First League in Bombay was taken at a representative meeting of citizens held in the office of <sup>the</sup> General Motors India, Limited, at Sewree, Bombay on 5-11-31, when Mr. G.C. Seers, the convener of the preliminary meeting, occupied the chair and explained at length the urgent need ~~for~~ starting such an organisation in Bombay and the lines on which similar institutions were run in England and elsewhere.

Mr. Seers, in the course of his preliminary speech, said that

the need for an organization to promote accident prevention and other safety methods in India was too obvious to be discussed. ~~Starting with factory accidents,~~ Statistics showed that there were no less than 6,454 accidents in mills in the Bombay area, during 1930. Of these 1,256 were serious and 42 were fatal. In the case of street accidents, there were no less than 2,511 in Bombay in 1929 of which 88 were fatal, automobile traffic being responsible for 1,702 accidents and 69 fatalities. In 1930, when the total number of motor vehicles in Bombay had grown to 10,500, there were 3,469 motor accidents. Street accidents last year altogether accounted for 97 deaths and 2,532 injured. Of other forms of accident, from oil stoves, electric shocks, drownings, etc., no reliable figures were available. It was, however, quite certain that all of these hazards had claimed their toll.

Referring to the principal activities of the National Safety First Association in Great Britain, Mr. Seers mentioned the following: <sup>activities</sup> Safety education among children and the general public, comprising (a) promotion of safety teaching, essay competitions, etc., in schools; (b) design and publication of posters for display in schools, garages, on public hoardings, etc., as well as in factories and workshops; (c) making and display of films and lantern slides and organizing of lectures and special performances for children; (d) maintaining a continuous propaganda campaign through the press, broadcast, etc., as well as through the Association's official organ "Safety First"; (e) preparation of books, pamphlets, leaflets, <sup>and</sup> notes for lectures and for all classes of road users; (f) holding of conferences for the discussion of the means of accident prevention; (g) promotion of local "Safety First" branches to further the objects of the Association and to deal with local safety matters, more particularly safety instruction of the young; (h) organization of a National Safety Week annually. The second group of activities centred around Safety measures in industrial undertakings, factories, docks, etc., and comprised among others, the following:- (a) Periodical issue of posters and other propaganda dealing with accident prevention, (b) promotion of legislation covering all phases of industrial accident prevention, (c) personal assistance and ~~advice~~ <sup>advice</sup> from the Association's Travelling Safety Engineer. The third group of activities dealt with safety propaganda and measures among all classes of road users.

Referring to the handicaps to be overcome, Mr. Seers said that the opinion had been expressed that, while the idea was a sound one in theory, India was not ripe for such a movement and that it would be almost impossible to put the theory into practice. Mr. Seers said such an attitude would <sup>be</sup> unduly pessimistic, and there was no reason why India should not be susceptible to education and propaganda. Even though it might take more time and greater effort to achieve results along the lines suggested, anything that could be done to promote precaution and prevent or reduce accidents was certainly worth undertaking.

~~After discussion a provisional a practical method of putting~~

After discussion a provisional committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. G.C. Seers, ~~W. B. Burford~~, W.B. Burford, W.T. Griffiths, N. Coombs (Chief of Fire Brigade), T. Maloney, (Secretary of the Bombay Millowners' Association), Modak (Bombay Municipality), and E.J. Fielden. It was also suggested that representatives of the Bombay City Police, Bombay University, Teachers' Association and Boy Scout organizations might be invited to join the committee. The first meeting of the committee was fixed for December, 1931. (The Times of India, 7-11-31).

Action on the Whitley Report:

Government of India's Letter to Local Governments.

Reference had been made at pages 9-10 of the report of this Office for September 1931 to the probable lines on which the Government of India propose to take action on the Whitley Commission Report. The first step towards implementing the recommendations of the Commission was taken recently by the Government of India by the issue of a circular letter to all local Governments and administrations. The object of the Government of India's letter is to secure an early examination of the Commission's findings and to indicate the lines on which it is proposed to proceed in <sup>respect of the</sup> the consideration of the recommendations. "Even where the importance of the Commission's recommendations is recognised", the letter ~~says~~ says, " there may be a tendency to defer action until times are more favourable. The report has emerged at a time of unprece-

dented trade depression and acute financial stringency, There is also the impending revision of the constitution on which much thought and energy <sup>is</sup> are naturally concentrated. While these factors may delay progress in certain directions, they do not justify inaction. Apart from the fact that some of the recommendations involve little or no expense, it should not be overlooked, as observed by the Commission, that a generous policy in respect of labour is also a wise policy in respect of industry. In counting the cost, it is necessary also to bear in mind the advantages which are derived from the greater contentment of the general mass of workers. Further, by her membership of the International Labour Organisation, India is pledged to a policy of continuous progress. The Government of India, therefore, hope that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour will receive early and sympathetic consideration by all concerned."

The Government of India have divided the recommendations of the Commission into the following six groups:- (1) Recommendations involving central legislation. (2) Recommendations requiring administrative action by the Government of India. (3) Recommendations involving provincial legislation. (4) Recommendations requiring administrative action by Local Governments and Administrations. (5) Recommendations requiring action by public bodies, e.g., municipalities, universities, etc. (6) Recommendations requiring action by employers and their organisations or by workers' unions.

With regard to the recommendations included in the first two categories, the Government of India will take the initiative, and will consult Local Governments and Administrations where necessary.

Proposals involving central legislation will, as far as practicable, be referred to Local Governments and Administrations before a Bill is introduced in the legislature, but the Government of India do not propose to observe this procedure in certain cases where the views of Local Governments and Administrations and of the interests concerned have already been received. In such cases Local Governments and the interests concerned will have a further opportunity of expressing their views if the Bill is circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon. The Government of India have asked that the recommendations falling within the other four categories should now be examined by the interests respectively concerned.

(Extracted from the Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October 1931).

#### Abolition of Forced Labour in Bilaspur.

The most far-reaching administrative change brought about by the land revenue re-settlement operations, recently concluded, in Bilaspur zamindars (Central Provinces) has been the omission of beth begar, or the tenants' obligation to cultivate the proprietor's home farm lands, from the record of village customs. This custom dating back to the pre-British revenue system in Chhattisgarh <sup>Sistich, C.P.</sup> has outlived its usefulness and was liable to be made the lever for oppression by unscrupulous proprietors and their agents; its abolition has generally proved acceptable, says the resolution of the Central Provinces Government, in confirming the revised settle

ment proposed by Mr. T.C.S. Jayaratnam, I.C.S.

Referring to this change, Mr. Jayaratnam says in his report:-

"Under the orders of Government, the custom of beth begar has ceased to be recognized, and is not enforceable under the Land Revenue Act. Proprietors objected to the procedure. The objection is without substance. [Other major alterations and innovations introduced by the revised settlement are, according to the Government resolution, the notification of the Satgarh as a local area in which the Tenancy Act shall be in force with a view to protect the ignorant cultivators of waste lands from exactions at the hands of proprietors, the investigation of claims to protection under the Land Revenue Act, the inquiry into and the recording of the conditions on which protected villages are held under the Act, the drawing up and executing of formal documents containing these conditions and the preparing of the village wajib-ul-arz or record of customs in the revised form. (The Labour Gazette, November 1931, Vol. XI. No. 3).

Note on Bilaspur District.-

The following information

regarding Bilaspur District is taken from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, (14th edition) Vol. 3 - page 559:-

The District of Bilaspur, as now constituted has an area of 7,618 Sq. miles. The population of the area ~~is~~ included in the district is (1921) 1,231,765. Formerly migration was very limited but since the famines, there has been much emigration to the Assam tea districts and there is an annual movement of surplus labour to Kharagpur and Calcutta. The chief wealth of the district consists in its agricultural produce. There is coal in the Korba zamindari. Among local industries, hand-weaving is important. The district includes ~~a special privileged tenure.~~ *Several large zamindari estates held on a special privileged tenure.*

Factory Administration in Bihar and Orissa, 1930\*

Number of Factories, Operatives and Inspections.- The actual number of factories on the register in the year under report was 301, of which however 19 remained closed throughout the year but were retained on the register as having a prospect of being reopened in the near future. During the year 13 new factories were registered and 4 former factories were re-registered. No factories were removed from the register during the year. The total number of persons employed was 66,315 or 2,411 less than the previous year's total of 68,726. The decrease is attributable in general to depression of trade and industry. The total number of factories inspected was 243 as against 182 in the previous year and the number of factories un-inspected was 39 as against 162 in the previous year. The improvement, appears more markedly in the actual number of inspections made. This was 387 as against 260 in the previous year.

Sanitation and Health of the Workers.- No serious defect in sanitation was observed. In a few instances where there was no proper outlet for sullage water, pucca drains were ordered and provided. No complaint of inadequacy of the drinking water-supply was heard, and no case of unsuitable water was observed. In ventilation there was some improvement on previous years. In some cases greater window or door space was ordered and provided. Though the lighting in some places remains unsatisfactory, there were some notable instances of improvement, and it is reported that the managements of some factories have yielded to persuasion and installed small electric lighting plants to the advantage of all concerned. The health of employees was normal. No epidemic and no industrial disease was observed by or reported to an inspector.

Wages.- The report states that the increase in the inspection staff made it possible to obtain more comprehensive and more accurate returns of the wages paid to the principal classes of factory workers than in previous years. Formerly, the figures were asked for in a supplementary form sent to each factory with the statutory annual return from and the response from most factories was scanty, and often unintelligible. In the year under report, figures ~~xxx kxx~~ were obtained on the spot by the inspector from the manager of every inspected factory, and care taken to assure a true record before handing the papers in at Ranchi for incorporation.

Women and Children.- The number of women employed during the year was 336 more than in 1929, the total being 6,439. This is at the rate of about one woman in every 10 employees. The number of children employed increased by 29 giving a total of 807 children, this is at the rate of about one child for every 82 persons employed.

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\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1930, by H.W.Brady, M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Struct.E., M.I.E., Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar and Orissa. Patna; Superintendent, Govt. Printing, Bihar and Orissa, 1931. Price. Rs. 1-4-0. pp.33.

