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Report for April 1933.
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References to the I. L. O.

A press communique was issued by this Office on 20-4-33 under the caption "Forty-Hour Week for Industry" on the report issued by the Preparatory Tripartite Conference on Hours of Work. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with our minute H.2/621/33 dated 20-4-33). The communique was published in the National Call, and the Hindustan Times of 21-4-33, the Statesman of 22-4-33, the Times of India of 24-4-33, the Hindu of 25-4-33 and the Indian Labour Journal of 30-4-33.

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The March 1933 issue of the Indian Review publishes at page 223 a short note under the caption "The Forty-Hour Week". The note mentions that the Preparatory Tripartite Conference of January last adopted the principle of a 40-hour week and that the report of the Conference is to be submitted to the 17th I.L. Conference to be held in June 1933.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 23-4-33 publishes a short editorial note under the caption "Forty-Hour Week". The note, after drawing attention to the forthcoming International Labour Conference which will be called upon to make a decision about reduction of hours and to ^{the} move in the U.S.A. for bringing about a 34-hour week, deplores that in India the workers have still to work a 60-hour week.

* * *

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 28-4-33 and the National Call, Delhi, of 29-4-33 publish a long communiqué issued by this Office

on 27-4-33 on the Blue Report on Invalidity, Old-Age & Widows' and Orphans' Insurance. (Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/674/33 dated 27-4-33).

* * *

The April 1933 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes at page 286 a short note under the caption "Unemployment and Insurance". The note reproduces the comments of the "Insurance World" on the I.L.O. Grey report on Unemployment Insurance. The "Insurance World" expresses the opinion that the time is ripe for India to consider the question of introducing unemployment insurance and suggests that the Indian delegation to the 17th I.L.Conference should bestow particular attention to this problem.

* * *

The combined issue for January, February and March 1933 of the Monthly Circular issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association publishes a short note on the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers (vide pages 48-49 of our December 1932). In the course of the note the point is emphasised that one of the important objects of the organisation is to create greater interest among employers in the various problems pertaining to industrial labour which come up for discussion and decision at the various sessions of the I. L. Conference.

* * *

The printed proceedings of the Annual General meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India held at Calcutta on 9 & 10-1-1933 (vide our C.3/96/33 dated 19-1-33 for a special report on the meeting) which has recently been issued, contains particulars

of the discussion that took place on the resolution regarding the proposed Federation of Employers' Association (vide page 36 of our January 1933 report for the text of the resolution). Both Mr. J.S. Henderson, who moved the resolution, and the Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Department of Industries and Labour with the Government of India, made several references to the I.L.O. in their speeches, and paid tributes to the part played by the I.L.O. in making such an all-India organisation a supreme necessity.

* *Bombay,* * *

The Advocate, of 9-4-33 publishes a Tokio message to the effect that though Japan has resigned its membership of the League of Nations, she has decided to co-operate with the I.L.O. and that the Japanese Cabinet has nominated a delegation for the forthcoming 17th I.L.Conference.

* * *

A Reuter's Cable from London to the effect that Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, in reply to an interpellation put by Mr. David Grenfell in the House of Commons stated that India would be represented at the 17th I.L.Conference by a full delegation and that the nominations were not yet made, was published in the Hindu of 26-4-33 and the Times of India of 27-4-33 and all other papers.

* * *

An Associated Press of India message of 21-4-33 giving a forecast of the composition of the Indian delegation to the 17th I.L.Conference says that Sir Phiroze Sethna will not be representing Indian Employers since he has to attend the Joint Parliamentary Committee meetings at London and that Seth Ambalal Sarabhai will be

the Employers' delegate. Others, who will compose the delegation, according to the Associated Press forecast are: Sir Atul Chatterjee, Sir B.N.Mitra, Mr. Dibdin of the India Office, Mr. Jennings, Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, and Mr. Aftab Ali of the Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta. The message has been published in the Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Hindu of 22-4-33, the Leader of 23-4-33 and the Times of India of 24-4-33.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 29-3-33 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 2-4-33 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 17-3-33 on the Blue Report on Abolition of Fee Charging Employment Agencies. (Copies of the Communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/468/33 dated 23-3-1933).

* * *

The combined issue for January, February and March 1933 of the Monthly Circular issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association publishes a list of subjects on which the Committee of the Association had sent draft resolutions to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for consideration at the annual meeting of the Federation held on 15 & 16-4-33. One of the resolutions referred to the procedure re. the nomination of the Indian Employers' delegate to the I.L.Conference. This resolution, however, was not included in the agenda of the meeting.

* * *

The April 1933 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, published at page 295 a short note under the caption "The Task before Indian Employers" on the article by Mr. A.H.Maru on "The Development of

Employers' Organisation in India" published in the February 1933 issue of the International Labour Review. The note reproduces a few passages from the article dealing with the policy adopted by Indian employers towards welfare activities.

* * *

The Statesman of 30-4-33 publishes a Geneva message of 29-4-33 to the effect that Sir Atul Chatterjee, Lord Riddell and Herr Engel, in addition to three Labour and three Employers' delegates, will represent the International Labour Office at the forthcoming World Economic Conference.

* * *

The National Call of 28-4-33 reproduces a long article under the caption "Who Rules Japan?", originally published in the Daily Herald, London. The article declares that most of the mills in Japan are controlled by six wealthy families and gives a summary of the conditions regulating hours of work and wages in Japanese factories. The article is based on the I.L.O. publication "Industrial Labour in Japan".

* * *

The April 1933 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes at pages 97-99 a long review of the book "International Labour Organisation - The First Decade". In the course of the review the following criticism on the activities of the I.L.O. is made:

"While appreciating fully the value of the great experiment of the I.L.O., we from India cannot help remarking an undue emphasis on the problems of the European nations mainly while desperate and dire problems of labour are challenging humanity from ever so many

backward nations of the Orient. The League of Nations might have been drawn by the overwhelming political currents of the World War, into a queer definition of nationality and membership from the point of view of political and militaristic efficiency. But labour which is synonymous with suffering and degradation should know no such artificial definition and geographical delimitation. Japan is probably the only nation of Asia which ^{has} profited by her contact with the I.L.O. and we find the first Correspondence Office in the Eastern countries to have been opened in Tokyo in January, 1924, the second in Delhi in October, 1928, and the third in Nankin in April, 1930. Japan has recently gone out of the League, but luckily not out of the I.L.O. For vast Continents like Africa and Asia, where labour is exploited as much ~~as~~ by the white as by the non-white, by the Christian as by the non-Christian exploiters, even systematic surveys have not been attempted. The clashing of the interests of the official and the non-official representatives of the labour as well as that between the employers' and the employees' organisations, specially in a country like India, should give ample occasion and opportunity for the I.L.O. to intercede on behalf of the unfortunate child labourers, women labourers and the teeming millions of India ever on the verge of starvation. We recommend this thought-provoking volume to all serious students of this world problem."

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The April 1933 issue of the Calcutta Review, Calcutta, publishes at pages 59-68 an article under the caption "The Child Worker in India" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article deals with the present unsatisfactory conditions of child labour in this country and advocates the adoption in India of the I.L.O programme on this subject as the best means for bettering the lot of child workers in this country.

(Reprints of this article have been sent to Geneva with

this Office's minute H4/676/33 dated 26-4-1933).

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 16-4-33 publishes a long article under the caption "Minimum Wages in Ceylon Plantations" contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The article reviews in detail the various reductions effected in minimum wages and their effect on the standards of life of the Indian workers in Ceylon.

Ratifications

Hours Convention: Mr. Joshi's Plea in Assembly for Government

Action. ✓

On 9-3-1933, in the course of the discussion on budget grants, Mr. N.M. Joshi moved that a token cut of Rs. 100/- should be made in the grant asked for by the Department of Industries and Labour to express condemnation of the Government's unsatisfactory labour policy. In the course of his speech on the occasion, Mr. Joshi ~~presented~~ put in a strong plea for reducing the hours of work in Indian factories. Below is reproduced in full Mr. Joshi's observations on the subject:-

"Then, Mr. Deputy President, with your indulgence, I wish to deal with the grievances of other kinds of labour, and I shall mainly deal with some of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour to which the Government of India have not yet given effect. The first recommendation which I shall deal with is the recommendation as regards the hours of work in factories. Sir, I recognise that we are passing through a time of depression. But, if you consider what the whole world is doing, you will realise that it is at such a time this much-needed reform of the reduction of hours should be undertaken. Only recently a Conference was held in Geneva under the auspices of the International Labour Office, and the Conference has adopted a Convention for forty hours a week

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) That is not so. If I may explain to the Honourable Member, the Conference was purely a preparatory Conference and it has not adopted any Convention at all.

Mr. N.M. Joshi; I admit that the Honourable Member is technically correct but, at the same time, my Honourable friend will admit that the Conference has passed a resolution. It was a slip when I called it a Convention; but they have passed a resolution recommending that a Convention should be considered at the next Conference. Not only the European countries have now seen the necessity of reducing the hours of work as a remedy for depression, but even in America the American Federation of Labour has now begun to demand a much smaller weekly hours than even forty hours. And what are we doing? Although a Royal Commission has recommended reduction of hours of work and the recommendation has been before the public for more than a year and eight months, the Government of India have not yet introduced legislation. I quite realise that the Government of India issued a circular letter last June, but they have now, I am sure, received replies to that circular letter and I expected that legislation on this subject would have been brought before this House at this Session, if not at the last Session. Unfortunately the Government have done nothing of the kind. The class of labour which is likely to benefit from this reform is illiterate and also unorganised. It is true that on account of these two defects they do not

make much noise; but simply because these people do not make much noise - therefore, it does not mean that they do not want the reform and they do not insist upon it. The only way by which these poor ignorant and illiterate people can show that they want reform is the method of a strike, and I would recommend to the Government of India not to wait for a strike in order to undertake a reform of this nature. Moreover, I feel that when a certain class of people are ignorant and unorganised, it is in their case that the help of a Legislature and the help of a Government is more needed. Take, for instance, conditions in England. There they have got an eight-hour day without any legislation. This has happened, because European labour is organised. But in India labour is not organised; labour cannot make sufficient noise nor can labour organise a big strike. I hope the Government of India will take early measures in this matter".

(Extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 9-3-1933, Vol. 2, No.12, pages 1836 and 1837).

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National Labour Legislation.

Arrest & Imprisonment for Debt of Workers:

Proposed Legislation. ✓

One of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour was that, at least so far as industrial workers in receipt of wages or salary amounting to less than Rs100 per month are concerned, arrest and imprisonment for debt should be abolished except where the debtor has been proved to be both able and unwilling to pay. (vide pages 231-232 of Whitley Report). The Government of India have addressed a circular letter on 12-4-33 to all Local Governments and Administrations asking their views on whether arrest and imprisonment for debt where no contumacy is proved should be abolished either generally or for particular classes of persons. The views on the subject are to be communicated to the Government of India before 30-11-1933. The following is a summary of the Circular letter:-

Present Law on the Subject. - The present law on the subject is contained in sections 51 and 55 to 59 of the Civil Procedure Code read with rules 37 to 40 in Order XXI. Under the substantive provisions of the Code a judgment-debtor other than a woman may be arrested and detained in prison in execution of a decree. But under rule 37, Order XXI, a court may, in lieu of issuing a warrant of arrest, issue a notice calling upon the judgment debtor to show cause why he should not be detained. Under rule 40 the court may disallow his arrest and detention. There is thus no obligation on the court at any stage to order either the arrest or the imprisonment of a debtor who is genuinely unable to pay. But when a judgment-debtor is brought to court the burden of proving that he is unable to pay rests upon him.

Earlier Attempts at Abolition of Arrest & Imprisonment. - The question whether imprisonment for debt (where there is no contumacy) should be abolished generally has been considered on various occasions in the past, notably in the years 1881-83 when the Government of India consulted local Governments and other authorities upon it. Opinion on the subject was deeply divided, but the Government of India reached the conclusion that imprisonment for debt where no fraud was proved should disappear from the Indian statute-book as soon as the conditions of the country permitted it. In furtherance of this

policy they introduced in 1886 a Debtors Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council. The Bill was designed to apply in the first instance only to what are now the United Provinces, but provision was made for its extension by notification to other parts of India. The intention was that the effect of the measure in Agra and Oudh should be observed before an extension was made, and these provinces were selected mainly because the local Government and the High Court had agreed in supporting the principle embodied in the Bill. The Bill when it emerged from the Select Committee, was radically altered, and was passed into law as the Debtors Act, 1888, and the substance of the provisions then introduced in the Code of Civil Procedure remains in the existing Code. No appreciable advance has since been made towards the elimination of imprisonment for debt.

As a result of an investigation conducted by the Government of Madras in 1914 into the circumstances in which civil debtors were imprisoned in that Presidency, "with special reference to the question whether their imprisonment was due to their inability to pay their debts or to their unwillingness to do so", it was found that the Courts, if they had held an inquiry into the circumstances of the debtor, would have refused to imprison. It was suggested that the Courts should be obliged to hold an enquiry into the debtor's inability to pay before his arrest or imprisonment can be ordered. The Government of Madras, however, took no immediate action on the Report. Subsequently the question received attention from the Civil Justice Committee, of 1924-25, who were appointed with a view to securing the more speedy, economical and satisfactory despatch of business in the Courts. In 1927, following an examination of Mr. Curgenvin's recommendations, the High Court of Madras, acting in agreement with the local Government, embodied certain of his suggestions in their rules, and the Government of India consulted local Governments on other suggestions designed to reduce the number of debtors imprisoned. As the general tenor of the replies was unfavourable, the Government of India took no action. These discussions, however, were not public, and as many years have now passed since there has been any general examination of the main question at issue, the Government of India are anxious that it should be re-examined and that public opinion should be canvassed upon it.

