

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for December 1 9 3 6

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References to the I.L.O. +

A communique re. ~~the~~ work of the 77th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 30-11-1936) is published by the following: the Bombay Chronicle dated 5-12-36 and the Leader dated 11-12-1936.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. "Economic Developments in 1936" (based on a Geneva communique on the subject issued by this Office on 4-12-36) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 7-12-36 and the Leader dated 11-12-1936.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. "World Agricultural Situation in 1936" (based on a Geneva communique on the subject and issued by this Office on 15-12-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-12-36 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 22-12-1936.

\* \* \*  
The December 1936 issue of the Insurance World, Calcutta, publishes a long review of the I.L.O. pamphlet: "Social Insurance in 1935" (Reprint from "I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36").

\* \* \*  
The Indian Labour Journal dated 6-12-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 9-12-1936 reproduces the article: "The Seamen's Charter" from the November 1936 issue of "Headway", London. (Copies of the article were sent to this and a few other papers and journals by this Office.)

\* \* \*  
The issues of the Bombay Chronicle dated 4 & 11-12-1936 publish further instalments of the article: "The Seamen's Charter" sent by the London correspondent of the paper.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 14-12-1936 publishes a brief review of the work of the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A communique reviewing the last two Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 17-11-36) is published by the following: the December 1936 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 6-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The National Call and the Indian Labour Journal dated 13-12-1936 publish a long review of the book: "Yes and Albert Thomas" by E.J.Phelan. The review was contributed by the Director of this Office.

\* \* \*

The November 1936 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, <sup>publishes</sup> of an article under the caption "Reduction of Working Hours", reproduced from the Postal Advocate. The article reviews the movement for a reduction of hours of work in industry. References are made in the article to the efforts made by the I.L.O. in this field.

\* \* \*

A short summary of a communique re. the various committees meeting at Geneva in November 1936, (issued by this Office on 24-11-1936) is published by the Railway Herald dated 6-12-1936.

\* \* \*

The proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 19-11-1936, publishes a note stating that the Association has recommended Sir H.P.Mody for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

A message to the effect that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recommended Sir H.P.Mody

and Mr. G.L.Mehta for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate and Adviser respectively, to the 23rd I.L.Conference.is published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 22-12-1936 and the National Call dated 23-12-36.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 6-12-1936 publishes a "Swiss Letter" dated 28-11-36 from Lausanne sent by its Swiss correspondent. Reference is made in the course of the letter to Senor Caballero's connection with the I.L.O. and to the non-observance of the two-minute silence on Armistice Day by the League and the I.L.O. Secretariats.

\* \* \*

The Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle dated 17-12-1936 publish the report of a lecture delivered at the Nagpada Neighbourhood House by Mr. A.N.Mehrbani of the Bombay Labour Office on 8-12-36 on the work of his office. In the course of the lecture, references were made to the influence of the I.L.O. in improving labour conditions in India.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 11-12-36 publishes a summary of a speech delivered by Miss G.M.Van Asch Wan Wijck at the Calcutta Rotary Club on the activities of the World's Y.W.C.A. at Geneva. In the course of the speech, reference was made to the manner in which the Y.W.C.A. co-operated with the work of the I.L.O. and the League.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Times of India dated 22-12-1936 publish an article under the caption:"The World's Refugees:Nansen Office Dissolving."

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 10-12-1936 publishes the report of a lecture on India's status in the League delivered at

the Calcutta Y.M.C.A. on 7-12-1936 by Mr. C.C.Biswas, one of the Indian delegates to the 17th Session of the League Assembly. Mr. Biswas expressed the view that India occupied a low status at Geneva and complained that Indian representation in the League Secretariat was meagre.

Summaries of the lecture were published by the Statesman of 10-12-1936 and the Hindustan Times <sup>of</sup> ~~dated~~ 13-12-1936.