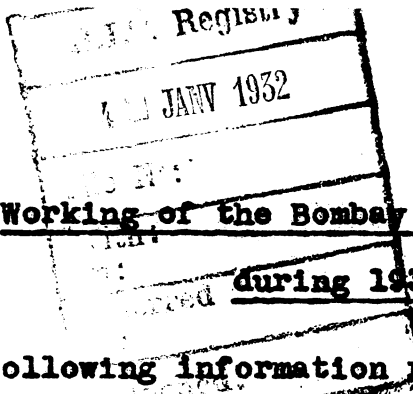
14

Accidents and Fencing of Machinery.- The fencing of machinery continued to improve. Previous progress in the adoption of expanded metal or latticed metal guards was maintained, and the number of accidents due to want of proper fencing was small. The Workmen's Compensation Act helped in this result, though its existence is not yet so widely known amongst illiterate workmen in remote places as it ought to be. The total number of accidents was 118 more than in the previous year, the total figure being 2,281. The increase is ~~in~~ mainly in minor accidents and is believed to have been due more to better reporting of trifling injuries than to the number of injuries actually occurring. The number of serious accidents was 33 less than in the previous year and the number of fatal accidents 15 more, the total being 36. Of these, 30 were in the heavy metals trade. The accidents due to rolling stock on lines increased from 59 to 65, those due to persons falling and falling objects from 1,139 to 1,282 and those due to electricity from 53 to 83. In 7 of the accidents the injuries were inflicted by personal violence with intention. The report states that more than half of the total number of accidents was due to the person falling or having something fallen upon him, both causes being very much within the control of the workers themselves. On the other hand, the accidents of which "working machinery" was the causing agent were only 196 (as against 238 in the previous year).

Prosecutions.- The number of convictions obtained was 17 and the number of persons prosecuted 29. 7 of the convictions were on charges relating to irregular or excessive hours or the withholding of holidays. 8 were on charges in respect of notices and returns and employment register.

(The working of the Indian Factories Act in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929 was reviewed at pages 14-15 of the report of this Office for October 1930).




  
Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act,  
during 1930-31\*.

The following information regarding the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1931 is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Act submitted by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay.

**Total Claims Paid.**- Returns were received from 348 of the 353 factories amenable to the Act. The 5 factories that did not submit information employed very few women and probably did not give a benefit to any woman. There were on the average 51,950 women employed daily in the factories in the Presidency which submitted returns. The number of women who claimed maternity benefits under Section 6(1) was 5,963. The number of benefits actually granted was 5,231 and the cost was Rs. 121,325. In the previous year, 1,700 benefits costing Rs. 34,663 were given. It is obvious, therefore, that knowledge of the Act is now a very widely diffused and that the women are freely availing themselves of the privileges conferred by it.

**Comparative Statistics.**- The claims paid per 100 women in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur were 6.1, 18.1 and 13.5 respectively. These may be taken as a fair reflex of the claims paid in the textile industries in the three centres. Employment was more regular in Ahmedabad than in Bombay and there are fewer migrations to the villages from Ahmedabad than from Bombay. Despite these factors, however, it is thought that the birth rate amongst textile women in Ahmedabad is considerably higher than in Bombay.

**Maximum Benefits.**- The maximum benefit that may be earned is Rs. 24-8-0. The average benefit paid last year was Rs. 20-6-0, whereas in the year under review, it amounted to Rs. 23-3-0. This indicates that the women are availing themselves to a greater extent of the pre-confinement relief period. Cases still arise of women working almost up to the date of confinement, but these appear to be due to bad estimating on the part of the women. Most women take a longer rest than that assumed in the Act, and in an enquiry into this in 6 Bombay mills the average pre-confinement period off work was found to be 48 days.

**Attitude of Employers.**- The report states that the Act has been of great assistance to working women, and a greater use is being made of maternity homes. It has, on the whole, worked smoothly, and this is, in great measure, due to the attitude of the employers in the large factories who have been guided more by the spirit than the letter of the law. The small employer has not been as liberal and it is thought that some women in the smaller factories do not receive benefits when earned. Special attention however was given to them by the Lady

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\*Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 for the year ending 30th June 1931. Price - Anna 1 or 1d. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1931. pp. 3

Inspector of Factories to ensure that the provisions of the Act are understood by the female employees. The choice in such concerns often lies between receiving a transitory benefit or losing employment. The Act is not reported to have led to any appreciable displacement of female labour in the large factories, but it is apprehended that the prosecution of claims in some of the smaller concerns would undoubtedly lead to the dismissal of women, of child-bearing age and their replacement by young persons, or by women unlikely to involve the employer in expense. The report is of opinion that in such concerns the wisest course appears to be to ensure that the women are acquainted with their rights and to take up any claims that are formulated by them.

Complaints.- A few cases were noticed where benefits were being paid at a rate lower than that provided by the Act or where reduced benefits resulted from an incorrect interpretation of the "week". Remedies, however, were promptly made. The Inspector also successfully represented the claims of women who had earned benefits in a concern that went into liquidation.

General remarks.- It is widely considered that the Act has led to a reduction in labour turnover and from this point of view it has benefited the employer. In one large mill, for example, 50 per cent. more women worked throughout the year than had previously been the case. The provisions of the Act have been recently extended to the districts of East and West Khandesh, Sholapur, Dharwar, Thana and Kaira and to the City of Poona by Government Notification No. 8178 dated 26th May 1931 in the Political Department. Representations have been ~~and~~ received from employers in certain areas that the flat rate of 8 annas per day applicable throughout the Presidency is unsuitable to their localities.

(The Working of the Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 41-42 of the report of this Office for December 1930).

### Employment of Women Underground in Mines:

#### Move for Total Prohibition.

A move towards the total prohibition of women underground workers in mines has been taken by the Association of Colliery Managers in India by issuing a circular letter to employers of coal-mining labour in the country, with reference to the difficulties which were apprehended in regulating the percentage of female labour employed underground in mines. The Association <sup>is</sup> ~~were~~ of opinion that within the next two or three years it would be found difficult to reduce the number of women labourers as required under the regulations, and that

this difficulty would be further enhanced should there, at any time, be a demand for large raisings of coal. It <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~, therefore, suggested that the present time <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ opportune for the total withdrawal of female labour underground. If such action was taken now raisings would not suffer, labour would get settled down to the new conditions and later on, when large outputs were required, no difficulty would be experienced.

The Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, in their reply to the Colliery Managers' Association, stated that they were of opinion that the present procedure in connection with the ~~XXXXX~~ withdrawal of women from mines (for details vide pages 29-30 of March 1929 report of this Office) was satisfactory and appeared to be working smoothly. No great difficulty was apprehended in the immediate future in regulating the percentage of women permitted to work underground and the Committee felt that the elimination of female labour by easy stages of 3 per cent. was the most satisfactory way of dealing with the economic side of the question. The Committee were also of opinion that the present time was not opportune to throw out of employment a large number of women colliery labourers and <sup>that</sup> in view of the economic ~~at~~ situation, it was advisable to leave the matter well alone.

(Extracted from the Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 17-11-1931).

Workers' Organisations.

A.I. National Federation of Textile Labour, Ahmedabad.

A conference of the representatives of the several textile labour associations in India met at Ahmedabad on 21 and 22-11-1931 under the presidentship of Mr. Shankarlal Banker and organised and inaugurated an all-India Federation of Textile Labour Unions to be known as the National Federation of Textile Labour. The objects of the Federation are: (1) to co-ordinate the activities of the various textile labour unions in the country which make up the Federation, (2) to promote the organisation of labour employed in the textile industry in India, (3) to advance the economic, social and political interest of textile labourers in India and (4) in due course to nationalise the textile industry.

Creed of Federation:- The means to be adopted for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation is to be always based on truth and non-violence. As at present arranged, the Federation will consist of provincial organisations of textile labour, having its central office at Ahmedabad. From each centre only one organisation would be admitted to the Central Body, either direct or through a provincial organisation. Only such bodies as agree to abide by the constitution and policy of the Federation, not to act in any manner prejudicial to the collective interests of the Federation and to satisfy the Federation that it has been organised and is being conducted on a definite trade union basis will be admitted into the Central Body. The business of the Federation will be carried on by the office-bearers elected at an annual conference and a Working Committee consisting of five to nine members.

Policy re. Industrial Disputes.- The Federation has adopted the following as its policy regarding industrial disputes in centres where it has got an affiliated body:-

In taking steps for procuring redress of the grievances of the members and others connected with the industry within the jurisdiction of an affiliated organisation and in case of all matters between the organisations and employers, the organisation adhere to the following principles:

Every endeavour shall be made to secure an amicable settlement by negotiations and conciliations.

Complete records shall be kept of the negotiations, representations and investigations concerning the aforesaid matters.

In all representations regarding the aforesaid matters, care should be taken to ensure strict accuracy and to preserve a conciliatory tone.

Arbitration and Strike.- If a satisfactory settlement is not possible by negotiation and conciliation, a demand for arbitration may be placed, and in such cases early information shall be given to the Working Committee.

If an offer for arbitration is not accepted or an award not carried out, or there is undue delay in submitting the matter to arbitration or carrying out an award, the affiliated organisation may, with the previous approval of the Working Committee, give reasonable notice to the employer or body of employers concerned of its intention to declare a strike, provided that such notices shall not be given unless it has been ascertained through a ballot that at least ~~of~~ 75 per cent. of the workpeople to be directly involved in the dispute are in favour of a strike.

(The Times of India, 26-11-1931).

Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, 1930\*

According to the Annual Report of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, 1930, which has recently been issued, ~~by the Association,~~ the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, in common with the country, passed through a period of unusual stress, during the year 1930. The Report points out that, while the primary trade union work and the existing social services were kept going, all the energy and the resources that could be spared were used for <sup>the furtherance of the</sup> national programme. Attention was given chiefly to that part of the programme, including boycott of foreign cloth and a campaign against the drink evil, which was calculated to promote the social and economic well-being of the working class. Apart from sustained activity in this direction, the outstanding features of the year, according to the report, were a revision of the constitution of the Association, the biennial elections of the Boards of representatives, the formation of a labour group in the municipality, a labour exhibition and a partial restoration of the cut in wages effected in the year 1923.

Constitution. - Owing to the changing needs and aspirations of the Association, a comprehensive survey of the constitution was undertaken during the year and the amended constitution was adopted by a special meeting of the Joint Board of Representatives in February 1930. Among the principal alterations was the definition

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\* The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad. Annual Report 1930. Labour Office, Ahmedabad. pp.70.

of the ultimate aim of the Association as the nationalisation of the industry. Among the objects of the Association has now been included the promotion of the civic and political interests of the workpeople. By a unanimous resolution on 30th July 1930, the Joint Board of Representatives restricted the membership of the Association to those abstaining from the use of liquor.

Membership Figures. - With the formation of the Clerks' Union, the number of Unions comprised in the Association increased from five to six during the year under review. The total membership of the Association stood at 17,673 at the beginning of the year, of whom 4,679 were women and 426 children below 15. In the second quarter of the year the number of members rose to 21,874 and at the end of the year ~~xxxxxx~~ it was 22,463. It is pointed out that among the major occupations in the industry, the weaving department has been a weak link in the chain of unity for a number of years. The progress of organisation in this section has been hampered by the intrigues and tyrannical hold exercised by the jobbers. At the beginning of the year, a campaign for setting up an effective organisation of weavers ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was launched, and the measure of success it met with can be judged from the fact that in less than three months the number of weavers on the members' roll rose from 825 to 2,500.