Pros & Cons of the Problem. - The Government of India suggest that, in coming to a conclusion on the question, the main issue is not so much the effect which the law has or might have on the actual execution of decrees as the effect which it has at a much earlier stage. Supporters and opponents of imprisonment for debt would probably agree that its abolition would make borrowing in certain circumstances much more difficult. It is agreed that the power of arrest and imprisonment is an effective aid to many creditors; and if this aid is withdrawn, the result is bound to be a contraction of credit in certain directions. This point forms the basis of the Labour Commission's recommendation. To put the issue simply - is it or is it not desirable that the contracting of debts which cannot be recovered except by the arrest or imprisonment of the debtors should be discouraged? The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Debtors'

Bill of 1886 and the Labour Commission both answer this question in the affirmative.

The Circular letter, in conclusion states: "The strongest arguments for, if not also against, a change in the law rest on general principles, and this suggests that if any change is to be made it should be made generally and not in favour of particular classes. But there are also certain considerations specially applicable to the poorer classes of debtors. Among workmen especially, a very large proportion of the loans are such that their conditions cannot be fulfilled or can only be fulfilled by inflicting prolonged and severe hardship on the workman and his family. Further, the remedy offered by the insolvency court is probably much less effective in the case of workmen than in the case of those who are less ignorant and more able to defray the necessary costs. Finally the Civil Procedure Code, in giving special protection from attachment to the wages of labourers, already recognises their special claim to protection; but the power of arrest and imprisonment can be used to render this protection illusory."

In an editorial article published on 24-4-1933, the Times of India makes the following comments:-

It is open to doubt whether in dealing with the problem of indebtedness the Labour Commission sufficiently appreciated all the factors involved. The debtor may borrow because he has some urgent need to satisfy or because he cannot resist the numerous temptations to obtain easy credit and enjoy its use. Failure to repay may be due to reasons quite distinct from those which led to the borrowing. Granted that the borrower needs protection from the usurer, the arrangement cannot be one sided. There must be some method of enforcing punctuality and thrift on the part of the borrower. Whether the best way of enforcing them is by denying him the facilities hitherto offered by the moneylender is problematical. If the latter finds that he cannot attach the salary of a debtor earning less than Rs.300 or that he cannot secure the arrest of a borrower earning less than Rs. 100, he will refuse to give credit without adequate security. Hence our contention that if the poorer sections of the community are not to be denied credit for urgent and unavoidable needs, and if at the same time they are to be saved from the clutches of Shylocks, there must be a wider extension of the co-operative movement.

Conditions of Labour

Factory Administration in Mysore, Mysore, 1931-32.* ✓

The following details regarding the working of the Mysore Factories Regulations during the year ending June 1932 ^{are} ~~is~~ taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce with the Government of Mysore State.

Number & Classification of Factories. - The total number of factories coming under the purview of the Mysore Factories Regulation stood, at the beginning of the year, at 182 as against 172 in the year before. Six factories were newly taken on the Register during the year and 5 factories were struck off the register. Thus, at the end of the year, there were in all 183 factories. Of these, 16 factories were owned and worked by Government and the rest were private concerns. The number of seasonal factories that worked during the season amounted to 45 and the remaining 138 were at work throughout the year. Grouped under important industries, 54 factories were rice mills, 29 were decorticators, 21 cotton and ginning presses, 13 brick and tile factories, 13 textile factories, 9 printing presses, 6 engineering works, 8 flour mills, 4 saw mills and the remaining factories may be classed as miscellaneous.

Number of Operatives. - During the year under report, there was a decrease in the number of operatives working in the factories. The average number of persons employed daily in all the factories in the State stood at 17,199 as against 18,800 in 1930-31. There was a greater fall in the employment of children than in that of adults. The number of adults in the factories fell from 16,943 in 1930-31 to 15,760 in 1931-32, whereas the number of children fell during the same time from 1,857 to 1,439, compared with the previous year; the percentage of decrease in the number of adults and children employed was 6.9 and 22.5 respectively.

Inspection. - The total number of factories inspected during the year was 78 as against 98 in the previous year. 22 factories were inspected more than once as against 49 in 1930-31. The serious fall in the number of factories inspected during the year is attributed to the stoppage in the work in many factories consequent on the prevailing depression in trade and also to the restrictions placed on the travelling of the inspecting officers. Of 1,439 children employed in the factories, 284 children were examined by the certifying Surgeons and of these, 263 were certified by them as against 68 during the year before. As a large number of certifying Surgeons have now been appointed to attend to this work, it is hoped that there would be a further improvement in the number of children examined and also in the number of certificates issued this year.

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1932 - With the Government Review thereon. - pp. 4 + 35.

Health of Operatives and Industrial Relations. - The Health of the operatives was reported to be good throughout the year. The adequate provision of ventilation, lighting, drinking water and sanitary conveniences in all the factories in the State received the particular attention of the Inspectors. With the exception of a labour disturbance that occurred in one of the Textile Factories in Bangalore City, the relations between the employers and employees in other industrial concerns in the State were cordial. Particular care was taken to see that the fencing of the machinery in the factories was adequate.

Hours of Work. - The daily and weekly hours of work of women and children were regulated by most of the factory owners in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. In about 6 per cent of the factories in the Bangalore Division, work was arranged by shifts of eight hours each. In the majority of the factories, Sundays are treated as holidays and in about 14 factories, other week days are substituted for Sunday. It is understood that many of the factory owners have been discontinuing the services of children in their factories as it does not pay them to employ them for only 5½ hours a day according to the Regulation.

Cotton Ginning & Pressing Factories. - The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Regulation was brought into force with effect from 1st September 1931. The Chief Inspector of Factories is the authority appointed by Government to administer the provisions of the Regulation. During the year, there were in all 30 ginning factories and 6 pressing factories.

Housing of Operatives. - The question of providing housing accommodation to the industrial labourers in Bangalore City has, according to the report, begun to engage the serious attention of the public. The subject was discussed at length at the sessions of ~~the~~ both the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. It is recognized that the responsibility for housing the labourers rests partly with the Government and partly with the Municipality and the employers of labour. The Bangalore City Municipality have been bestowing considerable attention on this subject and have under consideration, a comprehensive scheme for putting up houses for the poorer classes in new extensions that might be laid out for the purpose.

Action on Whitley Report. - The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour were examined during the year under review with a view to see to what extent they could be given effect to in the State. Action was taken to amend the Factories Regulation and also the Workmen's Compensation Regulation on the lines suggested by the Commission. The proposals of the Commission with regard to the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes when they break out and also for the promotion of industrial peace were carefully considered by Government. Orders were issued sanctioning the constitution of a suitable body for the purpose (vide pages 40-41 of our

August 1931 Report). The Board of Conciliation, excluding the Labour Commissioner who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Board, consists of six members representing the different interests involved as the employers, the labourers and the general public. The Government Order laying down the functions of the Board was translated into vernaculars and copies of the latter were distributed widely all over the State. A meeting of the Board was held on the 10th September 1931 with a view to discuss the lines on which they should proceed in the discharge of their functions.

(The Factory Administration in Mysore in 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 40-41 of our July 1931 report and that during 1930-31 at pages 11-12 of our May 1932 report).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation

Regulation in Mysore State, 1931-32* ✓

The following details regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulations in the Mysore State during the year ending 30-6-1932 is taken from the Annual Report of the Director of Industries and Commerce with the Mysore State, for the year 1931-32.

Number of Cases. - The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation during the year ending June 1932 was 314 as against 204 in 1930-31. 298 cases in all were disposed of during the year under report as against 198 in the year before. There were 16 cases pending when the year closed. Of the 298 cases disposed of during the year, 136 related to fatal accidents, 54 to non-fatal accidents and 108 to the registration of Memoranda of Agreements. The number of claims for compensation ~~for~~ for injuries by accidents in the mining industry was 269 as against 163 in the year before. The claims in respect of accidents in the Textile Factories were 36, in the Electric Department, 5, in the Tunnel

* Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending June 1932 - With the Government Review thereon. - pp.4 + 35

Works 3, and in the Mysore Railways 1.

Of the 2 314 cases that came up before the Commissioners, 29 cases were contested under Section 21(2) of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation. Of these, compromise was effected in five cases. Claims were dismissed in 12 cases and in six cases claims were allowed. The remaining six cases were pending when the year closed.

Amount of Compensation paid. - The total sum deposited with the Commissioners during the year under report went up to Rs.98,364-8-4 as against Rs.47,596 in 1930-31. A sum of Rs. 87,295 was distributed among the dependents of deceased workmen and Rs. 6,404-6-4 among workmen suffering from injuries caused by accidents. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 43,066, Rs. 3,972 and Rs.608. A sum of Rs. 2,744-8-0 was pending distribution when the year closed.

Occupational Diseases. - There were two claims in respect of diseases alleged to have been contracted in the course of employment. One claim related to deafness and the other to pulmonary tuberculosis, and both claims were dismissed.

Accident Statistics for 1930-31. - The annual returns for the year 1930-31 under Section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation was received from 110 factories, the total number of factories on the Register being 172. Apart from these, returns were also received from the Mining Companies and other concerns lying outside the purview of the Factories Regulation. There were in all 2,167 cases of injuries by accident in respect of which a total sum of Rs.73,712-7-11 was paid as compensation by the employers of labour. As compared with the year 1929-30, there was an increase in the total number of accidents in

respect of which compensation was paid under the Regulation by 337 and the total amount of compensation paid rose by Rs. 4,703-11-3. There were 114 fatal cases in respect of which a sum of Rs. 41,189-6-0 was distributed as compensation among the dependants of the deceased workmen as against Rs. 35,346-2-0 distributed in 58 cases in the year before. The number of workmen permanently disabled fell from 55 to 48 and the amount of compensation paid fell from Rs. 21,222-6-6 to Rs. 16,856-11-5. There were 2,005 cases of temporary disablement and a sum of Rs. 15,666-6-6 was paid as compensation as against 1,717 cases and Rs. 12,440 in 1929-30.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1929-30 is reviewed at page 41 of our July 1931 report and that during 1930-31 at page 12 of our May 1932 report.)

Labour Conditions in Carreras (India)

Cigarette Factory, Calcutta. ✓

Messrs. Carreras Ltd., London, has opened a cigarette factory at Kidderpore, Calcutta, with a capital of Rs. 20 millions. The factory has been so designed as to provide model working conditions for the employees. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, in his annual report for last year remarked about the factory that "in so far as arrangements for the care and welfare of its workpeople are concerned, this factory, when completed, will have no equal in Bengal and probably no superior in India". There are already 400 employees who are being trained by technical experts from London and, in course of time, this staff is expected to be considerably augmented.

The factory is modelled on the lines of the parent factory in

England. Throughout the whole building there is an air conditioning plant which will ensure a uniform and equable temperature at all times of the year and which will never exceed 85 degrees. The installation of this expensive plant, although primarily for technical reasons connected with the processes of manufacture, means a great boon to the workers, for the beneficial effect of having a steady supply of pure air will be readily appreciated. Much attention has been ~~it~~ paid to the welfare of the workers. There are medical facilities with a trained European nurse in constant attendance, there are rest rooms for the women workers, bathing facilities, and canteens for the various sections. The lighting arrangements too are excellent, the installation having been designed to give the minimum of eye strain. For an independent supply of water, three tube wells have been sunk and will provide 60,000 gallons of water an hour.

9

Crisis in Textile Industry:

Mill Closures & Strikes at Various Centres.

References were made at page 31 of our February 1933 report and at pages 24-27 of our March 1933 report to the issue of notices by several textile mills announcing their intention to close down ~~mills~~ owing to the economic depression which is being aggravated by Japanese 'dumping' tactics. The share of Japanese 'dumping' as a contributory factor is separately reviewed in the section of this report dealing with "Economic Conditions". The situation is growing from bad to worse; in February and March a few mills were actually closed down and in several others retrenchments in the form of

reduction in the number of hands, cuts in wages, lessening ^{of} hours of work accompanied by a proportionate reduction in wages, etc. ^{were carried out.} Another economy measure was the introduction in some mills of the three-loom system instead of the present two-loom system.

Conditions in Bombay. - During the months of March and April, 4 mills closed down employing between them 7,000 workers and on 1-5-1933 five more mills employing between them 9,000 workers closed down. The five mills which closed on 1-5-33 are: Bombay Cotton, Swan Gold Mohur, Simplex and Pearl Mills. They employed 1,900, 900, 1,100, 2,400 and 2,500, operatives, respectively. The four mills which closed previously are: Bradbury, Moon, Currimbhoy and Crescent Mills. Thus out of nearly 140,000 persons working in the 70 mills of Bombay city at the beginning of this year, 16,000 men were out of employment by 1-5-33 on account of the closure of nine mills.

Besides these nine mills the operatives of 19 other mills ~~the operatives~~ have already been notified that these mills are to be closed on account of the depression in trade. According to the notices the management desire to carry on as long as possible. These mills are: Edward Sassoon (1,300 operatives), David Sassoon (2,000), Elphinstone (1,525), E.D. Sassoon, Turkey Red Dye Works (420), Jacob Sassoon (3,140), Rachel Sassoon (180), Alexandra (1,150), Manchester (1,115), Meyer Sassoon (720), Indian Woollen (575), Imperial (800), Satya (1,250), Toyo Podar (1,500 on day shift), Shri Lakshmi (370), Framji Petit (1,700), Raghuvanshi (1,300), Phoenix (2,500), Jubilee (1,100), New China (1,120) and the Tata Mills (2,500).

The closing down of a number of mills, the notices of closure of more mills, and the drastic retrenchment measures resorted to by mill managements have created acute labour unrest in the city. Lightning strikes have already occurred in ~~general~~ mills. The Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag) is very much to the fore in conducting the agitation and the threat of a general strike in the near future is being held out. The strikers' demonstrations have already led to several clashes with the police.

Conditions in Ahmedabad. - The conditions in Ahmedabad, the next important textile centre, were equally bad during the month. Faced with an accumulation of stocks ~~in the godowns of their mills~~ which amounted to nearly 130,000 bales in the mill godowns and 40,000 bales with the merchants, the Ahmedabad millowners are planning to effect wage cuts in addition to the abolition of night shift. During March negotiations were opened by the Millowners' Association with the Ahmedabad Labour Union for introducing a ^{cut} in wages. During the month under review one mill actually closed down since the workers refused to accept a 12 per cent cut and a few other mills put up notices to close down shortly. The operatives of the weaving departments of many of the local mills became apprehensive that attempts were being made to reduce the basic rates of wages, and have, as a result begun

joining in large numbers the Textile Labour Association from which they had abstained so far. The Ahmedabad Labour Association entered into negotiations with the Millowners' Association as well as with individual mills regarding the retrenchment measures the millowners proposed to adopt and as a result of its intercession, succeeded in warding off the intended cut in wages in a few mills. Never the less, several of the Ahmedabad mills, including those which are members of the Millowners' Association, have offered reduced wages to their workers by the close of April. This has resulted in many disputes and the Labour Association has ^{repeatedly} complained that, according to the present understanding, no member of the Millowners' Association can cut mill-workers' wages without previously referring the matter to the Millowners' and Labour Associations.

Conditions in Cawnpore. - The management of the Elgin Mills, Cawnpore, stopped, with effect from 1-3-33, the grant of production bonus and on 30-3-33 discharged a few employees. This action of the management led to the workers downing tools on 30-3-33 and the posting of a notice by the management that the mills would remain closed for an indefinite period. On the same date the local authorities, fearing breach of peace, issued an order prohibiting meetings in or near mill precincts. The local Mazdur Sabha (Labour Union) which is conducting the strike resorted to picketing of the mills. The President Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri (a member of the Servants of People Society, a body similar to the Servants of India) and a few workers were arrested and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for holding meetings of workers. The attitude of the officials gave ~~an~~ further impetus to the strike and on 20-4-33, the workers of the New Victoria Mills went on strike partly in sympathy with the strike in the Elgin Mills and partly owing to the stoppage of bonus by the management. Altogether 8,000 workers are affected. The strike in the New Victoria Mills continued till 25-4-33 when the workers resumed work on the management promising redressal of their grievances. The Elgin Mills strike is continuing and the local Union is reported to be planning ~~for~~ a general strike, in vindication of their right to initiate collective action.

Conditions in Other Centres. - The crisis has affected other textile centres in the country. Five mills in Indore closed down on 1-4-33 throwing out of work 12,000 workers, the efforts of the Government of the Indore State to persuade the mill-authorities to keep the mills open proving fruitless. ~~In~~ In Baroda, the workers of the Zaver Laxmi Chand Mills struck work at the end of March following a reduction in wages and the State authorities are reported to have referred the dispute to the permanent Conciliation Board set up by the State. Labour disputes and notice of mill closures are also reported from Bhavnagar, Gwalior, ~~at~~ Ujjain and Amritsar, and Nagpur.

The Madras Beedi Factories Bill - 1932. ✓

At pages 23-24 of the report of this Office for April 1930 reference was made to a conference convened by Mr. V.T.Arasu, M.L.C. and held at Madras on 10-4-1930 to consider the problem of child labour in beedi (country cigarette) factories and to the decision arrived at by the conference to send a deputation to the Governor of Madras for urging the necessity for taking immediate action to control and supervise the employment conditions of children working in these factories. As a result of these efforts, a non-official Bill for regulating the working of, and labour conditions in, beedi factories in the Madras Presidency was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council on 31-10-32 by Pandit Gan~~ga~~ Ramamurti. The following is a summary of the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill.

Beedi making, which until recently was a small scale industry mostly resorted to by the villagers as a subsidiary occupation, has in recent years grown into a ^a large scale industry, at present localised in the city of Madras and in certain mofussil centres. In each of these centres tens of thousands of workers are reported to be employed in beedi factories, the number of labourers employed in any one factory ranging from 10 to 700. Though the industry has thus grown in magnitude, there is no control exercised over it either by the Government or the respective local bodies. The Indian Factories Act does not apply to beedi factories as there is no steam, water, electrical or other mechanical power used in the process of manufacture. The absence of control is said to have led to many grave abuses. The factories are reported to be lacking in sanitary conveniences and adequate arrangements for proper ventilation. The hours of work are unduly long ranging between 12 to 16 per day and the employees do not get regular intervals for meals or weekly holidays. Child labour is

employed in abundance, about 50 per cent of the total number of workers in any one factory being children below the age of 16. These children, the majority of whom are of school-leaving age, work long hours, i.e. between 12 to 15 hours per day without adequate intervals for meals or weekly rest days, for wages as low as half an anna to one anna per day. The children are also subject to corporal punishments and other disciplinary measures of a reprehensible kind.

Provisions of the Bill. - This bill is proposed to apply to all beedi factories employing not less than 10 persons and to cover all persons working in such factories whether for wages or not, in manufacturing beedis or in cleaning any portion of the factory used for the manufacturing of beedis or in any other kind or process of work whatsoever incidental to or connected with such manufacture. The provisions of this Bill follow closely those of the Indian Factories Act. Some of the interesting features of the Bill are:-

(i) It contemplates the appointment of non-officials to act as Honorary Inspectors under the Act;

(ii) It limits the maximum daily hours of work for children to seven;

(iii) It prohibits the infliction of corporal punishment of any kind on any child employed;

(iv) It stipulates that no woman is to be employed in any Factory unless there are at least three women simultaneously employed and working in that Factory; and

(v) It disallows a person who had been employed full time to work overtime.

Retrenched Railway Employees:

Railway Board's Circular re. Conditions of Re-employment. ✓

The Railway Board have issued a circular letter to the ~~Agents~~ of Class I Railways laying down certain general principles regarding reemployment of retrenched persons. The following is a short summary of the general principles enunciated in the circular :

1. Excepting those who retired voluntarily, other staff who retired due to retrenchment will be placed on the waiting list but no staff who retired will be rendered ~~ineligible~~ eligible for reinstatement unless he is superannuated;
2. An employee granted leave on retrenchment, if taken back on a post carrying less pay, will, at the discretion of the re-appointing authority, be eligible to get pay up to his original substantive pay by adding leave salary to his emoluments.
3. All retrenched staff taken back on posts, permanent or temporary will be placed only on a provisional footing until further orders.
4. Retrenched staff re-employed will be liable to be placed under such adverse conditions of service as may be fixed for future entrants. They will not be required to refund gratuity already drawn for the purpose of condonation of service. The re-engaged staff will come under Leave Rules applicable to temporary staff and on confirmation will be permitted to count temporary service without break for the purpose of earning leave under New Leave Rules.
5. Retrenched staff with less than five years' previous service when re-engaged will be permitted to count former service for earning Provident Fund Bonus on refund of Provident Fund money.
6. Refund of Gratuity under Rule 12 of the State Railway Gratuity ~~Rules~~ Rules may be made in such easy instalments as the re-appointing authority may consider suitable.

6th Annual meeting of Federation of

Indian Chambers - Delhi - 1933. ✓

The 6th annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 15th & 16th April under the presidentship of Mr. Walchand Hirachand. Representatives from every province, as also from Mysore and Ceylon, were present at the Conference. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address.

Trade Depression. - After reviewing the political situation and its effect on commercial activities, Mr. Hirachand emphasised the acuteness of the trade depression and pointed out that India's favourable balance of trade had diminished in recent years to an alarming extent. Self-governing countries would, in the circumstances, have adopted emergency measures to adjust import and export trade, but the British government in India was guilty of adopting a policy of laissez faire. What was more, the currency policy of the Government was subordinated to British interests, protection was being extended to Indian industries in a haphazard manner, and the policy of Imperial preference recently adopted was doing serious economic harm. Mr. Hirachand, therefore, made an appeal for the intensification of the cult of Swadeshism.

Export of Gold. - Pleading for a stop being put, even at this belated stage, to the continued export of gold from India, Mr. Hirachand severely criticised the government for "the callous indifference with which the people's gold reserve is allowed to be drained away" against the strongly expressed opinion of Indian commercial interests, and pointed out that Government was encouraging gold exports in order to strengthen the pound sterling. He denied the validity of the Finance Member's argument that the proceeds of gold realised by Indian sellers are being transferred, as a rule, to interest-bearing investments.

World Economic Conference. - The economic and financial situation of the country made it imperative that at the forthcoming World Economic Conference, India should make it clear that the country will have to revise its tariff policy in the manner best suited to the requirements of its industries and that the Indian outlook is entirely different from that of other countries owing to the clash of interests between western countries and India. India did not want to be dragged at the Conference into any policy not suited to her peculiar needs, and therefore, Mr. Hirachand insisted that the Government of India should, in choosing India's representatives at the Conference, see that only Indian nationals

truly representative of Indian opinion are nominated.

Constitutional Proposals. - Mr. Hirachand said that the White Paper was condemned by all shades of Indian opinion. The constitution of the Central Government, the reservation of Federal Finances to the extent of nearly 80 per cent for reserved subjects, the sweeping, extraordinary and uncontrolled powers proposed to be vested in the Governor-General and the Provincial Governors, all these and other limitations, reservations, restrictions and safeguards lead one to question the very bonafides of the intentions of Great Britain towards India. What was therefore necessary was a wholesale recasting of the proposals in accordance with Indian demands, and the success of such an experiment would depend on the abandonment of the policy of repression and the release of Mahatma Gandhi and all other political prisoners.

The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed at the session:-

Gold Export. - This Federation views with alarm the continued outflow of gold from India valued at over Rs.1,200 million since September 1931 and regrets the policy of inaction on the part of the Government of India in spite of strong protests by the Indian mercantile community. In view of the huge loss of the immense potential strength which the gold resources of India might have supplied to the future Reserve Bank, this Federation reaffirms the necessity of steps being taken forthwith by the Government to put an embargo on the export of gold and to buy gold in India for the purpose of strengthening the Currency Reserve at the rates equivalent to sterling rates of gold in London.

Rupee and Sterling. - This Federation protests against the Government policy of keeping the rupee linked to sterling and urges that the rupee be allowed to find its own level.

Silver Sales Condemned. - The Federation regrets that the Government of India should continue their policy of silver sales in spite of continued protests from the public. The Federation is of opinion that since the recommendations of the Hilton-Young Report are not now operative, Government should stop further sales of Silver.

Protest Against Partial Restoration of Salary Cut. - The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry strongly protests at the decision of the Government of India in partially restoring the cut in the salaries of Government servants in view of the critical economic situation in the country without first giving any relief to the tax-payer.

Demand for Relief from Taxation. - The Federation expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the entire income-tax policy of the Government and urges upon them to give effect, as early as possible, to the following demands of the mercantile community:-

(a) To abolish altogether the surcharge now levied on income-tax and Super-tax.

(b) To lower substantially the present high rates of income-tax and Super-tax.

(c) To raise the amount of minimum taxable income from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000.

(d) To amend the Income-tax Act so as to provide for a set-off for losses sustained in any one year against profits for three subsequent years.

(e) To provide that appeals from income-tax Officers both on points of fact and law should lie to an independent tribunal.

Statutory Railway Board. - The Federation emphatically opposes the proposal for Parliamentary legislation on Indian Railways as it is not only tantamount to a repudiation of the autonomous powers of the Indian Legislature but militates against the elasticity of the machinery which must needs accommodate itself to the demands of Indian transportation problems.

The Federation, therefore, is strongly of opinion, that in the interest of Indian trade and industry no proposal for a Statutory Railway Board will be acceptable unless constituted by an Act of the Indian Legislature.

The Federation deprecate the formulation of the proposal for the Statutory Board, as suggested in the White Paper, in the absence of any adequate consideration or discussion at the sessions of the R.T.C. and without consulting Indian commercial opinion on the matter.

Protection for Sugar Industry. - This Federation invites the attention of the Government of India to the great handicap felt by the Sugar industry owing to the increasing difficulty experienced by sugar factories and refineries in the disposal of molasses produced by them.