Redressal of Grievances. - The number of complaints recorded during the year was 3,293. Of these 965 related to unjust rules and practices, 881 to unjust penalties, 605 to pay and allowances, 179 to sanitary arrangements and conveniences, 158 to hostility to the Union, 128 to conditions of work, 64 to hours of work, 63 to holidays, 52 to collection of subscription and 198 to questions of a miscellaneous character. It has been pointed out that the gradual change in the character of complaints is no less remarkable than the increase in their number. The number of petty complaints is diminishing; but, owing to a growing sense of self-respect and consciousness of personal rights among the workpeople, methods and practices with which they silently put up before are now resented and made subjects of complaint. It is also stated that one of the indirect consequences of the operation of the Maternity Benefit Act has been an increase in the number of complaints, the number due to this cause during the year being 206.

With the pending balance of 350 complaints at the commencement of the year, the total number of complaints dealt with during 1930 was 3643. Of these, 3238 were closed and 405 remained pending. 81 per cent. of the complaints were brought to a successful conclusion, one per cent. were unsuccessful, 6.9 per cent. had to be closed inconclusively, 2.4 per cent. were rejected as unreasonable or trivial and 0.6 per cent. were found to be false.

A Conciliation Board consisting of Seth Chamanlal, G. Parekh and Mr. Shankerlal G. Banker was set up to expedite the settlement of complaints referred to the Association.

Labour Disputes and Strikes. - According to the record

maintained by the Association, there were 33 strikes during 1930, involving directly 9851 workpeople and resulting in a time-loss of 19,415 working days. Of the 33 strikes, 20 ended in favour of the employees, two were compromised and 11 were unsuccessful. A sum of Rs.3422 was paid as strike aid. Thirty-four representatives and 56 other workpeople received victimization benefit amounting to Rs. 8194.

Restoration of Wage Cut. - As a result of the award in connection with the claim for the restoration of the wage cut, the wages of the workpeople rose, during the year under report, by 8 per cent. and 5 per cent. in the case of spinners and weavers respectively. The application of the award was extended to the minor departments so that those drawing below Rs.30 were treated on the same footing as spinners, and the upper grades were reckoned as weavers. The net effect of this advance in the scale, it is pointed out, is an increment of about Rs. 2-4-0 in the earnings of each operative.

Workmen's Compensation Claims. - The Association takes up all cases of accidents in mills involving employers' liability for compensation. The Compensation Department of the Association arranges for all steps including medical examination, medical certificates, service of notice, and applications and proceedings before the Commissioner for the Workmen's Compensation Act. In addition to the 41 claims of compensation pending at the commencement of 1930, 161 were added during the year. Forty-six claims remained pending at the close of the year. The amount of compensation awarded in respect of the claims settled during the year was Rs.17,423.

Medical Aid. - During the year, 345 patients were admitted for indoor treatment in the hospital maintained by the Labour Association. There is accommodation for 30 patients in the hospital. Outdoor relief was administered to 7,518 patients with a total attendance of 21,471. The total expenditure on medical aid amounted to Rs. 11,851.

Education. - The Association conducted 11 day schools, 10 night schools and three other schools. The total number of children at the end of the year in all the schools was 1579, and the total cost of educational work to the Association was Rs.43,342-8-6.

Housing Schemes. - The Secretary of the Association had suggested that the Municipality should build 5,000 tenements for the working classes, (Vide pages 21-24 of the September 1930 and pages 40-41 of the May 1931 report of this Office). During the year, the Working Class Housing Committee of the Municipality advised the Municipal Board to undertake the scheme on an experimental basis of building 500 tenements and to acquire certain areas for the purpose. The Committee suggested the raising of a loan of Rs.450,000, and a slight increase in the terminal tax on cotton,



coal, yarn and piecegoods for meeting the recurring charges. The Municipal Board approved the report of the Committee, but the scheme is still under consideration.

Other Activities. - Among the other activities of the Association were the granting of cheap loans, maintenance of restaurants, the running of grain shops, the receiving ~~XXXX~~, ~~XX~~ of complaints against the Municipality, the maintenance of institutions for physical culture, the maintenance of circulating libraries, the carrying on of temperance propaganca, the conduct of the weekly paper called the "Majoor Sandesh", etc. During the year, a census of literacy among the working classes was also taken which covered 3926 families with 13,604 persons. The percentage of literacy ranged from 11.83 in the Saraspur Chawls area to 30.94 in the Saraspur Village, the average being 20.9 per cent.

Appendices. - There are eight very informative appendices in the report. The first ~~of which~~ contains important resolutions of the Joint Board of Representatives, the second gives an analysis of complaints by their nature and results, the third gives the results of an enquiry into "Dining Sheds", "Water Supply", "Latrines and Urinals" and "Creche Accommodation", the fourth deals with the schools and dispensaries maintained by mills, the fifth gives details of the literacy census. In appendix VII details regarding the progress of the Housing Scheme of the Ahmedabad Municipality have been given.

#### Progress of the A.I. Postal & R.M.S. Union - 1930-31.

The following information about the working of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union for the year 1930-31 is taken from the annual report for the <sup>year 1930-31</sup> ~~period~~ issued by the General Secretary of the Union:-

Membership. - On the 31st March ~~of~~ 1930, the number of members on the roll was 27,110 as against 27,756 in the previous year. The details are as follow:-

Bengal and Assam - 8009, Bihar and Orissa - 1536, Bombay - 3663, Burma - 1456, Central Circle - 2394, Delhi - 220, Madras Circle - 5782, Punjab and N.W.F. - 2011, Sind and Baluchistan - 321, and United Provinces - 1718. The report states that as a whole the decrease in membership was slight in comparison with the previous year's figures and in view of the various disintegrating forces <sup>at work.</sup>

Finances. - The balance in hand in the beginning of the year was Rs. 3160-0-2, being the previous years' savings and the total amount of contributions received from the provincial branches was Rs. 6293-14-6. The total budgeted expenditure was Rs. 9296-0-0. The income thus fell short by Rs. 3002-1-6, but by observing strict economy in expenditure and abandoning propaganda work for the year a saving of Rs. 1728-3-6 was effected. The report points out that the finances are far from satisfactory.

Annual & Provincial Conferences. - The 10th Session of the Annual Conference was held in Madras on the 30th and 31st December 1930 and the council meeting on the 29th December 1930. Mr. S.C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., presided. Rao Bahadur P.T. Kumaraswami Chettiar, M.A., President, Corporation, Madras, was the Chairman of the Reception Committee. 253 delegates from different Provinces attended. Annual Conferences were held in almost all the Provinces under the presidency of distinguished public leaders most of whom are members of the Legislative Assembly or Council of State.

Settlement with Sectional Unions. - At the Madras Conference of 1930 a scheme of amalgamation of the All-India (including Burma) Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union with the All-India Union, containing the terms provisionally accepted by representatives of the former Union on the one hand and by Mr. S.C. Joshi as representative of the latter ~~on the latter~~ on the other, was tentatively approved and Mr. S.C. Joshi was empowered to carry on further negotiations for effecting the amalgamation. The scheme was placed before the Annual Conference of the All-India (including Burma) Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union but the final adoption of the scheme was postponed. Pourparlers for settlement, however, were continued by Mr. Joshi with the representatives of the Union during the year and the excellent spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding displayed by that Union justify the hope that the amalgamation will be accomplished without further delay. The report notes that the All-India (including Burma) Administrative Offices Union and the Director-General of Post and Telegraphs Ministerial Staff Union have already been affiliated to the All-India Union on ~~an~~ a Provincial basis.

Communal Movements. - While, however, the gulf between the All-India Union and the sectional Unions has been well-nigh bridged ~~over~~ and the prospect of all the Unions coming under a common flag and working in complete union and agreement became brighter during the year, the Union was confronted with a serious menace by the

starting of several organisations on a communal basis. There was a serious communal schism in the Punjab organisation which baffled all efforts of the Union to effect a reconciliation and soon after the Madras Conference of 1930, an All-India Muslim Postal and R.M.S. Union was started in Delhi without any notice being given to the All-India Union. ~~It was~~ A manifesto<sup>was</sup> issued by the executive of the All-India Union to counteract the communal movement and giving assurance to the minority communities of the Union's sincere solicitude to redress their legitimate grievances. The report notes that although the manifesto had a pacifying effect generally on the ~~reasonable and saner~~ reasonable and saner sections of the communities concerned, it fell flat on the leaders of the movement. The Burman Postal and R.M.S. Union and the All-India (including Burma) Sikh Posts and Telegraphs Union in Lahore which are in a nebulous state took a cue from the All-India Muslim Postal and R.M.S. Union and established themselves as separate Unions on a communal basis. The Punjab dispute and the Muslim and other communal movements received the anxious attention of the All-India Council meeting held in Delhi in March 1931 and a decision to settle the dispute by arbitration was adopted. This move ultimately failed.

(Summarised from the Report published in the November 1931 issue of the Indian Post (Vol.2, No.11) pages 474-486.)

Resolutions passed at 11th Session of A.I. Postal Conference, 1931.

At pages 38-39 of the report of this Office for October 1931, a brief account was given of the proceedings of the 11th Session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference held at Delhi on 31st October and 1st and 2nd November 1931. The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference

This Joint Special Conference of the delegates of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union and Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, does not admit that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is working at a loss, or that any necessity really exists for retrenching subordinate employees either by reduction in the scales of pay of the future entrants. In case, however, on account of general financial condition of the Government of India as a whole, any retrenchment is to be effected in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, this Joint Special Conference urges upon the Government to carry out the various suggestions made by the Union, in their Memorandum to the Retrenchment Sub-Committee (see pages 41-48 of our August 1931 report) to the extent to which it has not been done. This Joint Conference expresses its deep dissatisfaction

*against Government's action in*  
~~and disappointment for departing from the declared policy of the~~  
 Government to treat this Department as one of the public utility  
 Department and not a Revenue earning one.

Retrenchment Condemned. This Joint Special Conference is of considered opinion that many of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee are unwarranted, unjustified, one-sided and sure to result in creating discontent and invidious distinctions which will result in consequent inefficiency and deterioration in the morale of the service.

Graduated Cuts Advocated. This Conference views with apprehension and anxiety the announcement by the Finance Member of the Government of India regarding the proposed uniform 10 per cent cut in the salaries of all Government ~~and~~ and the margining therein of the amount of income tax leviable as a new measure. In effect, therefore, the cut becomes <sup>reversely</sup> graduated cut. Justice demands the introduction of graduated cuts in salaries with percentages rising with the income and equity requires that living wage, which is beyond doubt not less than Rs.100 per month, be exempted and that <sup>salaries</sup> above this minimum may be cut at the rate <sup>of 1 per cent to</sup> and 20 per cent. The Conference urges the Government to reconsider the position and introduce a graduated cut. (For actual rates of cuts see pages 29-30 ~~xxx~~ of this report).