This Federation suggests that the Government of India should give full encouragement and assistance to the Sugar Industry for production of power alcohol, especially admixture of alcohol with petrol as a fuel for the internal combustion engines. In particular, the Federation suggests that every measure should be adopted by Government in order to over-ride difficulties of a merely technical character (e.g., the existing denaturing rules) or relating to revenues (e.g., revenues derived by the Central Government from petrol or provincial Governments from country liquor).

The Federation recommends to Government that the import duty on rectified spirits, on molasses and on "rab" be increased to such an extent as would ensure adequate protection to subsidiary industries dependent on the Sugar industry in India from foreign competition.

Foreign Capital Statistics. - In view of the serious influences exerted upon the economic development and policy of the country by foreign capital, this Federation has to draw the attention of the Government to the absolute inadequacy of statistics of foreign capital invested in India, at present being published by them, and would strongly recommend the annual compilation of a comprehensive statement of the actual foreign capital invested in India including private investments.

Surcharge on Coal. - In view of the fact that the levy of 15 per cent surcharge on the railway freight on coal despatched after 15th January 1932, has created a great detrimental effect on the coal industry and been responsible for the loss of markets in many important and industrial centres, this Federation urges upon the Railway Board the necessity for the immediate abolition of the surcharge with a view to help the industries of the country.

Protection for Raw Skin & Cast Iron Pipe Industries. - The Federation urges upon the Government of India the desirability of adopting immediate measures indicated below to afford adequate protection to the various industries referred to therein:-

(a) That the export duty on raw skins and hides be raised to 25% and 20% respectively.

(b) That a duty of Rs.50/- per ton or 50 per cent ad valorem, whichever is higher, should be levied on the imports of the Cast Iron Pipes, and further that the Tariff Value of Rs.140/- a ton may at least be substituted for the ad valorem valuation now being adopted in the Indian Customs Tariff so as to secure immediate relief to the Indian Cast Iron Pipe Industry.

Release of M. Gandhi. - The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, places on record that, in its opinion the repressive policy of the Government has failed and that in the interest of peace, goodwill and prosperity, it is essential that Mahatma Gandhi and other political prisoners should be released forthwith.

White Paper Condemned. - The Federation, having carefully scrutinised the proposals for Indian constitutional reforms as embodied in the White Paper, is of opinion that the same are not only in direct breach of the solemn promises of conferring a constitution on India on the lines of the Dominions made on behalf of His Majesty's Government by the British Ministers from time to time but are definitely reactionary and retrograde and fall far short of even the modest aspirations of the country and make the conferment of Dominion Status recede into a remote future.

(2) The Federation is convinced that the constitution as outlined in the White Paper suffers from serious structural defects calculated to bring about frequent breakdowns or dead-locks and that unless several of the proposals are materially altered, the smooth working of the reforms will be impracticable. The Federation is apprehensive that the scheme, unless modified, will result in creating such forces in the country as would not only undermine the

economic and political life of India but also recoil to the detriment of Great Britain.

For these reasons, the proposed constitution is unacceptable to the country. The Federation, therefore, appeals to His Majesty's Government to desist from any attempt to impose it on India in its present form and to explore, without any further delay, the possibilities of altering the same as to command the consent and co-operation of the people of this country.

World Economic Conference. - (a) This Federation is of opinion that India should be represented at the World Economic Conference only by Indians enjoying the confidence of the Indian commercial community.

(b) This Federation urges that on behalf of India the point that should be stressed at the said Conference is that in order to rehabilitate the buying power and economic strength of the masses, it is necessary:

(i) to take immediate steps for increasing the prices of commodities in general and specially of agricultural products within the country;

(ii) that the currency and exchange policy of India should be regulated with the above end in view;

(iii) that India should have the fullest liberty to become self-subsistent as regards all articles needed for the consumption of the masses and to develop all industries that can be developed in the conditions of India and thereby solve the problem of unemployment and under employment in the country.

(c) The Federation is emphatically of opinion that in determining any scheme regarding organisation and production, the said Conference should not treat countries backward in economic development on a par with the more advanced ones and should not recommend indiscriminately the same kind of restriction on all countries generally but leave special scope for the development of the less advanced countries, particularly of those like India whose industrial organisations are not dependent on external markets.

Office bearers for 1933-34. - The following have been elected as Office-bearers for 1933-34:-

President - Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker. Members of the Executive Committee - Messrs. G.D.Birla, Ibrahim G. Currimbhoy, B.Das, S.G.Gangla, Walchand Hirachand, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Chunnilal Mehta, Amritlal Ojha, P.S.Sodhbans, Lala Shriram, Lala P. Singhanian and Sir P. Thakurdas.

The subject of the amendment of the constitution of the Federation was postponed to the next annual session of the Federation.

National Committee of the International Chamber of
Commerce: 4th Annual Meeting - Delhi - 1933. ✓

The 4th annual meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 16-4-33 under the presidentship of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

Glut in Production. - Passing in review the deepening phases of the economic depression, Mr. Lalbhai pointed out that not only was the hope that 1932 will witness a turn for the better belied, but the future was even more bleak. The situation thus created needed wise and courageous handling. The old productive system under which Great Britain alone was the workshop of the world had given place to the newer order in which other countries, and particularly the countries of the East hitherto classed as 'consuming' countries, are having industrial aspirations. This has led to a glut in production.

Machinery of Distribution. - The resultant industrial malaise can be cured only in one way. Industrialists were hitherto keen on perfecting the technique of production; the crisis demands a shifting of emphasis from production to the better organisation of the machinery of distribution. The World Economic Conference, so far back as 1927, sounded a warning against the growth of the customs tariff, which impeded the even flow of distribution of produced goods. The warning has gone unheeded and new tariff walls are being created by all countries. This policy must be reversed and a useful lead in this direction can be expected from the forthcoming World Economic Conference.

Need for International Outlook. - Mr. Lalbhai stressed the need for the cultivation of an international outlook in industrial matters and asserted that the old distinction between manufacturing and consuming countries should be given up. India and China are the biggest markets in the world and, therefore, it was imperative that the purchasing power of the peoples of these two countries should be increased. A balanced distribution of the industries of the world, which ^{would} ensure to Asiatic countries their due share, would mean a more permanent benefit than the gains accruing from a temporary and predatory exploitation.

State Control of Industry. - Referring to the encroachments or the State in the realm of industry, Mr. Lalbhai deprecated the policy by which states, in addition to their political status, tended to become big business corporations also. In India, particularly, where a foreign bureaucracy held the reins of power,

governmental interference in industrial and economic activities was a prolific source of evil. In this country State finances were saddled with political considerations, currency was manipulated to suit the exigencies of the pound sterling and the money market suffered from continual visitations from the Government, which tended to upset financial equilibrium.

Office bearers for 1933-34. - The following were elected office-bearers for 1933-34:-

President, Lala Shriram; vice-president, Mr. Hosseinbhoj A. Lalljee; Members of the committee, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association), Mr. Walchand Hirachand (Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay), Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay), Mr. G.D.Birla, and Mr. D.P.Khaitan (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Mr. N.R.Sarkar (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta), Mr. A.L.Ojha (Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta), Mr. Chunilal B.Mehta (Bombay Bullion Exchange, Bombay), Mr. Fakirjee Cowasji, Mr. Mohamed Ismail and Mr. Mathuradas Vissonji (Federation of Indian Chambers of Industry), Lala Padampat Singhania (Merchants' Chamber of the U.P., Cawnpore).

Mr. Shri Ram, the new president, pointed out that the present membership of the Indian National Committee was only 80 and that, in order to run the Committee on a sound financial basis and also for the ensurance of useful work, it was very necessary that the Committee should have an enlarged membership of at least 200.

Workers' OrganisationsTrade Union Unity. ✓

In the report of this Office for the month of February 1933, a short account was given of the meeting of the Trade Union Unity Conference, at which it was resolved to call into being a new organisation to be called the "National Federation of Labour" (vide, pages 39-41 of our report for February 1933). A special session of the Indian Trades Union Federation was held at Calcutta on the 19th and 20th April 1933, to consider the action to be taken by the Federation on the final conclusions of the Unity Conference, and the occasion was also availed of to have a joint meeting between the General Council of the Indian Trades Union Federation and the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour. Below are given the reports of these meetings:-

Indian Trades Union Federation:Report of the Special Session. ✓

The Special Session of the Indian Trades Union Federation, convened for the purpose of considering the question of Trade Union Unity in the light of the decisions taken at the final session of the Trade Union Unity Conference held in Delhi in February 1933, and also for the purpose of considering the question of bringing about amalgamation between the Federation and the newly organised National Federation of Labour, was held in Calcutta, on April 19, 1933, at 4.30 p.m. in Albert Hall. Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, the President, presided. Thirteen delegates representing 11 affiliated unions with a membership of 46,191 attended the session.

The proceedings began with a welcome speech by the President, after which the Federation considered the draft resolutions framed by

the General Secretary and adopted by the General Council. The following resolutions were passed:-

(1) Condolence.- This Federation deeply regrets the death of Messrs. Dhoondiraj Thengdi and Kishorilal Ghosh which, in the opinion of the Federation, ^{was} ~~were~~ hastened by their long detention in jail in the Meerut Conspiracy Case. Both took conspicuous part in the Indian Trade Union Movement and rendered valuable services to the cause of Indian labour. In Mr. Kishorilal Ghosh whose acquittal in the Meerut Conspiracy Case has proved his innocence of the grave charges brought against him, the Indian Trade Union movement, particularly in Bengal, has lost a man of a promising career and a good champion of the cause of Indian labour. This Federation authorises the President and the General Secretary to convey its sincere condolence to the families of the deceased in their sad bereavement.

This Federation wholeheartedly endorses the appeal issued by the Kishorilal Ghosh Memorial Committee to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Ghosh and present a purse to his family and strongly appeals to the workers in general and the trade unions and trade unionists in particular to contribute liberally to the fund started by the Committee as a token of appreciation and gratitude for the services rendered by him.

(2) This Federation mourns the loss of Mr. I.B. Sen who rendered valuable services to the cause of Indian labour and authorises the President and the General Secretary to convey its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased in its sad bereavement. (These resolutions were passed, all members standing).

(3) Meerut Case.- This Federation appeals to all members of the Trade Unions in the country to contribute liberally to the fund

started by the Meerut Defence (Appeal) Committee in Bombay to enable the Meerut prisoners to conduct appeals in the High Court and secure for them expert legal assistance.

(4) White Paper.- This Special Session of the Indian Trades Union is of opinion that the Proposals of His Majesty's Government for Indian Constitutional Reform, embodied in the White Paper of March 18, 1933, are disappointing, undemocratic and even reactionary in certain essential and fundamental respects. They hold out no prospect of the Indian masses and the working classes ever securing an adequate and effective voice and control in the administration of the country. They contain less of transfer of power from the British into the Indian hands and more of reservations and safeguards which breathe the spirit of distrust of Indians and are not only not "demonstrably in the interests of India" but are much more in the interests of the United Kingdom.

(b) This Federation desires to emphasise that no scheme of reforms can meet the requirements of the Indian masses and the working classes or satisfy their legitimate aspirations or allay the present political and economic discontent which is not designed to endow India with the status of a self-governing democratic country and it urges that, if the proposals of reform are to achieve any purpose, they should be so liberalised as to bring them into conformity with democratic constitutions of self-governing countries, only the irreducible minimum of reservations being made for a short transitional period to be fixed by statute.

(c) This Federation demands the following, among others, changes in the Proposals in the White Paper:-

(1) The Constitution Act should contain a declaration of funda-

mental rights guaranteeing to the workers, inter alia, ~~the~~ freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of associations, the right to strike, the right to work and provision against old-age, invalidity, etc.

(ii) The Federation is opposed to the principle of nomination and wants all the future legislatures in India to be constituted on the principle of election.

(iii) The Federation is opposed to the establishment of the Federal Upper House. If, however, it is to be retained, Indian labour should be given adequate and effective representation therein.

(iv) The representation of the Princes in both the Houses of the Federal Legislature, should be by election.

(v) In the Federal Assembly, labour should be given at least 10 per cent. of the total number of seats, or in the alternative, the same quantum of representation as that given to capital as a whole, including commerce and industry, landlords and Europeans as a community.

(vi) Labour seats in the Federal Upper House should be filled by an electoral college consisting of the labour representatives of the Provincial legislatures by the method of the single transferable vote. The labour seats in the Federal Lower House should be filled by the electoral college or colleges of registered trade unions, based preferably on industrial basis with due regard to the claims of the different provinces.

(vii) The franchise for the general and communal seats in the Federal Assembly should be the same as that for the future provincial legislative Councils.

(viii) The Federation is opposed to the establishment of second chambers in any of the provinces in India. If, however, they are to be retained, Indian labour should be given adequate and effective representation there~~in~~.

(ix) In the provincial legislatures (lower and upper ^{where} ~~whether~~ the latter exist) labour should be given at least 10 per cent. of the total number of seats.

(x) The labour seats in the provincial legislatures should be filled by constituencies formed of the members of the registered trade unions, preferably on the industrial basis.

(xi) Adult suffrage should be the basis of franchise for provincial legislatures. If, however, that may not be possible, the Federation insists upon wage earning qualification being introduced in the general basis of franchise.

(xii) The federal and provincial legislatures should have concurrent powers of passing labour legislation with a proviso in the Constitution Act that ~~the~~ federal legislation shall prevail over ~~the~~ provincial legislation. The federal labour laws should be made applicable to all the units of the Federation including the Indian States. This Federation protests against ~~the~~ health insurance and invalidity and old-age pensions being made ~~an~~ exclusively provincial subjects; they should be made both federal and provincial subjects.

(xiii) The Federal Government should possess the power of ratifying the Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation without having to take the consent of the federating Units, separately.

(d) This Federation records its strong conviction that the White Paper Proposals as they stand at present cannot satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Indian people and will, far from appeasing and allaying discontent, aggravate the present unhappy conditions, will further alienate public opinion and greatly intensify the present acute and wide-spread discontent. A generous and far-reaching measure of reforms granting substantial power to the masses and the working classes will alone meet India's requirements and satisfy the national self-respect of India.

(5) This Federation authorises the General Secretary to inform the Joint Select Committee and the Government of India that its representatives should be given facilities to appear before the Joint ~~and~~ Select Committee to give evidence on behalf of this Federation and it appoints for this purpose Messrs. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., Aftab Ali and Shiv Rao to form its delegation. The General Secretary is further authorised to send a copy of the resolution on the White Paper to the Joint Select Committee and the Government of India and prepare, in consultation with the President, a detailed memorandum on the lines of the resolution to be submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(6) This Federation holds that Indian labour is entitled to representation on the conferences to be held in London connected with the establishment of the Reserve Bank and the Statutory Railway Board and requests the Government of India to appoint Messrs. N.M. Joshi, M. Daud and Jamnadas Mehta on the conference on the Reserve Bank, and Messrs. Shiv Rao, Jamnadas Mehta, Giri and K.C. Roy Chowdhary

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on the conference connected with the Statutory Railway Board.

The Federation then proceeded with the question of Trade Union Unity and discussed the points raised by the General Council of the Federation in its morning sitting of that day. In addition to those points, the Federation proposed to place the following additional points before the Joint Meeting of the Federation with the National Federation of Labour:-

- (a) The seamen should be made a separate group in the list of trade groups,
- (b) provision should be made to cover the contingency in which a member ceases to be a member of any trade group. It was thought that the Union whose representation on the General Council will cease should have representation on the Council in a suitable manner.

The Federation then passed the following resolution:-

- (7) This Federation authorises the General Council to negotiate with the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour on the question of Trade Union Unity with a view to bring about amalgamation between the two organisations on a fair and equitable basis.

The session was then adjourned to the next day.

The Federation re-assembled at 6.30 p.m. on the 20th April 1933, with Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose in the chair.

The General Secretary placed before the Federation a draft of the Agreement on Trade Union Unity reached between the General Council of the Federation and the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour. The following resolution was adopted:-

- (8) This ~~is~~ Special Session of the Indian Trades Union Federation ratifies the Agreement of Trade Union Unity reached between the General Council of this Federation and the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour and expresses its sincere thanks to the General Council and the Provisional Committee for having brought

about this Agreement.

(b) This Federation appeals to all its affiliated Unions to accept the Agreement and trusts that the new organisation, the National Trades Union Federation, with the affiliated Unions belonging to the Indian Trades Union Federation and the National Federation of Labour now being transferred to it, will be strongly representative of Indian labour.

The General Secretary then thanked the President, Members of the General Council, ^{and} delegates of the Federation for the help they rendered him, congratulated them on having achieved Trade Union Unity and hoped that he would continue to receive from the new organisation and its enlarged General Council the same help and guidance which it had been his privilege to receive from his trade union friends during the whole period of his secretaryship.

Mr. Daud moved a vote of thanks to the President and the Reception Committee which was carried with cheers.

The President in closing the proceedings of the Federation congratulated it on the success it had achieved and hoped that the Trade Union Movement would be strengthened by the Agreement that had been reached. The Special Session of the Federation was then dissolved.

Joint Meeting between Indian Trades Union Federation
and National Federation of Labour.

A Joint Meeting between the General Council of the Indian Trades Union Federation and the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour was held in Albert Hall, Calcutta, at 8.0 a.m. and again at 5.0 p.m. on the 20th April 1933, to consider the question of Trade Union Unity in the light of the decisions taken by the Trade

^{Unity}
 Union Conference held at Delhi in February 1933. Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, the President of the Indian Trades Union Federation, was in the chair. The following representatives representing the two organisations were present:-

General Council of the Indian Trades Union Federation.- Messrs. Mrinal Kanti Bose; Aftab Ali; N.M. Joshi, M.L.A.; P.C. Bose; Abdul Huq; M. Daud; Shib Kali Bose; ^{and} R.R. Bakhale.

Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour.- Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta; V.V. Giri; Guruswami; W.V.R. Naidu; and H.C.D. Mathur.

Mr. Mrinal ~~Kanti~~ Kanti Bose, the President, welcomed the representatives of the National Federation of Labour and hoped that the labours of the Joint Meetings would result in achieving ~~the~~ trade union unity. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, on behalf of the National Federation of Labour, reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Chairman.

The Joint meeting then proceeded with the consideration of the question of Trade Union Unity and after full and careful consideration passed the following resolutions:-

(1) Resolved that the ^{*}Constitution of the National Federation of Labour which is based on the Platform of Unity as finally evolved by the Trade Union Unity Conference, be accepted with the following amendments:-

(a) In rule 1, the words "National Trades Union Federation" be substituted for the words "National Federation of Labour".

(b) In rule 5, under "explanation", the words "joint action" be inserted after the word "representations".

(c) In rule 6, the following be substituted for (i):-

"An annual contribution of Rs.20 for 2,000 members and below, Rs. 10 for every additional 1,000 members or less upto 10,000 and Rs.5 for every additional 1,000 members or less above 10,000.

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(d) In rule 9(a), under (vi), the words "the Federation under" shall be inserted before the word "by".

(e) In rule 9(a), under (vi) -

(i) for the "(b) Transport other than Railways", the words "(b) Shipping, (c) Transport other than Railways and Shipping" be substituted and the following sub-clauses be re-lettered.

(ii) after the word "(j) General" the words "and such other trade groups as may be determined by the General Council from time to time" be added.

(f) In rule 9(e), after the words "the following scale", the following be substituted for the rest of the clause:-

- 1 Representative for a Group with a membership up to and including 1,000;
- 2 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 1,000 and 3,000;
- 3 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 3,000 and 5,000;
- 4 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 5,000 and 7,000;
- 5 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 7,000 and 10,000;
- 6 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 10,000 and 15,000;
- 7 Representatives for a Group with a membership between 15,000 and 20,000; and
- 8 Representatives for a Group with a membership above 20,000.

(g) After rule 9, the following new rules be inserted and the subsequent rules be renumbered:-

"10. A member of the General Council who ceases to be a member of any group on whose behalf he has been elected to the General Council, shall cease to be a member of the General Council.

11. The representatives of the Trade Groups elected on the General Council in the manner prescribed in these rules, shall co-opt members on the Council, not necessarily connected with any Trade Union Organisation but who have taken part in the Trade Union Movement and whose presence on the Council may be considered essential in the interest of the Movement. The number of such co-opted members shall not be more than one-sixth of the total number of representatives of the affiliated organisations".

(h) In rule 11(b), the words "at least" be inserted after the word "meet".

(i) In rule 21, for the words "at the general sessions of the Federation", the words "by the General Council" be substituted and for the words "the office-bearers being elected from among the delegates", the words "from among its members" be substituted.

(j) In rule 23, for the first sentence the following be substituted:-

"The delegates and advisers for the International Labour ~~Confere-~~ ^{Confer-}nces ~~meeting~~ held under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation and other labour conferences and meetings shall be elected ordinarily at a meeting of the General Council".

(k) In the application for affiliation, the following changes be made:-

(i) For the words "National Federation of Labour", the words "National Trades Union Federation" be substituted;

(ii) The sentence beginning with "My ~~union~~ is in full agreement" and ending with "in July ~~1932~~, 1932" be deleted.

(2) Resolved that the National Trades Union Federation with the Constitution as modified by resolution No. 1, shall come into force on and from the 10th of May, 1933, by which date the Secretary of the National Federation of Labour is requested to transfer the Unions affiliated to it to the new Organisation with their affiliation fees.

(3) Resolved that the Office-bearers and the personnel of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation shall be the same as that of the Indian Trades Union Federation with the following additions:-

Vice-Presidents.- (1) Mr. Jamnadas Mehta; (2) Mr. B. Shiv Rao.

General Council.- (1) Mr. V. V. Giri; (2) Mr. S. C. Joshi; (3) Mr. P. R. Rao; (4) Mr. H. C. D. Mathur; (5) Mr. K. R. Avadhani; (6) Mr. Daud Dalvi; and (7) Mr. C. S. Francis.

(4) Resolved that the General Secretary be authorised to carry out the obligations decided upon by the Indian Trades Union Federation and its General Council.

After these resolutions were unanimously adopted, the President expressed his great satisfaction at the achievement of the joint conference in having succeeded in bringing about ~~the~~ Trade Union Unity and hoped that the Unity would be ever-lasting and would strengthen the working class movement in this country. He also thanked the

members of the Provisional Committee of the National Federation of Labour for the spirit of give and take they had shown through^{out} the proceedings. The General Secretary endorsed the remarks of the President and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Joint Meeting came to an end.

5th Annual Meeting of Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, 1933. ✓

The fifth annual general meeting of the Bombay Girni Kamgar (Red Flag) Union was held at Bombay on 19 & 27-3-1933 under the presidentship of Mr. G.L.Kandalkar, the President of the Union,. The following details regarding the activities of the Union during 1932 are taken from the Annual Report submitted to the meeting by the General Secretary of the Union.

The Union membership increased from 2625 to 4655. The year began with a deficit of Rs. 71-7-0 but closed with a surplus of Rs. 329-15-3. During the period under report, the receipts were Rs. 10,184-0-6 and the expenses totalled Rs. 9,854-1-3. The Union had three centres, besides the head office at Parel, Bombay. Ten strikes which took place in various Mills in Bombay were conducted by the Union out of which three strikes ended in favour of workers, four were defeated, two ended in a partial victory for the workers, while one was in progress. Over 300 meetings and about 30 processions were organised by the Union. The Union represented grievances of 166 individual workers, out of which 98 were settled to the satisfaction of the workers. The Meerut Day, the May Day, the Trade Union Congress Day and such other days were observed by the Union and it took a prominent part in the 12th session of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Madras and in the provincial Trade Union Conference held at Bombay. During the period under review vigorous efforts were made to popularise the Platform of Unity issued by the Union, and it succeeded in ^{getting} it endorsed by the Trade Union Congress. A number of officers of the Union and about a dozen volunteers had to face prosecution during the period; but the work of Union was carried

on smoothly despite these prosecutions and convictions.

The following persons were elected office bearers for 1933:

President: Mr. G.L.Kandalkar, Vice Presidents; Messrs. Abdul Majid, R.B.Netkar, Lalji Pendse and Mhamad Siddiq; Treasurers; Messrs. K.D.Shirk and B.R.Jamitkar; General ~~Secretary~~ Secretary: Mr. S.C.Mhapankar.

A. I. Trade Union Congress:

Meeting of Executive Committee. ✓

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held in the office of the Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay, on 11-4-33, Mr. G.L.Kandalkar, the President of the Committee, presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, the Bombay Dock Workers' Union, the Municipal Workers' Union, the Tramwaymen's Union and the Bank Peons' Union were present.

Mr. Kandalkar, in his address, said that the Executive Committee^t was meeting at a very fateful moment, when Indian capitalists as a class were opening a new offensive against the workers and the workers were preparing for the struggle. It was necessary at the moment for the Congress to unite and mobilise the workers for a common fight under proper leadership.

The meeting passed resolutions characterizing the White Paper as an attempt on the part of British Imperialism to consolidate its rule in India with the help of the upper classes and advocating the necessity of a vigorous mass movement for the capture of political power; condemning the sentences passed against the

Meerut prisoners, and demanding their release; condemning the move of Mr. Jammadas Mehta and others to form a new Central organisation of labour as suicidal; demanding the withdrawal of the Ordinances and the unconditional release of all political prisoners including Mr. M.N.Roy, Meerut prisoners, Gharwalli prisoners and others; calling upon the textile workers to prepare for a general strike to meet the offensive of the millowners and condemning the G.I.P. and M.S.M. Railway authorities for withdrawing recognition of the G.I.P. Railway Workers' and M.S.M. Railway Workers' Unions; and condemning the leaders of the Railwaymen's Federation for disaffiliating the G.I.P. Railway Workers' Union.

The meeting elected Mr. V.B.Karnik as acting General Secretary in place of Mr. J.N.Mitra, resigned.

Economic Conditions

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New Statistical Research Bureau:Proposal Accepted. ✓

The Standing Finance Committee of the Legislative Assembly considered on 12-4-33 the proposal for establishing a Statistical Research Branch of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics at the headquarters of the Government, and approved the proposal.