Committee to Consider Retrenchment Recommendations. - A Special Committee be constituted with the following five members to prepare a thorough criticism of the <sup>re</sup> report of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee and to make out a case that Postal Department is actually not running at a loss. - 1. Mr. S.C.Joshi, Mr.2. Mr. N.C.Sengupta, 3. Mr. R.C.Chatterjee, 4. K.P.Iyengar, and 5. Mr. M.A.Tahar.

Referendum on Conditions of Work. - A referendum be issued to all the members of the Union explaining fully the present position on the issue of retrenchment and ~~and~~ inviting their opinion on or before the 16th December 1931 to the action they propose to take to protect their interests on the following points:- (1) No work beyond the hours presented by the Time-Test. (2) No work more than eight hours a day. (3) Attending office with a minimum dress.

Office-bearers for 1931-32. - Resolved that the following office-bearers be elected for the year 1931-32:-

Mr. Janna Das Mehta - President, Mr. M.Asaf Ali, Vice-President, Lt.Sardar Surendra Pal Singh, Advocate - Vice-President, Mr. N.C. Sengupta - General Secretary, Mr. M.L.Topa - Honorary Secretary, Sardar Gubux Singh & Mr. Sadi Ram, (R.M.S) - Assistant Secretaries, Mr. A.N.Vaid - Treasurer, and Messrs. Mehra & Co. - Auditors.

(Extracted from pages 487-491 of the November 1931 issue of Indian Post Vol 2, No.11).

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Progress of Trade Union Movement in C.P., 1930-31\*

The following information about the progress of the trade union movement in the Central Provinces is taken from the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st March 1931, issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Central Provinces.

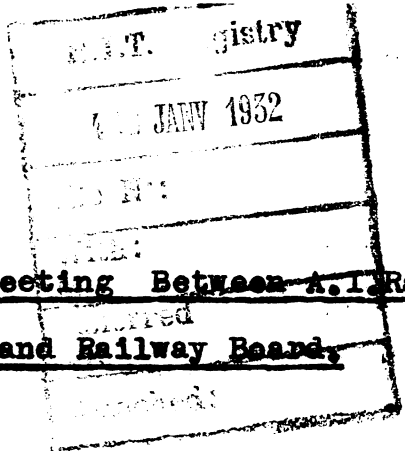
According to the report, no new trade union was registered and no registered union was dissolved during the year. Two of the 7 trade unions, viz., (i) the Model Mills Labour Union, Nagpur, and (ii) the Textile Labour Union, Central Provinces and Berar, Nagpur, appear to exist only in name. The number of trade unions which functioned in the province during the year was therefore five. The total membership of all the seven trade unions at the beginning and end of the year stood at 3,499 and 4,331, respectively, as compared with 2,514 and 3,499 in the preceding year. No political fund was maintained by any of the trade unions. During the year under report no appeals were filed by the unions against the decision of the Registrar, and hence no order has been passed by the Judicial Commissioner in second appeal. Similarly the registration of any union was not withdrawn or cancelled.

(The Annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year 1929-30 was reviewed at page 22 of the report of this Office for January 1931).

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\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending the 31st March 1931. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1931. Price - Four Annas. PP. 3.

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4th Half-Yearly Meeting Between A.I. Railway Federation  
and Railway Board,

The fourth half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation will, it is understood, take place in the first week of December, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) recognition of the Union rules and (2) ~~the~~ indebtedness of railway employees.

(The Hindu, 15-11-31)

Salaried Employeess.

Rates of Cut in Salaries: Postal & Railway Departments.

The Government of India in a communique dated 3-11-31 have, with the approval of the Secretary of State, decided to adopt the following scale for the temporary reduction in pay in the two principal commercial departments under them, the Railway and the Posts and Telegraphs. It will be applied without exception to  $\frac{1}{2}$  all pay and allowances of the nature of pay of all Government employeess in these departments including daily-rated employeess.

The Rates of Cuts. - The following are the rates of cuts:-  
 Where the pay and allowances of the nature of pay :- (1) Do not exceed Rs.30 per mensem, half an anna in the rupee for every complete rupee. (2) Exceed Rs.30 per mensem but do not exceed Rs.83-5-4 per mensem, one anna in the rupee for every complete rupee. (3) Exceed Rs.83-5-4 per mensem, ten per cent.

Exemption from Income-Tax. - The Boards of Directors of the State-owned Company-managed railways have given an assurance that they are prepared to co-operate generally in this scheme for a temporary reduction in pay. The employeess of Government and of State-owned Company-managed railways, to whose emoluments it is applied, will be exempted from the new incometax or surcharges on the existing taxes on income proposed in the Finance Bill.

Date of Enforcement. - This temporary reduction will come into force on such date as may be fixed for a temporary reduction in the pay and allowances of other Government servants; and unless cancelled earlier, will terminate with the pay earned for March 1933.

Provident Fund, Gratuity & Pensions Unaffected. - Provident

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fund bonus and gratuity will continue to be calculated on the rate of pay which would have been drawn apart from the temporary reduction, and all employees to whose emoluments the temporary reduction is applied, will be given the option of contributing to their provident fund either on their pay or on their reduced pay. The temporary reduction will not operate to affect adversely the pension of any person and all pensions will be calculated as if the reduction had not been made. The temporary reduction will be applied to leave salary during leave on full or average pay, but not other leave salary.

(The Indian Post, November 1931,  
(Vol. II, No. 11) Page 504).

Salary Cuts: A.I. Government & Employees Federation's  
Protest.

At pages 48-50 of the report of this Office for October 1931 reference was made to the strong protests raised by organisations of Government employees against the decision of the authorities to cut their salaries by 10 per cent. The action of the Government of India has been copied by the provincial governments. Accordingly a 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of employees of provincial governments ~~ix~~ has been decided upon. The cut in salaries is continuing to evoke protests from the numerous organisations of government employees in this country. Below is given a short summary of the proceedings of a Conference of the All-India Government Employees Federation held at Delhi on 2-11-1931 to protest against the salary cuts:-



Conference of A.I. Government Employees' Federation, Delhi.- A Conference of the All-India Government Employees' Federation was held in Delhi on the 2nd November 1931 to protest against the cuts in salary, reduction in staff and the proposed additional taxation. Representatives of the unions of the employees in the offices under the various local governments and the Central Government, were present. Mr. S.G. Jog, M.L.A. presided.

Mr. S.C. Joshi, the General Secretary of the Federation, opened the proceedings with a short speech outlining the cut proposals ~~for~~ <sup>of</sup> the Government of India, and explained that any attempt to cut either the cadre or the pay of the subordinate services would be an act of cruelty. He read a short report explaining the work done by the Federation during the year, and exhorted the representatives to stand united in the hour of need.

In his presidential address, Mr. S.G. Jog admitted that there <sup>was</sup> were really no margin in the salaries of the subordinate employee to admit or any sacrifice. They were already granted a wage which was very short of a real living wage. He quoted facts and figures to illustrate that in India there was a top heavy administration and opined that a cut (really) was necessary in the princely incomes of the highly paid officers.

Resolutions Passed.- The following resolutions were then passed unanimously:-

(1) This Conference of the All-India Government Employees' Federation views with apprehension the announcement by the Finance Member of the Government of India, regarding the proposed uniform 10 per cent. cut in the salaries of all Government servants. The "cut" snatches away a greater portion from the low-paid staff than <sup>from</sup> the highly-paid ones, which is contrary to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committees, as well as to the cuts in ~~the~~ salaries effected in other countries. Justice demands the introduction of a graduated cut in salaries with a percentage rising with income, and equity, requires that the living wage should be exempted. The Conference urges the Government to reconsider the position and introduce a graduated cut of 3 to 20 per cent. in salaries with an exemption as recommended by the Army Retrenchment Committee.

(2) The Conference protests against the different proposals for cuts adopted by the different Local Governments and semi-governmental bodies and urges them to follow the uniform procedure of a sliding cut of 3 to 20 per cent. with exemptions as recommended by the Army Retrenchment Committee.

(3) This Conference protests against any retrenchment in staff that would, directly or indirectly, result in aggravating the conditions of those who are in service, and urges the Government not to resort to this method, and also that the service associations be freely consulted in the matter.

(4) This Conference protests against the proposed lowering of the limit of annual income for the purpose of levy of income-tax, inasmuch as ~~the~~ incomes which are quite short of a living wage, are thereby subjected to taxation. The Conference requests the Government not to lower the <sup>taxable</sup> limit of Rs. 2,000 per annum to Rs. 1,000.

(5) This Conference requests all the associations of Government employees to organise an All-India "Fasting and Prayer Day" on the 15th of November, 1931 when all the Government servants will be observing a fast and will pray for sympathy for their cause and will hold meetings for the purpose.

(6) This Conference appoints the following <sup>as</sup> office-bearers of the Federation for the next year:- Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Bar-at-Law, President; Mr. A.H. Kirtikar, Bar-at-Law, Vice-President; and Mr.S.C. Joshi, General Secretary. (The Hindu, 7-11-1931).

#### Indian Pay (Temporary Abatement) Bill, 1931.

At page 54 (3rd paragraph) of the report of this Office for October 1931, under the heading "Legislation re. Guaranteed Salaries" reference was made to the announcement made by Sir George Schuster, while introducing the Emergency Budget, of the undertaking of His Majesty's Government to introduce legislation in parliament to reduce salaries which are guaranteed by the Government of India Act. The Bill came up for first reading in the House of Commons on 25-11-1931. The following are the main points of the Bill:-

(1) That the Bill shall have effect only on salaries received between December 1 of this year and March 31, 1933 inclusive.

(2) The abatement of pay will not exceed 10 per cent. inclusive of the surcharges imposed on income-tax and super-tax by the Indian Supplementary Budget.

(3) Pensions will not be affected. That means that where pensions are based on salaries their amount will not be reduced on account of the reduction of salaries.

(4) When a servant is on leave his pay will be subject to the cut only when his leave salary is equal to his full average pay. If he goes on leave on half pay, for example, he will draw a full half of his normal pay during his absence, whereas if his leave is on full average pay he will be subject to the new reduction of salary.

(5) The Secretary of State in Council is empowered to take "hard cases" into consideration and to grant exemption from the cut to the extent that he thinks necessary.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1931).

Economic Conditions.

Experimental Debt Conciliation Boards in C.P.

A press communique recently issued by the Central Provinces Government states:- The Central Provinces Government has had under examination the question whether it is desirable to establish Conciliation Boards on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission on Agriculture for the purpose of dealing with rural indebtedness and has decided to initiate in selected areas of that division experiments in debt conciliation on a voluntary ~~x~~ basis. The experiments will at the outset be limited to small blocks of villages, but it is hoped that the data thus provided will enable the Government to reach a decision regarding the ~~x~~ utility and further scope of the operations and regarding the lines which such legislation, as may be considered necessary, should follow. The question of taking similar action in other divisions will be examined in due course. (The Statesman, 29-11-1931).

The Bombay Regulation of Accounts Bill.

The following is the statement of objects and reasons of a Bill <sup>for the regulation of accounts</sup> for the introduction of which leave was granted to Mr. Syed Munawar, M.L.E., at the meeting of the <sup>Bombay</sup> Legislative Council ~~of the Governor of Bombay~~ on 2-10-1931.

Despite the steady growth of the Co-operative Movement in the Bombay Presidency, professional money-lenders known as Marwaris, Pathans Banyas and other Sahukars, flourish in every town and village of the Presidency. Except for a small proportion of them who are honest, a very big number has acquired a reputation for ~~at~~ dishonesty, usury and other malpractices easily practised on the illiterate poor and labouring classes. It is common knowledge that interest at unconscionably high rates ranging from 24 to 300 per cent. is charged by many such money-lenders who induce people to borrow, deduct first month's interest from the principal before issuing the loan and recover the dues under threats of violence. No doubt, the Usurious Loans Act, passed by the Imperial

Legislature in 1918, provides a legal remedy, but this applies only to such cases of usury as are referred to courts of law. Numerous cases of substantially unfair transactions, however, do not come before courts of law not merely for economic reasons but because the poor, helpless people are afraid of harassment and victimisation by their creditors. Consequently, thousands of people belonging to the agricultural and labouring classes remain in life-long indebtedness almost invariably to the same moneylenders.

This Bill is thus a necessary adjunct to the Usurious Loans Act. Its purpose is to exercise a legal check upon unscrupulous money-lenders as also upon reckless borrowers who habitually indulge in the delight of borrowing.

The Bill is an adaptation of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1929, passed at the instance of that Government on the conviction that the profession of money-lending in that province has assumed a menacing aspect. The profession has admittedly become a worse evil in this Presidency, and this fact justifies the early introduction of this measure of social legislation. (The Labour Gazette, November 1931, Vol. XI, No.3).

(The Statement of Objects and Reasons of a similar Bill introduced recently in the Central Provinces was given at pages 51-52 of the Report of this Office for October 1931. Attention is also drawn to a brief note on legislation against usurious money-lending in India at pages 52-53 of the October 1931 Report of this Office.)

#### Tea Depression in Assam.

In a resolution published on immigration of labour in Assam for the year 1930-31, the Governor-in-Council, Assam, recognises that, though the Tea industry in the Province has been hard hit by acute and wide-spread trade depression necessitating curtailment of work, yet the managers and agents of the tea companies have endeavoured, as far as possible, to save their labour forces from the effects of the general depression. Unless, however, some improvement in the industry soon occurs, a serious situation may arise. Estates which have not sufficient reserve to enable them to carry on at a loss may be compelled to close down. The situation is being closely watched by the Indian Tea Association, as well as the Government, but the Governor-in-Council trusts that a serious collapse may be averted by a trade revival.

In the Surma Valley, the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs. 10-11-0 to Rs. 9-3-2; Rs. 8-6-1 to Rs. 7-10-5; and Rs. 5-6-2 to Rs. 5-3-6 respectively. In the Assam Valley, the average earnings fell from Rs. 11-1-7 to Rs. 10-2-7 for women and from Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 7-4-7 for children whereas, men earned Rs. 14-0-11 as compared with Rs. 13-8-7. (The Statesman, 28-11-1931).

Protection of Bengal Industries: Proposed Trade Convention.

The report of the Public Committee under the chairmanship of Sir P.C. Ray under the auspices of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce on the relationship of the provincial economic situation with constitutional changes, <sup>which</sup> ~~was~~ issued on 25-11-1931 advocates the establishment of a Trade Convention. The Committee holds that the Trade Convention must have four reservations; first, that the Bengal Legislature should have the right to deal with the existing foreign steamship companies as it deems necessary; secondly, that new private limited companies must have half of the shares and half the directorate held by native-born provincials, unless the Legislature grants special exemption to them; thirdly, that partners and directors of the existing industrial companies in which one-third of shares are not held by provincials should not be permitted to sell shares without first offering them to the proposed Provincial Investment Trust and; fourthly, that a Bengal Arbitration Board with the Commerce Minister as Chairman should investigate the grievances regarding the refusal of accommodation by foreign banks or extension of dealing by European houses or with regard to the candidature for employment in foreign firms, all such enquiries being recognised as Parliamentary papers.

Regarding the regulation of restriction on inter-Provincial Trade, the Committee suggests a formula that any Province may be at liberty to levy a terminal tax on the basis of the origin of traffic, obtained from a specific provincial source, if it considers such an imposition will promote the best interests of the corresponding trade built up or proposed to be built up within the Province.

(The Times of India, 27-11-1931).

Enhanced Income & Super Tax Rates:

Pretest by Millowners' Association, Bombay.

At pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for October 1931 a brief summary was given of the principal features of the Emergency Budget introduced in the Assembly on 29-9-31 by the Finance Member of the Government of India. The proposed increases in the Income-tax and Super-tax <sup>rates</sup> have evoked an emphatic protest from the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The Committee contends that the enhanced rates will cripple industrial activity. The following are relevant extracts from the representation made in respect of the new Income-tax proposals to the Finance Member by the Secretary of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association on 2-11-31:-

1. Increasing Taxes on Diminishing Incomes. - "The Finance Member has himself stated that his estimated receipts from taxes on income for the year 1931-32 would be about Rs.12.5 million less than the receipts originally budgetted for during the year. This itself is a very important admission. If receipts from this source failed to respond to Government's expectations, the position could have no other meaning than that the earning capacity of the industries of the country had greatly deteriorated. The importance of this situation does not appear to have been adequately appreciated by Government, for, in spite of a gradually diminishing income, the assessee is being asked to pay more and more in the shape of Income-tax.

2. No Equality of Sacrifice. - The Prime Minister of Great Britain and His Excellency the Viceroy have enunciated the salutary principle of equality of sacrifice by the various sections of the community to tide over the present difficult period, and on this basis, the new tax burdens should, in the opinion of my Committee, have been more evenly distributed over the population as a whole and the various existing and potential sources of revenue.

3. Retrenchment of Government Expenditure Inadequate. - My Committee are also strongly of opinion that the bulk of the anticipated revenue deficit could and should have been met by retrench-

ment in expenditure, and that any new taxation which it might be necessary to impose should have been such as would encourage and not retard the development of industries, on which depends the economic recovery of the country which is of such vital importance in the present situation.

#### 4. Increased Income-Tax Rates Not Accompanied by Relief

Corresponding to that Given in England. • Industries will be very seriously handicapped by the new taxation, and it is difficult to see how new capital, which is admittedly necessary, can be attracted for industrial development in the face of these new burdens, an excessively high bank rate, which the Finance Member has admitted has largely been brought about by currency contraction, and the higher prices which will have to be paid for certain classes of imported stores and raw materials. Generally speaking it may be said that the bulk of the working capital for all the important industries of the country is drawn from the public in the shape of fixed deposits at rates usually higher than bank rate, which means that today working capital for industrial purposes is difficult to obtain at anything less than 9 per cent, whereas in ~~Great~~ England, France, Japan and the United States of America, the rates for working capital are probably round about 4 per cent. With the Government of India borrowing money on Treasury Bills at something like  $7\frac{3}{4}$  per cent, an investor would naturally expect a return of at least 10 per cent. net before he could be persuaded to invest in new capital issues, and on this basis, the gross profit prior to deduction of Income-tax on the new basis would have to be very high. How difficult it would be to achieve this result with the new rates of Income and Super-tax is apparent when one considers that a company with a profit of Rs. 600,000 would have to pay out nearly Rs. 1,48,437 in Income and Corporation Tax. It might be urged by Government that similar high taxation is imposed on industries in England, but in answer to this, it is pertinent to point out that in England, assesseees are allowed to set off their losses in one year against profits earned in subsequent years. In addition, it is pertinent to mention that, with the latest increase of 11 per cent in company Income-tax in England, a corresponding increase has been given in the statutory allowance for depreciation. If there is any justification whatsoever for the imposition of taxes on incomes corresponding in degree to those in England, then my Committee maintain that, in justice, assesseees should be allowed similar concessions and the burden of double and treble taxation, which now exists, should be entirely done away with. One of the steps that might be taken towards the accomplishment of this would be the abolition of company Super-tax altogether.

#### 5. The High Income-Tax Rates in England NO Justification for Imposition of Similar Rates in India. - It is a favourite

argument of the Government of India, and one which has even been printed in the Income-tax Manual, that hitherto the rates of taxation on incomes in India are considerably less than in the United Kingdom. It is conveniently forgotten, when this argument is put forward, that the conditions in the two countries, one a highly developed industrial country and the other almost entirely agricultural, are vastly different, and that in India, no matter what rate of taxation on income is imposed, would the total revenue derived from that source form the great proportion of the country's total revenue that it does in Great Britain, since Income-tax payers in India form almost an infinitesimal part of the population. Today the total number of assesseees is about 330,000, or less than one-tenth of one per cent. of the total population of the country.

#### 6. Increase in Income Taxation Unreasonable Compared to Increases

Recorded in other Sources of Revenue.— In 1913-14, the total revenue derived by the Government of India was about Rs.870 millions and the yield from taxes on income was about Rs.30 millions. In 1931-32 (according to the revised Budget) the total revenue will be about Rs.1340 millions and the yield from taxes on income about Rs.180 millions. In other words, out of a total increase of Rs. 410 millions in revenue, taxes from income alone account for about Rs. 150 millions.

7. Taxation on Incomes of Rs.1,000.— A Gross Injustice.— The proposal to introduce a new class of assesseees whose annual income list between 1,000 and 2,000 rupees per annum is, in the opinion of my Committee, morally indefensible. Taxation of such meagre incomes during a period of rising prices like the present especially, is utterly unjustified. The unfairness of the proposal is forcibly brought out by the fact that the total income of this class of assesseees only amounts to the same figure as the unemployment dele given to a married man with one child in England.

#### 8. Burden of Income Taxation on Middle Class Heavier in India

Than in England. — Similarly, a comparison with the incidence of taxation on incomes up to about Rs.7,500 indicates that, up to this limit, the average Indian taxpayer is being asked to bear an excessive burden. Let us take, for example, the case of a typical taxpayer, namely, a married salary earner with two children, in England and India, with income of Rs.2,000, Rs.3,000 and Rs.5,000 per annum. In England, the assessable income is computed after providing for the following allowances:—

- (1) One-fifth of the earned income up to maximum of £ 300 as a personal rebate.
- (2) Personal allowance for married men ... £ 150
- (3) Allowance for first child ... £ 50
- (4) Allowance for subsequent children ... £ 40 each
- (5) The first £ 175 of "taxable income" to be charged at half the standard rate, viz., 2s.6d.