It was explained to the Committee that the need for such an organisation was becoming more and more urgent, and that the Government of India could no longer depend on occasional assistance from the department of Statistics situated in Calcutta. That Department had rendered good service in the past, but it was organised mainly for the routine compilation of statistics for publication and was not equipped for the continuous exercise of functions of a specialised character.

The Government of India had promised to place before a Committee of the two Houses of the Legislature a report on the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement, a matter which called for a close and concurrent analysis of the trade statistics as they became available. Again, when the Safeguarding of Industries Bill became law, there would be many and frequent occasions for a detailed examination of the claims for protection by Indian industries. The collection and correlation of data was essential for a proper appreciation of the current economic situation, on which the course to be followed by the Reserve Bank in the exercise of its functions of currency control must largely depend.

The Standing Finance Committee accorded its general approval to the proposal that the office of Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics should be stationed at the headquarters of the Government of India and that under him a new department of Statistical Research should be created.

Tea Exports Restrictions: Legislation to be Introduced.

The Commerce Member of the Government of India foreshadowed, on 12-4-33 in the Legislative Assembly, Government's intention to

introduce legislation restricting export of tea from India to a certain fixed quota. The circumstances that have led to the demand for restriction may be briefly stated as follow:-

The principal tea producing countries are Java, Sumatra, Ceylon and India. It has been estimated that the world production of tea is at present 20 per cent ahead of world consumption. The steady and progressive decline in prices makes restriction an absolute necessity and negotiations in this respect have been going on for some time past between tea-producers in the four countries mentioned before. A working agreement has now been reached and the contemplated legislation is designed to implement the agreement.

The Government of India consulted the three provincial governments interested in tea production namely Bengal, Assam and Madras and it has been ascertained that these governments are prepared to restrict the issue of fresh leases for tea cultivation for five years as fixed by the International Agreement. The Local Governments have been again addressed to ascertain their views on the question of the restriction of planting in areas already leased.

The issue of licences to tea-producers and exporters will be regulated by a committee representative of the tea-growing industry and containing representatives of both British and Indian interests. The Committee will operate from two centres, one in Calcutta for northern gardens, and one in a suitable centre, such as Coimbatore for South Indian estates. The licensing Committee will keep an account of all the quotas allotted.

The Government of India's support of the scheme is conditional (a) on the co-operation of the other Governments concerned; (b) on the approval of the scheme by the Legislature and (c) on the approval by the Government of the total export quota fixed from time to time by the International Committee.

The proposed legislation will have serious repercussions on the Indian tea industry and on the labour engaged in the tea plantations. In 1931 Indian tea gardens gave employment to nearly 900,000 labourers, and even in bad years are estimated by reliable authorities to be responsible for an expenditure in India of about Rs.250 millions.

Certain sections of the tea-producers in India are against the proposed restriction scheme. ~~and~~ The following are their principal arguments according to a letter published in the Planters' Chronicle of 11-3-1933:-

(1) All kinds of artificial restrictions and controls on the crop of any produce have so far proved to be detrimental to the prices of such crops in the long run. Such restrictions give a temporary and speculative rise in the price for a time.

(2) In the case of restriction of exports of tea, just as in the case of the rubber restriction Scheme which failed completely and ruined the rubber producers, China, Japan, Formosa, French Indo-China, Russia and other big producing countries cannot be brought under the restriction Scheme. The unrestricted countries will not only reap the benefit, but they will expand their tea area to such an extent as to dump all the markets and ruin those producers in the restricted countries in the course of a few years.

(3) There is a fairly good market for the sale of tea in India and if any restriction of export alone, without any restriction of ~~export~~ production, is adopted by the Government this local market will be completely spoiled by the dumping of all the excess teas beyond the exportable quota from every estate in India and the Indian States.

Bengal Jute Enquiry Committee: Questionnaire Issued. ✓

Reference was made at pages 44-45 of our February 1933 report to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry ^{to inquire} into the present economic depression in Bengal as far as the Jute industry is concerned and to suggest measures for the regulation and control of jute production in the province. Early in March the Enquiry Committee forwarded copies of a questionnaire for distribution to the associated interests concerned and to such individual members as could offer responsible and considered replies to the various questions raised. The questionnaire embraces 58 questions covering

points affecting (a) regulation of production, (b) cultivation and production, (c) marketing, (d) the creation of a Jute Committee and (e) competition from substitutes and research, and for purposes of reference there are attached to the questionnaire copies of (1) the Central Provinces Cotton Market Act 1932, (2) the United States Cotton Standards Act 1923, and (3) Mr. McDougall's marketing scheme as published in the report of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee.

Agricultural Indebtedness: Official Conference at Simla.

An informal Conference was held at Simla on 29-4-33 at which Sir George Schuster, Finance Member with the Government of India and Sir Jogendra Singh, Sir Mohammad Yusuf and Doctor Deshmukh, Ministers of the Punjab, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces Governments respectively, were present to discuss the consequences of the abnormal fall in commodity ~~prices~~ prices on agricultural indebtedness.

It was pointed out that the price of money having considerably appreciated, the burden of debts contracted prior to the present depression in commodity prices was bearing very hard upon the agriculturists. Similarly, the unsatisfactory condition of the Co-operative Movement in the three provinces in the light of a large number of defaults in repayment of loans was also reviewed.

Sir Jogendra Singh suggested the adoption of the recommendations in the report of the committee appointed by the Punjab Government to consider the question of rural indebtedness, while Dr. Deshmukh suggested the applicability of the Debt Conciliation Act, recently passed by the Central Provinces Council, to the other provinces. The Provincial Governments requested the Government of India to consider the question whether the Government of India could not supplement the efforts of provincial Governments in helping the agriculturists to tide over the present crisis by suitable advances, or some other method. Sir George Schuster promised to consider all the points raised by the three Ministers.

Textile Crisis: Safeguarding of Industries Act -1933. ✓

References were made at pages 49-51 of our July 1932 report and at pages 50-53 of our August 1932 report to the textile crisis precipitated by Japanese 'dumping' of piece goods in India. As a result of a great number of representations for protection from textile interests all over the country, the Government of India, acting on the advice of the Indian Tariff Board, raised in August 1932, the ad valorem duty on cotton piece goods, not of British manufacture, from 20 to 50 per cent.

This special protection, however, failed to check Japanese 'dumping', as the Tariff Board to whom a special reference had been made, had based their conclusions with regard to the additional protection which was necessary on an exchange value of Rs. 106 per

Y 100. When Government acted on the report, the exchange had fallen to Rs. 88 per Y 100. On this account, and on account of the further depreciation of Japanese prices which has since taken place, the 50 per cent duty has proved wholly ineffective in preventing Japanese penetration of the Indian market, and wholly insufficient to enable the Indian textile industry to realize a fair selling price for its products. An idea of the extent of Japanese dumping in India will be *obtained* ~~seen~~ from the following figures regarding Indian trade with Japan.

The trade between India and Japan has rapidly passed from a favourable balance of Rs. 167.5 millions in 1928-29 to ^{a balance of} merely Rs. 6.1 millions in 1931-32. The total figures for the last financial year (1932-33) are not yet available, but the trend during the first 11 months of the year is unmistakable. The year opened with an unfavourable balance of Rs. 8.9 millions which rose to as high as Rs. 84.0 millions in December last at which level it has fairly maintained itself. The net result is that against a favourable balance of Rs. 167.5 millions in 1928-29, India had in the first 11 months of 1932-33 an unfavourable balance of no less than Rs. 586.0 millions.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Bombay Millowners' Association, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Indian Chambers as well as almost all the other commercial bodies should make strong representations to the Government of India to raise the tariff wall further so as to check the flow of Japanese goods, ~~to India~~ ^{to India,} chiefly textiles. A deputation of millowners from all parts of India waited on H.E. the Governor General on 8-4-33 to represent in person the serious plight of the textile industry

in the country. The position of industries other than textiles was different. They have never had that riot of protectionism which has fallen to the lot of ^{the} our cotton mills. In the regime of high import duties, which followed the financial stringency of the Government, many of them have been able to steady themselves. But the large volume of cheap import from Japan has threatened them also with ruin.

As a result of these representations, the Government of India introduced a Bill on 8-4-33 in the Legislative Assembly called the "Safeguarding of Industries Bill, 1933" which was passed by the Assembly on 10-4-33. The Act will remain in force until March 31, 1935, when it can either be extended, if necessary, or amended by another Act drawn up in the light of experience. The Act will empower the Governor-General to impose duties by executive order on imports coming into India at such abnormally low prices that the existence of an indigenous industry is endangered. Every executive order imposing a duty under the Act will be laid before both Chambers of the Legislature, and unless it is approved by them will expire in two months. In spite of the attempts made in various quarters to make out that the Anti-Dumping Act, as it is popularly known, has a wider purpose, it cannot be denied that the immediate object of the Act is to check the activities of the Japanese exporters in the Indian markets, ⁺ Though action cannot be taken under the provisions of the Act against Japan unless the Indo-Japanese Trade Convention of 1908 has been abrogated. For such abrogation six months' notice is required. The necessary notice was, however, given recently. It is understood the Government of India proposes

under sub-Section 5, Section 3 of the Indian Tariff Act to enhance the present duties on cotton piece-goods of non-British origin by 25 per cent ad valorem to come into effect at a very early date. This is believed to ^{be} a stop-gap measure pending introduction in the Legislative Assembly in September of ¹⁹³³ a Bill in the light of data, furnished by the Tariff Board report which will be published early in September.

On 19-4-33, six important organisations of Japanese cotton interests issued a statement of the abrogation of the Trade Convention and the passing of the Anti-Dumping Bill, in which it is pointed out that the action of the Government of India is unfriendly and unjust. It is mentioned ~~that~~ "the present treaty of 1908 was concluded on the initiative of India which earnestly desired the most favoured nation clause in view of India's favourable balance of trade with Japan. India was then annually exporting 90,000,000 Yen worth of goods to Japan against 80,000,000 Yen worth of imports from Japan. In the following thirty years, India's excess of exports over imports of trade with Japan amounted to the huge total of 3,300,000,000 Yen. But for the first time a small excess of imports over exports occurred in 1932 as a result of which India decided ~~ly~~ hastily to denounce the treaty which is an unfaithful action on the part of the British and Indian Governments."

The statement threatened that unless Indian Government reconsidered the position, Japanese cotton organisations were resolved to boycott Indian cotton. This threat however, has been discredited by the Japanese Embassy in India and important industrialists in this country have characterised it as "mere bluff". According to the latest newspaper reports, the Japanese Government are contemplating

opening negotiations with the Government of India with a proposal to regulate the export of Japanese goods to India so as to meet the complaints of 'dumping'!

The 'dumping' of Japanese textiles into India has so far adversely affected the industry to a great extent. Many During the last two months many mills gave notice of closing down completely, while many others reduced the number of shifts, discharged workers, worked short time, or reduced wages as measures of retrenchment. These measures have resulted in a series of strikes throughout the country, which are reviewed in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour.

First Rail-Road Conference - Simla, 1933.

The First Rail-Road Conference opened its session at Simla on 24-4-33. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Indian railway systems, the motor transport services, as also by representatives of the provincial Governments and the Government of India. The proceedings were opened by the Viceroy. Dealing with the need for such a Conference the Viceroy in his opening address said:-

I am not going to attempt to express any opinion upon the merits of the various differences of views, but in the welter of controversy there are certain outstanding facts that cannot be challenged. It is a fact that between Rs. 7,000 and Rs. 8,000 millions of the tax-payers' money are invested in railways in India. It is a fact that the rate structure of railways is an inter-dependent and complex entity in which the receipts from certain classes of traffic cannot be suddenly curtailed without causing some reaction upon the rates levied upon others. It is a fact that in a country of vast distances such as India the economic prosperity of its people is bound up with cheap rates for the transport of agricultural produce, coal and other traffic. It is also a fact that the convenience, elasticity and economic advantage of motor transport has already substantially altered and improved the condition of life in many parts of the country; and that it is of great potential value in advancing the material, social and political progress of the population. Here in India the road-rail problem is comparatively new and its difficulties less developed; consequently we appear to have an opportunity for timely adjustment which many other countries have not, and therefore to profit by the experience of others.

The case for the railways was presented by the Chief Commissioner, Sir Guthrie Russell. Pointing to the motor transport's capture of the cream of the passenger and goods traffic, he declared that these losses could not be met by either increasing or decreasing rates. The railways were claiming fair play and road motor services should be subject to restrictions similar to those to which they were subjected. Neither India nor any other country could afford the luxury of dual forms of transport in competition with each other.

For the road transport interests, Mr. E. Miller of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association submitted that to ascertain what actually was uneconomic competition co-ordinating,

boards should be established both at the Centre and in the Provinces. He moved amendments to the resolution under discussion and suggested that in the interest of efficiency certain district boards might be put under the control of a central provincial authority - a suggestion which, however, certain local Governments opposed.

The following is the text of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference:

1. Wasteful Competition to be Eliminated by Co-ordinated Development: - The Conference is of opinion that, in the general public interests, the time has come for increased co-operation and a more intelligent co-ordination of effort between the various authorities and interests concerned, in the matter of:-

(a) future Railway development and of (b) the future development of road communication, whether used for motor transport or other purposes, so as to secure a more comprehensive and uniform plan of general development than at present exists.