The British salary earner does not pay any tax on Rs.2,000 and Rs.3,000, whereas the Indian taxpayer is called upon to pay Rs. 78-2-0 and Rs.117-3-0 respectively, per annum. On Rs.5,000, the British taxpayer pays Rs.100 as tax, while the Indian taxpayer pays something like Rs.292-15-6, or nearly three times as much as the British taxpayer.

9. Economic Unsoundness of Taxation of High Individual Incomes.— The rates of Income and Super-tax which it is proposed to impose on incomes of Rs.30,000 to Rs.60,000 per annum will mean an increase about 80 per cent, whereas in England, there has been an increase of only 11 per cent, during the same period. On Super-tax, the rates in India have been increased 25 per cent. and only 10 per cent in England in the same period. When a man's income reaches Rs.600,000 under Government's proposals, he will have to pay away nearly half of the amount in Income-tax and Super-tax, and in the great majority of cases, will have already further contributed, indirectly but very substantially, to the revenues of the country by way of Corporation Tax. It may be urged that in England, he would be mulcted in similar taxation, but against this it has to be pointed out that the social amenities provided at the expense of Government are infinitely greater than in India.

(Extracted from the Printed Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October 1931.).

Agrarian Unrest in U.P.: Peace Efforts Fail.

Reference was made at pages 55 to 57 of the report of this Office for October 1931 to the growing unrest among the agrarian population of the United Provinces owing to <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ inability to pay rents. The Congress party in that province, which has taken the leadership of the tenants, has threatened the Government with starting a no-<sup>rent</sup>-~~tax~~ campaign in the Province if the Government ~~would~~ would not make remissions in rents on the lines suggested by the Congress. The Commissioner of Allahabad met the Congress leaders of Allahabad district on 3-11-31 to discuss the issue, but details of what transpired at the meeting are not known. The Provincial Congress Committee, sent a letter on 4-11-31 to the Chief Secretary to the U.P. Government intimating that the Congress leaders would be ready to meet the Officials, whom the Government might select for the purpose, to discuss the agrarian situation on a provincial basis before resorting to Satyagraha. The reply of the Chief Secretary was received by the Committee on 12-11-31 and a meeting of the Council of the Provincial Congress Committee was summoned on 15-11-31 to consider the Government's reply. (The Hindu, 13-11-31).

The decision of the U.P. Government which was announced on 5-11-31 to make a remission amounting to Rs.10.9 millions in the rents which fall due this month has not satisfied the Congress.

The Council of the U.P. Congress Committee held its sittings on 15- and 16-11-31 and after reviewing the situation passed the following resolutions on the action to be taken:-

"The Council, having heard the statements of the representatives of the Allahabad District regarding their conference with the Government officials and having considered the correspondence, is of the opinion that the attitude of the Government is thoroughly unsatisfactory, and unless sufficient relief is forthcoming to alleviate the distress of the peasantry, they will have no alternative but to withhold payment of rent and revenue.

"The Council also notes that, pending negotiations with the Government, definite advice is being sought by the agriculturists regarding the payment of the Kharif demand. The Council therefore authorises the Allahabad District Congress Committee to advise the agriculturists to withhold payment of rent and revenue during the pendency of the present negotiations.

"The Council also authorises the Sub-Committee appointed at Lucknow to issue such directions to the Allahabad District Congress Committee as the situation may from time to time demand.

"The Sub-Committee is further empowered to consider the agrarian situation in other districts and give permission to take defensive action where and when necessary."

It is understood that the Sub-Committee consists of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Purshottamas Tandon, Mr. T.A.K. Sherwani, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Pandit V.N. Tewary, Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Mr. Krishen Dutt and Mohanlal Saxena. (The Hindu, 17-11-31).

The Allahabad District Congress Committee met on 18-11-31 with Mr. Purshotamas Tandon in the Chair and decided to advise the agriculturalists to withhold payment of rents pending negotiations with the Government. The Allahabad District Kisan League - an organisation of the tenants of the district - concurred with the attitude of the Congress party and decided to support the Congress in the no-rent campaign, if it was ultimately settled to launch it. (The Pioneer, 21-11-31).

According to an Associated Press of India message dated 27-11-31, the Chief Secretary of the United Provinces Government has informed the Congress leaders that, in view of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Council of the U.P. Congress Committee, no further discussion with Government officials on the subject of reduction of rents in Allahabad District can take place. (The Pioneer, 29-11-31).

VDS.

Social Conditions.

Bill to Amend Madras Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, Passed.

At pages 66 to 67 of the report of this Office for July 1931 reference was made to a Bill introduced in the Madras Legislative Council to amend the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930. The Madras Legislative Council passed the Bill on 30-10-1931.

(The Statesman, 4-11-1931.)

Public Health.

Ahmedabad Industrial Housing Scheme:

Action by Municipality.

Reference was made at pages 61-62 of the report of this Office for October 1931 to a resolution moved in the Ahmedabad Municipality Council advocating the construction of about 500 sanitary houses for the workmen of the city. At a meeting of the Municipal Council held on 13-11-31, the resolution after further discussion was adopted and sanction was accorded to raise a loan of Rs.450,000 for the building of model sanitary houses. It was decided to give the houses, when built, to labourers on a hire-purchase system. The scheme is to be financed by the proceeds from the increased terminal tax which the municipality is proposing to levy on cotton and iron.

(The Times of India, 17-11-31)

First Aid for Workers: Bombay Millowners' Scheme.

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with the aid of the local Brigade of the St. John Ambulance Association, has recently initiated a scheme for the organisation of "First Aid" in industrial undertakings. It was apprehended that such a scheme may not evoke ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory response from the mill-operatives. Such fears have, however, been set at rest as a large number of candidates, drawn from all sections of mill labour, particularly dispensary attendants and section heads, and in general, all those whose presence at a point of accident could be procured within a

reasonable time and with minimum inconvenience to the mills, have volunteered for the training in these classes.

For the sake of convenience, but primarily to overcome language difficulties, <sup>all</sup> ~~all~~ candidates not being able to follow instructions in English, three different centres in Bombay City have been opened, where classes are held in English, Gujerati and Marathi. The three centres ~~are~~ are at Currimbhoy Workmen's Institute, Delisle Road; Social Service League Hall, Kala Chowki Road (~~next to Venus cinema~~); and Kohinoor Mill Institute School Room. It is estimated that the full course of training will cover four months at the end of which period, <sup>a</sup> special examination will be held, and certificates and badges of the Order distributed to the successful candidates. The entire expenses in connection with the scheme are being met by the Bombay Millowners' Association. Instructors are honorary workers.

Another feature of the scheme, which makes it specially attractive from the point of view of the workmen, is that there is every probability of a special remuneration being sanctioned for "trained men". A "First Aid" volunteer corps drawn up from the employees of the mills concerned will constitute a very useful adjunct to the existing medical facilities, and may go a long way in alleviating the suffering and preventing complications, when, for several reasons, the presence of a medical man cannot be procured immediately. About 37 mills are participating in the scheme and it is likely that, when the first batch has finished their training, another batch will be called up from the reserve list maintained by the Association.

(The Times of India, 16-11-1931).

(A copy of the cutting from the Times of India, dated 16-11-1931, has been forwarded to Geneva (Chief of the Employers' Organisations Service) with this Office's minute F 6/1365/31, dated 3-12-1931).

Migration.

Forthcoming Cape Town Conference: Prospects  
of Revision of Cape Town Agreement.

Reference was made at pages 68-69 of the March 1931 report of this office to the proposals regarding the revision of the Cape Town Agreement which was concluded between the Government of India and the Union Government of South Africa five years ago. The Conference was to have taken place in September last, but the date was later postponed to sometime in January 1932 so as to facilitate the attendance of some of the members of the Round Table Conference who were also to participate in the Cape Town Conference. According to a communique recently issued by the Government of India, the Indian delegation to the Cape Town Conference is to consist of the following members:-

Leader.- Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

Members.- Sir Geoffrey Corbett, Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Darcy Lindsay, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Mr. G.S. Bajpai (member and Secretary). Sir Kurmā Reddi, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, will be an additional member.

The Government of the Union of South Africa will be represented by Dr. D.F. Malan (Minister of the Interior), Mr. C. Pirow (Minister of Justice), Mr. E.G.J. Jansen (Minister of Native Affairs), Mr. P. Duncan (Member of the House of Assembly) and Mr. G. Heaton Nicholls (Member of the House of Assembly). (The Statesman, 9-12-1931).

The Indian Delegation leaves for Cape Town by the middle of December. The chief task of the Conference will be to review the Cape Town Agreement. Two of the main points which that Agreement settled were (1) that there should be a scheme of assisted emigration and (2) that there should be an uplift of the Indian community both educational and social.

The following extracts from an editorial published in the Hindu of 21-11-1931 reflect Indian nationalist opinion with regard to the

principal matters that are likely to be discussed at the Conference:-

"The two topics that will naturally attract the largest amount of attention are the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill and the working of the Cape Town Agreement. So far as the former is concerned, its object is, as is well-known, to drive Indians out of their places of business without any adequate compensation, restrict such few facilities for trading as they now possess, and drive them out of the gold areas. There appears to be an impression among Europeans that the Cape Town Agreement has not worked satisfactorily because more Indians have not taken advantage of the assisted emigration scheme. As a matter of fact, however, the number of Indians who have been repatriated is over 9,000 and unemployment and the failure of the Union Government to help unemployed Indians are necessarily forcing more Indians to take advantage of that scheme.

"But Europeans are not yet satisfied. Perhaps nothing would please them better than that the country should be freed of the whole of the Indian community. The essence of the Gentlemen's Agreement was that those Indians who remained should be provided with all facilities which would enable them to become full-fledged citizens. Far from adopting measures of uplift, the Union Government have, by resort to successive measures, been following a policy of pin-pricks. The attempt to introduce the Liquor Act, the consequence of which would have been to dismiss all Indians employed in the liquor and catering trades, the passing of the Immigration Amendment Act, the replacement of Indians employed on the railways and other public utility concerns by Europeans and the attempt to pass the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, are examples amply justifying the charge that the Union Government have been acting contrary to the spirit and letter of the Cape Town Agreement. The task of securing justice for the Indian community is very difficult in the circumstances". (The Hindu, 24~~1~~ 22-11-1931).

Repatriation from South Africa: Discontinuance Urged.

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the conditions of repatriated Indians, especially those repatriated from South Africa (vide pages 57-60 of January 1931 and pages 90-91 of <sup>reports of this office</sup> May 1931~~2~~). Opinion has been growing in Indian circles, both here as well as in South Africa, that the conditions of the repatriates are not satisfactory and that the scheme should be abandoned. Indian opinion is becoming more and more insistent on this point and is much exercised over the Union Government's policy of repatriating unemployed Indians in South Africa under shelter of the Cape Town Scheme.



Mr. K. Natarajan, Honorary Secretary of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, in the course of a letter addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, on the question of Indian repatriation from South Africa says

"I am directed by the Council of my Association to bring to your notice for immediate action the Indian unemployment situation in South Africa. It has been, <sup>on</sup> more than ~~an~~ one previous occasion, stated that the assisted repatriation scheme under the Cape Town Agreement has failed. It is also the opinion of Mr. Venn, Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs in South Africa, if, as is rumoured, he has reported, on his investigations in India, that this country is not in a position to ~~assimilate~~ assimilate repatriates from South Africa. His report has not been published and accordingly, I cannot say how far the rumour is correct. However, the fact remains that the present policy of the Government of the Union of South Africa to repatriate unemployed Indians under the shelter of the Cape Town Agreement is inequitable. The representatives of the Government of India at the forthcoming Cape Town Round Table Conference should make it clear to the Government of the Union of South Africa that India cannot agree to the continuance of further repatriation of Indians as a condition of their treatment as an integral part of the population of the Union. An official assurance on this point will allay public anxiety". (The Hindu, 18-11-1931).

#### Indians in Malaya, 1930\*

The following information regarding Indians in Malaya is taken from the Annual Report of the Agent of India in British Malaya for the year 1930.

Indian Population in Malaya.- According to the provisional totals of the census taken on the 2nd April 1931, Indians in Malaya numbered 627,720 out of a total population of 4,381,342, the increase over the corresponding figures at the previous census being 156,054 or 33.1 per cent. and 1,023,288 or 30.5 per cent. respectively. The difference between the increase in the number of Indians, disclosed by the last census, and the nett excess of 183,942 arrivals over departures during the past decade is probably due to further migration of Indians from British Malaya to adjacent countries and excess of deaths over births.

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\*Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1930. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1931. Price Rs. 2.10 or 4s.9d. pp. 35.

About 70 per cent. of the Indian Immigrants in Malaya might be considered as labourers employed in rubber estates, tin mines, Government Departments such as Railways, Public Works Department, Harbour Boards, Municipalities, Sanitary and Rural Boards, etc., in firms and companies and under private persons. The rest are engaged in trade, business and learned professions.

Recruitment of Labour.- There are two systems of recruitment, viz., (1) the Kangany system for recruited emigrants and (2) the voluntary emigration system for non-recruited emigrants. Out of 17,744 and 44,862 adult males and females admitted at Madras and Negapatam respectively, 6,650 were rejected at the former place and 28,956 at the latter; finally 11,094 adults (7,041 males, 4,053 females) from Madras and 22,556 (17,778 males, 4,778 females) from Negapatam were sent over to Malaya with their minor dependants, as compared with 19,155 adults (11,611 males, 7,544 females) from Madras and 50,921 adults (40,322 males, 10,599 females) from Negapatam during 1929. The fall in the number of the emigrants during the year under report is due largely to the slump in rubber. Of the total number of 24,819 adult males and 8,831 adult females thus sent to Malaya, 3,041 adult males and 1,547 adult females came under the category of "non-emigrants" under the provisos to section 2(1)(b) of the Indian Emigration Act, as they had not less than five years' previous residence in Malaya.

The bulk of the unskilled labour for Malaya came as usual from Trichinopoly (6,246), Tanjore (6,134), South Arcot (5,295) North Arcot (5,200), Salem (3,978) and Malabar (3,630). Out of the 42,771 assisted emigrants from South India during 1930, 27,650 (21,153 adults, 4,222 minors, 2,273 infants) were recruited labourers and 15,121 (12,886 adults, 1,610 minors and 625 infants) non recruited labourers. The recruitment of labour was suspended in August 1930. The percentage of adult non recruited labourers to total adult assisted emigrants was 38 during 1930 as against 37 in 1929 and 41 in 1928. There were 30,112 (26,343 deck passengers, 3,769 first and second class passengers) ordinary passengers from South India in Malaya who paid their own passage, as compared with 32,069 in 1929. Of the deck passengers that arrived during 1930, 6,880 persons are reported to be petty traders and businessmen, and the remaining 19,463 persons (or 74 percent) belong to labouring classes. Besides these arrivals, 1,203 deck passengers came over to Malaya in the year by the Messageries Maritimes Lines.

Repatriation and Departures.- The total number of departures or deck passengers including those repatriated was 151,735 (121,792 adults, 20,429 minors, 9,514 infants) during the year under review. Of these, the figure 77,761 (56,063 adults, 15,873 minors and 5,825 infants) represents the number of Indians who were repatriated. The report states that there was an unprecedentedly heavy efflux of Indian immigrant labourers and others during the year, owing to unemployment and to the unwillingness of labours to work on the reduced wages. Un-employment amongst ~~amongst~~ Indian labourers has been rife since August 1930, and there was a huge rush of applications for repatriation at the Labour Offices. It demanded special measures to cope with the situation, special staff had to be engaged and repatriation camps opened and extra special steamers chartered for the conveyance of the repatriates. Repatriates were provided with free clothing wherever necessary, and given free passage by rail and steamer till they reached their destination in India. They were also paid a cash

bonus of Rs.10 each, but in the case of able-bodied labourers who were repatriated on the ground of unemployment the payment of cash bonus was stopped towards the end of the year. The cost of repatriation is borne in part or in whole by the Malayan Governments, the Indian Immigration Fund and employers of labour according to the circumstances of each case. Repatriation charges during 1930 amounted to \$ 1,519,549. ~~as~~ as compared with \$ 161,685 during 1929.

Recruiting Licences.- Only 2,234 recruiting licences were issued during the year as compared with 5,312 in the preceding year. As a result of the slump in rubber the issue of licences was suspended in August 1930, simultaneously with the reduction of wages and of labour forces employed in Rubber Plantations. Licences were refused in 42 cases as compared with 40 in the previous year.

Labour Force at end of 1929 and 1930.- There was a considerable decrease in the number of south Indian labourers employed in rubber estates in Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and the Unfederated Malay States (excepting Kedah). The number employed in Government Departments was slightly on the increase in the S.S. (due probably to the Air, Naval and Military Bases and other special works at Singapore) and on the decrease in the F.M.S. and Kelantan (U.M.S.), while it was almost the same in the States of Kedah and Johore. The position of Indian labourers as a whole at the end of 1929 and 1930 was as follows:-

	<u>On 31-12-1929</u>	<u>On 31-12-1930</u>
1. Straits Settlements	52,669	43,653
2. Federated Malay States	209,232	164,799
3. Unfederated Malay States:-		
(i) Johore	34,642	30,025
(ii) Kedah and Perlis	34,436	34,009
(iii) Kelantan	5,355	4,247

Local engagements of Indian labourers registered during 1929 and 1930 by the labour Department of Malaya, on payment by employers of \$ 1.00 per labourer were 149,074 and 120,792 respectively. The above figures under "Local Engagements" give a rough idea of the extent of desertion and migration of labourers from one place of employment to another. An appreciable reduction during 1930 is noticeable, but this was perhaps due to the want of scope for employment during the latter part of the year under review. The actual figures of Indians, Chinese, Javanese and other labourers on 31-12-1930 were as follow:-

	<u>Indians.</u>	<u>Chinese.</u>	<u>Javanese and others</u>
Straits Settlements	43,653	17,634	7,743
Federated Malay States	164,799	67,628	12,499
Unfederated Malay States	30,025	29,643	7,965

Economic Position of Indian Labourers.- The vast majority of Indian labourers are employed in rubber plantations as tappers, weeders, factory hands and miscellaneous workers. Government and Public Departments also employ a much larger number of Indian labourers than Chinese and others. Nearly 70,000 Indian labourers are also employed on tin mines in the F.M.S. where the Chinese preponderate. In special works such as the Naval, Air and Military Bases at Singapore, in Hydro-electric works of Perak, in the Oil installations of Singapore, and in the oil fields in Brunei, Indian labourers are preferred.

Wages.- The general level of wages paid to Indian labourers in rubber estates until October 1930 was the standard minimum wages of 50 cents for adult males, 40 cents for adult females and 20 cents for working children in the areas which are easily accessible and fairly healthy; and of 58 cents for adult males and 46 cents for adult females in the less healthy or remote areas. Weeders were generally paid the minimum wages as set forth above. Tappers earned a bit more than weeders and factory hands a few cents more than the tappers. In special works such as the Naval, Air and Military Bases, Hydro-electric Works and Oil fields, higher rates prevailed. With the onset of the slump in rubber, retrenchment in the rank and file of the industry was resorted to. A special meeting of the Indian Immigration Committee was called at the instance of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Governments, on the 16th July 1930 to consider the revision of the standard rates with a view to granting suitable relief to the industry. Leading planters from different parts of Malaya and their Agency House representatives were present at this meeting and urged that retrenchment in all other directions had been made or was contemplated; that a temporary cut in Indian labourers' wages was imperative as an alternative to huge reduction of Indian labour forces; and that the reduction would not cause much hardship to the labourers as they could forego their savings in a time of crisis and as food prices had ~~fallen~~ fallen to some extent in sympathy with the general trade depression. The Committee decided on an all-round 20 per cent. cut in wages, but this cut is to be restored as soon as the industry is in a position to pay the former rates to the workers. The decision of the Committee was approved by the Straits Settlement and Federated Malay States Governments and the following temporarily reduced standard rates of wages were fixed: 40 ~~per~~ cents for adult males, 32 cents for adult females and 16 for working children in healthy and easily accessible areas and 47 cents for adult males and 37 for adult females in less healthy and remote areas.

Co-operative Societies.- The Co-operative movement amongst Indian labourers, initiated more than five years ago, has made rather very slow but yet steady progress. There were 75 co-operative societies on 31-12-1930 as compared with 68 at the end of 1929. The membership on the other hand, fell from 13,850 in 1929 to 13,121 due to reduction of labour forces. The Director of Co-operation, S.S. and F.M.S. stated in his ~~XXXX~~ Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1930 that these societies are generally popular amongst Indian labourers, but that several estates which had contemplated forming societies had to postpone action until the position became clearer. According to the report, the movement has touched the merest fringe of the Indian labour population working in over 3,000 places of employment. It is hoped that the movement will make appreciable progress throughout the country, when it emerges from the present ~~a~~ severe depression. The educative cinematograph film referred to in our last year's report (vide page 73 of December 1930 report) was made good use of during the year.

Indebtedness.- The labour laws do not permit employers to make deductions from the labourers' wages except for the supply of rice and currys stuffs or the payment, in anticipation of wages, of small cash advances for the purchase of provisions. The labourers may, however,

obtain loans from managers for marriages and other ceremonies and repay the same in easy instalments. No interest can be charged under the law for any such advances made to labourers. In some estates, debts on account of recruiting advances paid to kanganies may be outstanding against them. On the whole, indebtedness of labourers to their employers is not very apparent, but their indebtedness amongst themselves probably accounts, amongst other things, for the numerous "bolters" from estates and other places of employment.