In areas where uneconomic competition between railway and road transport has been proved to exist, such increased co-operation and co-ordination may necessitate the adoption, by mutual agreement, of measures designed to reduce such uneconomic competition to the minimum compatible with the maintenance of healthy competition.

Any comprehensive or uniform plan of general development must sooner or later involve a gradual expansion of facilities for rural motor transport, complementary to the Railways and to other existing arterial forms of transport, but as internal district communications - apart from the main arteries - are largely controlled by local bodies, any intra-provincial co-ordination of effort must necessarily in the first instance be a matter for the local Governments and legislatures, who, in such matters, should consult, and to the best of their ability, co-operate with the Railway and other interests concerned.

2. Transport Services to be Centrally Controlled:- In order to ensure increased co-operation and more intelligent co-ordination of effort between the various authorities concerned, this Conference considers that the following measures would be justifiable:-

(a) The control of public service and goods motor transport should be regulated in the interests of public safety and convenience.

(b) The number of vehicles licensed to ply for hire should be restricted so as to prevent such competition between all forms of transport as may be contrary to the public interest.

3. Conditions under which Railways may run Motor Services:- This Conference considers that the statutory provisions which present limit the operation of motor services by certain

railways should be repealed, subject to the following conditions:-

(1) The repeal of the statutory provisions shall not be operative until the proposed Boards of Communications are introduced.

(2) Subject to the conditions that the principle of granting monopolies is not confined to railways only, but open to other interests under similar conditions, monopolies may be granted to railways operating motor transport, in the following cases:-

a. Where a railway agrees to substitute its railway service with a modern service of motor transport, a monopoly in compensation may be granted for a certain number of years.

b. Where a railway is prepared to forego a railway extension project which is under consideration in favour of the construction or reconstruction of a road as all-weather communication and maintain it, they may be granted certain favoured conditions for operating a bus service ~~thru~~ over this particular route.

(N.B. By favoured conditions is meant a monopoly or semi-monopoly for a certain period commensurate with their expenditure on the road).

(3) That before permission is granted to any railway to operate motor transport services, the opinion of the proposed District, Divisional and Provincial Boards of Communications must have been sought and the matter placed before the Central Board of Communications for their final approval.

(4) That no favoured conditions should be granted to railways in the form of exemption from taxation or from licensing regulations to which other forms of private transport are subject."

There was general agreement, however, that the restrictions might be done away with.

4. Motor Services & Rural Development: -

4. This Conference recommends that the present regulations regarding public service and goods motor transport should be reviewed by the proposed Boards of Communications with the object of amending them so as to afford every encouragement to the development of new rural services by the granting of monopolies for limited periods of otherwise.

5. Standardisation of Taxation of Motor Transport:-

5. This Conference considers that in the interests of all concerned a co-ordinated plan should be drawn up for the standardisation of taxation of motor transport in India with a view to providing the country with an equitable system of taxation so arranged as to prevent the introduction of measures which will constitute frontier barriers, such as the present method of operating the Provincial tax in the Madras Presidency and the system of collecting revenue from motor transports by means of tolls".

6. Facilities for Transport of Agricultural Produce:-

This Conference considers that -

(a) the present road development account should be continued for the duration of the present constitution and would urge that

provision for its continuance be made in the new constitution;

(b) the class of roads to which the road development account should be applied, including the maintenance of roads constructed s from that account, be reconsidered.

(c) in present circumstances the most urgent need is an improvement in the efficiency, and a reduction in the cost, of the transport of agricultural produce to markets and thence to the railways; future road development programmes should be framed accordingly.

7. Comprehensive Plan for Development of main and subsidiary Roads:- This Conference considers that it is necessary to study the question whether such lack of balance as at present exists in the road systems will, if the means of development are restricted to revenue resources, be susceptible of a correction either at all or at a rate consistent with the economic needs of the country; and accordingly recommends that a comprehensive plan should be drawn up with a view to examining the possibility of development of both main and subsidiary roads from loan funds within the limit of the resources available for maintenance.

8. Central and Provincial Machinery for Control:-

8. This Conference considers that suitable machinery should be established at the Centre and in the Provinces to ensure adequate co-ordination between all forms of transport and their future development.

It is understood that another Rail-Road Conference will be held in the winter of 1933, when the questions discussed at the present Conference will be finally reviewed. Meanwhile, the Provincial Governments will be engaged in preparing road development schemes, in order to forward them to the Government of India.

After the closing of the Conference, the Government of India discussed the questions placed before the Conference with the representatives of the Provincial Governments. It is understood that general opinion favoured the creation of an advisory ~~board~~ board at the centre to co-ordinate with provincial activity, the board to include three representatives of the Government of India, three non-officials and representatives of the various provincial Governments. It is further understood that the provincial Governments favour the idea of the Government of India opening a loan fund to help provincial road development progress.

Employment & Unemployment.

Punjab Government Proposal for an Unemployment Bureau. ✓

At the suggestion of the Joint Development Board, Punjab, it is proposed to maintain in the office of the Director of Industries, Punjab, a list of industrial experts, chemists, and engineers who may be desirous of obtaining employment. This list will be maintained for the benefit of employers who could, in case of need, refer to the Director of Industries for a list of the registered experts to make selections from. No fees are to be charged for the entry of names in this register. The list will also contain details of their qualifications and technical experience of the applicants and the nature of the posts for which they wish to have their names registered.

Unemployment Statistics: Questions in the Assembly. ✓

A series of questions were put in the Legislative Assembly on 5-4-1933 regarding unemployment Statistics and the measures which the Government proposed to adopt to relieve unemployment. The following is a summary of the replies given by the Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce, to the interpellations:

The Government were not in ^{possession} ~~possession~~ of any statistics to show the number of unemployed persons fit for employment in mills, factories, railways and Government and private services. As to whether the Government were prepared to set up machinery to collect this information with a view to combating the unemployment

~~problem~~ and menace, Sir Frank Noyce stated that the matter was primarily one which concerned the local Governments and the Government of India had no proposals for setting up ~~a~~ machinery of the kind suggested. If, however, the Local Governments wanted central legislation, the Government of India would examine any proposal the former would make on the subject. There was effort made to obtain some figures in regard to certain classes of unemployment in the past census, but it proved impossible to get any satisfactory figures on that subject.

In reply to a question whether legislation on questions like unemployment insurance would not come under the purview of the Central Government, since labour legislation was a Central subject, Sir Frank Noyce replied that there would be no difficulty about undertaking central legislation in regard to unemployment insurance, but that India ^{said} ~~is~~ ^{was} a very long way from being in apposition to evolve any satisfactory system of unemployment insurance because of the vastness of the country as well as of its very special conditions.

Social ConditionsGovernment & Depressed Classes;Review of Ameliorative Measures. ✓

The conditions of life and work of the depressed classes, including the so-called untouchables, have recently been prominently engaging the attention of the public, in view of the initiative taken by the Indian National Congress, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, for the removal of the various social and other disabilities of these classes. The charge has often been levelled against the Government that it has been pursuing a luke-warm policy with regard to the elevation of the depressed classes. In order to clear its position and to make known to the public Government's policy in the matter, the Government of India ~~has~~ issued a communique on 26-3-33 reviewing the action taken by the various provincial governments for improving the conditions of life and work of these classes. Below are summarised the main points in this review:-

General - Political Status. - In all Provinces, special measures have been adopted, particularly in recent years, to develop and expand the education of the Depressed Classes and to improve their economic and political conditions. In order to improve their political status, Government have, in addition to nominating their representatives on the Provincial Legislative Councils, provided for their representation by nomination on the municipalities and local boards as well. Also the Communal Award proposed under the Poona Agreement gives the Depressed Classes joint representation with the general Hindu community.

Madras Presidency. - In Madras, where caste system is most rigid, special measures for the encouragement and protection of the Depressed Classes in regard to their education have been necessary.

During 1931, says the note, there were altogether 1784 schools for the Depressed Classes under the control of the Labour Department in 21 districts, with 63,604 pupils of whom 10,746 were girls. 387 additional scholarships for general education were granted and 967 renewals were made. In 1931, grants amounting to Rs.13,690 were given to five institutions under other managements for boarding

members of the Depressed Classes and grants were also given to private bodies for the maintenance of educational institutions.

The total extent of Government land so far assigned to Depressed Classes for the provision of 1973 house sites is 342,611 acres. Successful work was done in the colony at Chavakkot for Nayadis, the lowest of Depressed Classes of Malabar.

Bombay Presidency. - In the Bombay Presidency, there were altogether 620 special primary schools and classes for the children of the Depressed Classes with a roll of 12,500 pupils, in addition to those attending ordinary schools. Recently Government appointed a committee to inquire into the educational, economic and social conditions of the Depressed Classes and the Aboriginal Classes. On the recommendation of this committee, Government have appointed a Backward Class Officer to watch over the interests of the Backward Classes and aboriginal tribes and to see that their progress is continuous and their rights are upheld.

Bengal Presidency. - In Bengal, owing to the fact that Depressed Class pupils find no difficulty in being admitted to the ordinary schools, the Depressed Classes are not classified separately but are grouped along with the Backward classes. During 1931, there were in the Presidency Division 569 special schools for the Backward Classes. In Burdwan division there were 246 special schools for Sonthals and for children of Namasudras. Special hostels have been provided for Namasudras in Calcutta, Faridpur and Jhalatali.

United Provinces. - United Provinces: In 1932, there were altogether 757 special schools for the Depressed Classes with 26,074 pupils in the roll. There were in addition, in ordinary schools 95,340 pupils belonging to these classes. Members of the Depressed Classes have been nominated to all the district boards in the Province and to 76 municipal boards out of 82.

The Punjab. - In the Punjab there were altogether 32,418 pupils belonging to the Depressed Classes undergoing instruction in 1931. As regards industrial schools and specialised institutes, there has never been any spirit of exclusion or practice of discrimination. The system of scholarships and stipends sanctioned by Government for industrial schools is also very generous, and as the basis of award is poverty, the Depressed Classes would naturally have the first claim on them.

Bihar and Orissa. - In Bihar and Orissa special measures have been adopted to develop the education of the Depressed Classes, including the provision of scholarships and fee remissions and the payment of special rates of pay to teachers in schools which admit Depressed Class pupils.

Central Provinces. -In The Central Provinces, during 1931, there were 20 special schools for the Depressed Classes in the Nagpur circle, and some in the Berar circle. Five collegiate, 18 high school and 30 middle school scholarships are provided during the year. The number of Depressed Class pupils is 46,361 now, as compared with the 34,539 in 1926-27.

In order to remove social handicaps of the Depressed Classes and to secure them requisite proportion of representation in public services, the following measures have been adopted. The Public Places User Bill to secure enforcement of rights of using public places (excluding ~~temple~~ temples) by the Depressed Classes was passed by the Central Provinces Legislative Council in the last January session and it is now awaiting the final sanction of the Governor and the Governor-General.

Orders were issued to all heads of departments that the requisite proportion of representation may as nearly as possible be attained within a reasonable period in regulating appointments without sacrifice of efficiency.

Prison Labour: Recommendations of Prison

Reform Committee, Mysore. ✓

The Mysore Prison Reform Committee, which was constituted at the last session of the Lawyers' Conference held at Shimoga, Mysore, to enquire into and report on Prison Reform in Mysore, has just submitted ~~in~~ its report. ~~to the President,~~ Mr. Belur Srinivasa Iyengar, Advocate, was the Chairman, and K.T. Bashyam Iyengar, Advocate, ~~who~~ was the Secretary.

The resolution adopted at the Conference was as follows:

"That this Conference is of opinion that the present system of prison administration is oppressive and antiquated and requires a thorough change; and the Conference hereby appoints a committee to consider the subject in all its aspects and ~~and~~ submit a report thereon together with draft bills, if any." The report runs to 37 pages of printed

matter. The first chapter refers to the number of jails in the State and their capacity and other cognate matters. The second and third chapters refer to the historical reasons for sending criminals to jail and the prevailing conditions in prisons, while the next one deals with possible improvements. The Committee finally make some recommendations. After condemning the punitive theory of jail administration, the recommendations advocate improvements in respect of prison environments, clothing of prisoners, diet, labour conditions and facilities for recreation and improvement. The keynote of jail administration, the Committee concludes, should be sympathy and a desire to reform, rather than the desire to punish.

Regarding prison labour, the Committee has made the following suggestions and recommendations:-

Prison work at present is of a penal nature. Ragi grinding, rope twisting, etc., are compulsory; they need not be. As soon as a prisoner enters, he may be put on training in some industry and, in a month or two, he may begin to earn decent wages. ~~The~~ labour in the jail is all of rudimentary type. It must be replaced by industries on up-to-date lines. Cottage industries and agricultural industries may be taught. Prisoners may be lent to factories for training and labour. Wages must be credited to the prisoners ^{at} market rates. Half the wages may be deducted towards jail charges, a fourth retained for payment after discharge and the remaining fourth remitted to the family of the prisoner and of the victim, if any. Extra work, done over and above the task for the day, may be paid for similarly, half the wages being retained for payment after discharge and the remaining half ~~is~~ utilised by the prisoner on his own comforts such as additional cloth, milk, coffee, soap, books etc., or remitted to his family, ~~and the like~~. Accumulated wages may be paid to the prisoner after discharge by weekly instalments through the nearest post-office, savings bank or in a lump sum, according to circumstances at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Public Health.Enquiry into Incidence of Sickness among
Cotton Mill Operatives, Bombay City; Labour Office Report. ✓

At the instance of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour, the Labour Office, ^{Bombay,} conducted in the year 1930 an enquiry into the incidence of sickness among cotton mill operatives in Bombay City. The enquiry related to three mills and covered a period of three months. (A reference to the results of that enquiry, which was published in the February 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, was made at page 30 of our March 1931 report.) It was however considered desirable to cover a longer period, ^{therefore,} and it was decided to continue the enquiry for a further period of twelve months from December 1930 to November 1931. The report of the later enquiry is published at pages 517 to 526 of the March 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette. (vol. XII No. 7).