Health and Welfare.- The report states that complete records of vital statistics for the whole of Malaya are not available, but observes that a general decrease in the number of deaths and in the death-rates is noticeable during 1930. The main scourge of the South Indian labour is malaria. The incidence of sickness and deaths on account of this disease seems to be still high. Antimalarial measures have been under operation for several years past, and yet, the fatality amongst Indians has shown no appreciable signs of decrease. Only a few estate hospitals have qualified resident Medical Officers. The report states that the Agency has for long been recommending the appointment of qualified dressers, and of a trained staff of midwives in estate hospitals; but these matters are still awaiting solution.

Housing and Water Supply.- All the estates and other places of employment are periodically visited by the inspecting officers of the Labour Department, and orders are issued under the provisions of the labour laws governing health, housing, water supply and sanitation, wherever necessary. The improvement in housing accommodation, water supply, sanitation, etc., was however impeded by the rubber slump.

Workmen's Compensation.- The Workmen's Compensation Enactment passed in the Federated Malay States at the beginning of the year 1929 has not been given effect to, pending the passing of a similar Ordinance in the Straits Settlements. Public opinion on this question has been expressing itself strongly. At the Fourth All-Malaya Indian Conference held at Teluk Anson (Perak, Federated Malay States), a resolution was unanimously passed urging the need for placing this measure on the Statute Book and of giving effect to it without delay. Though the Government Departments, such as the Railways, Public Works Department, etc. have been paying compensation to the victims of accidents or their dependants, as the case may be, in accordance with the Federated Malay State Workmen's Compensation Enactment, the report states that private employers have most ungenerously refused to do so in certain very deserving cases, in spite of their having been approached by the Controller of Labour, Malaya, at the instance of the Agency.

Education.- The present report also, as the previous ones did, has drawn attention to the inefficiency of the teachers employed in most of the estate vernacular schools. Most of the teachers are kanganies or labourers with scanty knowledge of even their vernacular languages. A scheme for vernacular Tamil teachers is stated to be still under the consideration of the Malayan Governments. Since it has been found impracticable to train vernacular teachers locally, the report states that it should not be difficult to secure sufficient

sufficient number of trained elementary school teachers from South India through the Malayan Emigration Officers at Madras and Negapatam. The appointment of an Inspector of Tamil schools, which was suggested in Mr. Duckworth's report on the condition of Tamil schools, has since been created and filled. It is hoped that, with the revival of trade conditions which is at present a great stumbling block to progress in every direction, efforts will be made to improve the efficiency of the teachers. The majority of vernacular schools are not registered and are not in receipt of grants-in-aid.

Legislative Changes.- The Straits Settlements Labour Ordinance, 1923, was amended during the year by Amendment Ordinance No.6 of 1930 and the F.M.S. Labour Code, 1923, by enactment No.9 of 1930. The following are the chief among many other minor amendments:- (i) exhibition of notices specifying the standard rates of wages wherever such rates have been legally introduced, and (ii) authorising the Controller of Labour to order the erection of group hospitals wherever necessary. The Immigration Restriction Enactment No. 24 of 1930, following mutatis mutandis the provisions of a similar Ordinance passed in the Straits Settlements in the year 1928, was placed on the Statute Book of the Federated Malay States, whereby the Government is empowered to prohibit by proclamation the influx of immigrants into the Federated Malay States in times of unemployment and other emergencies.

Political Status of Indians.- Indians have, in common with other communities, no political or municipal franchise. There is an Indian Member on the Federal Council and another Indian member on the Straits Settlements Legislative Council. There is also one Indian member on the State Council of Perak in the Federated Malay States. Indians have not been nominated so far on the State Councils in the other Federated or Unfederated Malay States. Several Indian gentlemen are also serving as members of Municipalities, Sanitary and Health Boards. Indian gentlemen have also been appointed as Honorary Justices of the Peace in the Straits Settlements and in the Federated Malay States.

Note on Population and Geographical Divisions of British Malaya.- The Straits Settlements comprise Penang, Singapore, Labuan and Cocos Islands and Province of Wellesely, Dindings and Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. They form a crown colony administered by the Governor of Straits Settlements with the aid of an Executive and Legislative Council at Singapore.

Federated Malay States comprise the States of Perak, Selangor, Negri, Sembilan and Pahang. The Governor of Straits Settlements is also the High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States as well as for the Unfederated Malay States. Kuala Lumpur is the Federal Capital. Matters common to all these four States are legislated by the Federal Council whose president is the High Commissioner. Each State has, besides a British Resident, a State Council with the Malay Sultan as its President.

The Unfederated Malay States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu in the Malay Peninsula and Brunei in the island of Borneo are governed by their respective Malay Sultans assisted by British Advisers and State Councils.

The following table shows the provisional population figures of the 1931 census:-

Political Division.	Area sq.miles	Total population all races.	Indian Population		
			Males	Females	Total
Straits Settlements	1,600	1,112,850	98,264	34,473	132,737
Federated Malay States	27,648	1,711,793	248,724	134,705	383,429
Unfederated Malay States	27,354	1,556,699	76,695	34,859	111,554
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,602</b>	<b>4,381,342</b>	<b>423,683</b>	<b>204,037</b>	<b>627,720</b>

(The Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1929 was reviewed at pages 69-74 of the report of this Office for December 1930. Attention is also drawn to pages 64-70 of June 1931 report of this Office).

#### Closer Union of East Africa: Joint

#### Parliamentary Committee's Report.

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the scheme for a closer union of East Africa and to the views of the Indian Community on the question (vide pages 58-59 of the October 1929, pages 59-62 of the March 1930, pages 76-79 of the June 1930 and pages 90-91 of the April 1931 reports of this Office.) The Joint Parliamentary Committee which was appointed to go into the whole question has recently submitted its report to Parliament. The following is a brief summary of the report of the Committee:-

Scheme for Closer Union:- As regards the scheme for closer union, the Committee is of opinion that this is not the time for taking any far-reaching step in the direction of a formal union. In fact, they consider that for a considerable time to come, the progress and development of East Africa as a whole can best be assured by each

of the three territories continuing to develop upon its own lines, which they consider to be still experimental.

Plan for Economic Co-operation.- The Committee next give a plan for economic co-operation in respect of transport, customs, scientific services, posts and telegraphs, commercial law and defence. The report urges the appointment of an advisor on transport. The Committee recommend that the machinery of a Governor's Conference should be increasingly utilised for the purpose of ensuring continuous and effective co-operation and co-ordination, not only of the particular economic services already referred to, but in regard to all matters of common interest to East Africa. They are of opinion that the Governors of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika should meet regularly in conference, not less often than twice a year.

Progress of Natives.- The Committee declare that the Natives have on the whole benefited from the settler community, but referring to the relations between the natives and non-natives, the report says: "Nor is it possible to leave out of account the effect of Native development both in limiting the supply of wage labour upon which White development depends, and in creating a formidable competitor to that development". The Committee consider that the matter may be summed up briefly by saying that the doctrine of paramountcy means no more than that the interests of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population should not be subordinated to those of a minority belonging to another race, however important in itself. At the same time it is most important to give adequate security to those European and other non-Natives who have settled in the country, and who have ~~settled~~ made a permanent home there, often under very difficult and trying conditions. As regards native political development, it should be on the



lines of local tribal councils followed by District and Provincial Councils which may ultimately grow to a Central Native Council.

The Position of Indians.- As regards the Indian question, the report says: "Indians have, from its inception, rejected communal franchise, and have demanded a common roll in which their representatives would be prepared to accept qualifications for voting based on an educational and a property standard. Although the Indian community have elected their ~~give~~ representatives, these are under a pledge to take no part in the Council until the common roll is substituted for the existing electoral system. The views of the Indian community remain inflexibly opposed to those of the Europeans. The Committee have carefully considered the arguments for and against the common roll. While not denying that strong arguments ~~for~~ ~~it~~ have been brought forward on both sides, they feel that it would be impracticable, under the present conditions, to advocate the adoption of the system of common roll representation in preference to the existing system of election. They would, however, add that, if at some future date, changes were made in the situation, the desirability of introducing the common roll should be re-examined without prejudice and the decision of the Committee, as recorded above, should not be allowed to militate against the adoption of the common roll, should it later be deemed desirable.

Incidence of Taxation.- The Committee have had much contradictory evidence as to the incidence of taxation, and as to the respective shares of that taxation borne by the African, the Indian and the European communities. It should include a careful and detailed examination of the financial situation with ~~x~~ respect to (a) the contribution made to taxation, both direct and indirect, by the different

racial communities; (b) railway freights and import duties with a view to discovering the extent to which each community benefits or suffers by them; (c) the amount of money expended in the interests of each community in particular, and (d) the degree and manner in which financial responsibility should be conferred on the Native Councils.

Land Question.- In regard to the granting of land to the natives, the Committee has declared that in view of the nervousness among the Native population as regards the land question, a full and authoritative enquiry should be undertaken immediately into the needs of the Native population present and prospective, with respect to land within or without the reserves held either on tribal or on individual tenure. Pending the conclusion of this enquiry no further alienation of Crown land to non-Natives should take place except in exceptional cases with the sanction of the Secretary of State. (The Hindu, 3-11-1931)

The following extracts from an editorial article published in the Hindu on 3-11-1931 reflect Indian nationalist opinion on the Joint Committee's Report.

"The Joint Committee's report has blasted once for all, if the recommendations are in any manner to be final as they wish them to be, all hopes of social and political equality which may have been entertained by the non-white populations as a result of the previous declarations of His Majesty's Government. So far as the Indian community is concerned, the Committee would appear to have been bewildered by the arguments, for and against, advanced before them and considered that safety lay in refusing justice to the weaker side. The summary of the report issued from Simla is silent as regards the composition of the Kenya Legislative Council and the numerous grievances felt by the Indian community in regard to their representation in the services, facilities for education, and other matters. The Indian community will not, we believe, be disposed to accept this inequitable and unjust decision upon a matter which has been a subject of keen controversy for so many years.

So far as the Natives are concerned, there is to be, if the Joint Committee's report is to be the final word on the subject, a reversal of the policy indicated in the White Paper of last year. The Joint

Select Committee define the doctrine of paramountcy of Native interests as meaning no more than that the interests of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population should not be subordinated to those of a minority belonging to another race, however important in itself. This is very different from the intentions of those who drafted the White Paper. Paramountcy, according to the White Paper, means that the interests of the Natives should be superior to those of other settler communities, and that whenever the interests of the Natives come in conflict with those of other races, the latter should be subordinated to the former. This policy is now being sought to be reversed.

With the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee that the time has not come for closer union many will agree as ~~xxx~~ closer union would inevitably lead to the consolidation of the reactionary forces and result in the permanent subordination of the native races. The report on the whole has been drafted along the lines dictated by the white settlers of Kenya who may well congratulate themselves upon the success of their endeavours". (The Hindu, 3-11-1931).