Co-operation.

Progress of Cooperation in the Bombay

Presidency, 1931-32.*

The following information regarding the progress of co-operation in the Bombay Presidency during 1931-32 is taken from the annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31-3-1932. The following were the main lines of Co-operative activity in the Presidency during the year under review:-

Number of Societies. - The total number of co-operative societies decreased during the year under review from 5,896 in the previous year to 5,878, while the total membership fell from 585,869 to 582,609. The year, however, registered an increase in the total working capital and reserve Fund of these societies from Rs. 139,099,530 and Rs. 10,491,393 respectively in 1930-31 to Rs. 144,210,891 and Rs. 11,173,730 respectively in the year under review. The 5,878 societies working in 1931-32 were made up as follows:- Central Banks - 20 (members 14,436); Agricultural Societies 4,839 (members 322,261); Non-Agricultural Societies - 898 (members 244,929); Unions 118 and Insurance Societies 3. The decrease is mainly in agricultural societies while the other kinds of societies increased in number as well as in membership from the figures for 1930-31. In the case of Agricultural Societies, the membership decreased by 16,941 and the working capital by over Rs. 830,000 from

* Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31st March 1932 - Bombay; Printed at the Govt. Central Press 1933 - Price Annas 5 or 6d - pp. 124

the respective figures for the previous year while Reserve Fund increased by nearly Rs.300,000.

Agricultural Credit Societies. - The number of agricultural credit societies decreased from 4,600 in 1930-31 to 4,603 in 1931-32 and the total membership from 268,284 to 257,402. Working Capital fell from Rs. ~~2x425x~~ 42,588,314 to 42,041,363 but the reserve fund increased from Rs. 2,507,708 to Rs. 2,680,408. The policy of rectification and consolidation was effectively pursued during the year.

Agricultural Non-Credit Societies. - The unsettled condition of the prices as well as the lack of efficient staff continued to be the chief difficulties in the proper development of the Agricultural Non-Credit side of the Movement. Societies for the sale of agricultural produce, especially cotton, constituted the most important of the agricultural non-credit societies in the Presidency. There were 23 cotton sale societies which sold cotton weighing 335,294 maunds (1 maund = 80 lbs.) and realised Rs. 2,643,511 .

Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank. - The general position of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank continued to be satisfactory. The number of share-holders increased from 2,512, to 2,819. There was no increase in the share capital. The total resources of the Bank have gone up by Rs. 1.5 millions.

Producers' Societies. - The number of producers' societies continued to be 18 but the membership rose from 745 ~~in~~ 1930-31 to 783. The figures for share capital and working capital registered increases while the value of articles produced dropped from Rs. 218,231 in

1930-31 to Rs. 10,346, but this is due to the change in the system of working of the Sanikatta Co-operative Salt Sale Society, which, although it had sold salt worth Rs. 237,990, is not included in the sales statement, as it has given up production and restricts its activities to sale only. Unlike last year the societies worked at a profit.

Weavers' Societies. - There were 53 weaver's societies with a membership of 2,291 during the year under review as against 52 during 1930-31 with a membership of 2,285. The working capital, sales and profit showed decreases from the figures for 1930-31. Of the 53 societies, 21 worked at a loss and the rest at a slight profit. The prices of raw materials were unsteady and the demand for finished articles was very meagre, as the purchasing power of the agriculturist had gone down. The working of these Societies on the whole was not very satisfactory.

(The annual report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 78-79 of our April 1931 report and that for 1930-31 at pages 44-46 of our May 1932 report).

Agriculture.

Activities of the Imperial Council of Agricultural

Research, 1931-32*.

The following information regarding the activities of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the period 1-4-1931 to 31-3-1932 is taken from the Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1931-32.

During the year Mysore State joined the Council as a constituent State with the status of a British Indian province. The principal subjects which engaged the attention of the Council during the year were the following:- development of the sugar, oil-seeds and rice industries, locust control, provision of better marketing facilities for agricultural produce, collection of data re. indigenous fertilizers and animal husbandry. Below is given a summary of the work done ^{under} ~~in respect of~~ the more important of these headings:-

Sugar. - The establishment of certain new sugarcane research stations with the chain of sugarcane stations already sanctioned will, it is stated, go a long way to execute the programme of scheme of stations for testing new seedling canes throughout the main Indian sugarcane belt. Reference was made in the last year's report (vide page 70 of our September 1932 report) to the Tariff Board's report on their enquiry into the question of protection to the Indian Sugarcane Industry at the instance of the Sugar Committee. As a result of the Board's recommendations the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932, was passed by the Central Legislature. As a result of the Sugar Industry Protection Act, and of the work of the Sugar Committee, considerable public interest has been aroused in sugar. The Council has set before itself a programme of continuous research in sugar with the object of enabling India to produce all the sugar the country needs within the fifteen years period for which protection has been given.

Rice Crops. - Mention was made in the last year's report that the co-operation of the Empire Marketing Board had been secured in respect of the co-ordinated rice research schemes in

* Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1931-32. Calcutta: Govt. of India Central Publication Branch. 1933. Price Annas 6 or 8d. pp.39

India. The Governing Body, at its meeting held in May 1931, sanctioned the schemes in question at a cost, in so far as the Council was concerned, not exceeding Rs. 919,129 representing half the cost of the Bengal and Burma schemes, the other half in the case of these two provinces being borne by the Empire Marketing Board and the entire provision on account of the other provincial schemes.

Hemp. - In order to ascertain what steps should be taken to improve the quality of Indian hemp with special reference to its marketing in a conditions which would enable it to compete successfully with Italian and Russian hemp in world markets, the Council appointed a whole time officer under the Council with effect from the 1st September 1930 to about the middle of April 1931. The officer visited most of the important hemp growing tracts in India to study the methods of cultivation, retting, extraction, preparation of the fibre and baling and the existing systems of marketing in vogue in various producing centres. The results of his investigations are contained in the Report on Hemp Marketing in India which was issued in March 1932. The action taken by the Council on the officers recommendations, however, falls within the purview of the Annual Report for 1932-33.

Oil-Seeds. * The question of the better utilisation of oil-seeds is of great importance to Indian Agriculture. The question was considered by the Governing Body in July 1930 and in accordance with its decisions a Committee was appointed to consider the development of the Indian Oil Crushing Industry. The Committee which met for the first time in May 1931 explored the ground to be traversed and decided on the problems which had to be investigated at future meetings. The second meeting of the Committee was held in Bombay in December 1931 when a series of recommendations were made at this meeting. Action is now being taken on the Committee's recommendations.

Maritime Affairs.Reduction of Hours of Work of Dock Labourers:Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. ✓

Reference was made at pages 66-67 of our February 1933 report to a letter issued by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence with the Government of Bombay to the interests concerned with dock labour within the presidency asking for their views on the recommendations of the Whitley Commission re. hours of work and conditions of employment for dock labourers. An identical letter, under instructions from the Government of India, was issued by the Marine Department with the Government of Bengal, to the interests concerned in Bengal. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the different recommendations of the Whitley Commission on the subject:-

Regulation of Hours of Work. - As regards the first of the recommendations, the proposed statutory limitation of the hours of work to nine per day is generally acceptable to the Chamber; the normal daily working hours of stevedore and shore labour in the Port of Calcutta are from 7 a.m. ^{with a stoppage of one hour between} noon and 1 p.m. in the case of ships working in the docks, and ^{with a half-hour stop} between 9 a.m. and 9-30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. in the case of ships working at the Jetties. No such fixed periods, however, are recognised at the coal-berths, where the labourers - having to work continually in the open - arrange their working hours according to the seasons of the year. During the hot weather months work is ordinarily commenced at 5 a.m., continues until 10 a.m., and is resumed at 3 p.m. The limit of nine hours per day is not ordinarily exceeded in the case of these workers; but as the arrangement which applies during the hot weather is obviously an advantage from the point of view of the workers themselves, it is suggested that in their case the fixation of the working periods, within the proposed statutory limit of nine hours, should be left to the discretion of the employers or ~~of~~ of the Port Authorities. An exemption is also necessary in the case of monthly paid labourers working on the shift system. For example, the Port Commissioners' labour at the mechanical coal-berths normally work in three shifts of eight hours each. A labourer may work for eight hours, rest for eight hours, and then work a further

eight hours. On such occasions he is given twenty-four hours off after the second spell of work - an arrangement which, though it conflicts with the nine hour limit, is not an unreasonable one. The Port Commissioners, it is understood, have urged the desirability of an exception being made to cover this case, and the Chamber supports them in their request.

Regulation of Overtime. - The Labour Commission recommend that overtime should be permissible up to three hours per day. The limit suggested would not be sufficient to cover all contingencies, and it is submitted that the enforcement of the Labour Commission's recommendation in this respect will necessitate provision being made for the grant, automatically and without question, of exemption to meet cases of emergency. On the whole, the Chamber Committee are satisfied that there is no need to place any statutory restriction on the hours of overtime for dock labour, because the high rate of overtime pay is in itself sufficient to prevent its abuse. They anticipate that considerable difficulty will be experienced in framing a set of regulations sufficiently wide to meet all contingencies and to cover the varying conditions which exist at both major and minor ports.

Payment for Overtime & Age of Employment. - The Chamber and the interests which it has consulted have no objection to the adoption of regulations providing that payment for each hour of overtime shall be required at not less than $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ over the ordinary rate, and that fourteen instead of twelve years as at present shall be the minimum age of employment for dock labour. Overtime is now ordinarily paid for either at the rate suggested or at a higher rate; and as far as the Chamber is aware, workers of 14 years and under are not, in point of fact, employed in dock work. The notification prescribing this minimum age limit will presumably be on the lines of the existing notification, which applies to Calcutta and Chittagong and which refers to employment within the port limits on the "handling of goods"; it seems to the Chamber that a more detailed definition of the nature of the work to which the limitation applies might with advantage be introduced.

Enforcement & Form of Legislation. - The Chamber Committee and the majority of the interests they have consulted are inclined to the opinion that an amendment of the Factories Act would be the most suitable method; but they hold no strong view in the matter, and they find it difficult to express a final opinion without having before them the terms of an actual amendment designed to give effect to the recommendations. They are, for the present, more concerned with the implication contained in the Labour Commission's recommendation, namely, that enforcement of the regulations is necessary and should be effected by means of intervention on the part of the factory inspection department. While the Chamber recognises that there must be some means of ensuring that the regulations are observed and that a right to inspect may be necessary, the interests for which the Chamber speaks venture to urge very strongly that, in view of the

amicable relations which now exist between dock labourers and their employers and which have existed for many years, a regular system of inspection is entirely unnecessary and would in fact merely involve a waste of time and money. They consider that their enforcement may safely be left to the discretion of employers or of the port authorities, if necessary with authority to the factories department to inspect in any cases where there is reason to believe that the regulations are not being observed.

The Government of India remark that, in view of the various intermediaries who figure in the indirect system of employment of dock labour which prevails in Indian ports, it would be difficult to legislate for penalties on the "employer" of such labour. It seems to the Chamber that, whatever the form of the legislation, the responsibilities and liabilities of shipowners and "employers" of dock labour should be carefully examined and clearly defined.

The views of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association and of the Bombay Port Trust on the ~~above~~ recommendations of the Whitley Commission re. dock labour ~~are~~ were given at pages 66-67 of our February 1933 report and at pages 57-58 of our March 1933 report, respectively. The following are the points of similarity and dissimilarity in the views of the above two bodies and of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce:-

1. All the three bodies support a nine-hour day; but the Bengal Chamber wants that employers should be allowed a certain latitude in arranging working hours, always provided that the total hours worked do not exceed 9 hours per shift and that an exception should be made in the case of monthly paid labourers working on the shift ~~systems~~.
2. All the three bodies oppose the fixation of 3 hours as the limit of overtime.
3. As regards payment for overtime, the Karachi Chamber and the Bombay Port Trust consider $33\frac{1}{3}$ % over the ordinary rate excessive and suggests 25 %, while the Bengal Chamber agrees to the $33\frac{1}{3}$ % rate.
4. All the three bodies approve of the raising of the age of admission from 12 to 14.
5. All the three bodies favour the enforcement of the above regulations to be entrusted to Port Trust authorities and are against the enforcement being entrusted to Factory Inspection Staff.
6. As regards the form the necessary legislation should take, the Karachi Association favours a fresh Act, the Bombay Port Trust an amendment of the Factories Act, while the Bengal Chamber has found it difficult to express a final opinion on the matter.