\* \* \*  
The All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Calcutta, has published the Report of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 20th Session of the I.L.Conference on the work done at the Session. (A copy of the Report was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1415/36 dated 23-12-36).

\* \* \*  
The issues of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 6, 13 and 20-12-1936 publish a long article under the caption: "The Rise of Labour Legislation in India" by Mr. R.K.Das of the I.L. Office, Geneva.

\* \* \*  
No Indian newspaper or periodical received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O.News Bulletin.

\* \* \*  
The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and sent by Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during December 1936:-

1. Fresh instalments of the article: "The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the Geneva correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle. +

National Labour Legislation.

The Punjab Mines Rules, 1936. \*

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, as amended by Act No.V of 1935 (vide pages 11-17 of our April 1935 report), the Governor of the Punjab in Council has made rules in supersession of the rules published under Punjab Government Notification No. 3224-D dated 14-7-1927. The present Rules are published as ~~Notification~~ Notification No.5041-I & L-36/36332 dated 23-11-1936, of the Industries and Labour Department of the Local Government, at pages 1443-1450 of Part I of the Punjab Gazette dated 27-11-1936. They deal with sanitary and health standards in mines; ambulance, first-aid and rescue work; registration of workers; safety provisions; abandonment of mines; inquiry in case of accidents; medical certificates of fitness, etc.

Maternity Benefits for Delhi:

Bombay Maternity Benefit Act extended to Delhi Province. \*

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Delhi Laws Act, 1912 (XIII of 1912) the Governor General in Council has extended to the Province of Delhi the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, (Bombay Act VII of 1929) subject to the following modifications, namely:-

1. For section 2 the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"2. It shall come into force on such date as the Chief Commissioner may by notification in the Gazette of India direct."

2. In clauses (a) and (b) of section 3 for the words and figures "Indian Factories Act, 1911" the words and figures "Factories Act, 1934" shall be substituted.

3. In sub-section (1) of section 5 the following shall be omitted, namely:-

"in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi, and elsewhere at the rate of her average daily wage calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna on the total wages earned during a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6, or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is less."

4. In sub-section (2) of section 12 the words "of a Presidency Magistrate or" shall be omitted.

5. In section 14-

(1) In sub-section (1) and in clause (e) of sub-section(2) for the words "Governor in Council" the words "Chief Commissioner" shall be substituted;

(2) in clause (a) of sub-section (2) for the words and figures "section 35 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911", the words and figures "section 41 of the Factories Act, 1934", shall be substituted;

(3) in sub-section (4) the following shall be omitted, namely:-

"Such rules shall be laid on the table of the Bombay Legislative Council for one month previous to the next session thereof and shall be liable to be rescinded or modified. If any rule is modified the Governor in Council may accept the modification and re-issue the rule accordingly or may rescind the rule."

(Notification No.L.1844 dated 26-11-1936 of the Department of Industries and Labour published at pages 1573-74 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 5-12-1936).+



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The C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936:  
Discussion Preparatory to Enactment.

Reference was made at page 15 of our November 1936 report to the passing of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936, by the Local legislature on 6-11-1936. The debate on the Bill as modified by the Select Committee, which was held on 5 and 6-11-1936, is reported at pages 29-46 and pages 49-53 of the C.P. Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. XIII, Nos. 1 and 2. +

The C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936:  
Debate Preparatory to Enactment. +

Reference was made at page 14 of our November 1936 report to the enactment on 7-11-1936 by the Central Provinces Legislative Council of the C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936. The Bill as modified by the Select Committee was taken<sup>up</sup> for consideration on 7-11-1936 and the debate on it is reported at pages 115-120 of the C.P. Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. XIII, No. 3. +

Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad:

Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Act Gazetted. +

At pages 11-12 of our November 1936 report was given the text of the Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 1936, which was recently passed by the Legislative Council of the Hyderabad State. According to communications received in this Office from the Government of the State, the Act received the assent of H. E. H. the Nizam on 6-11-1936 and was published in the Government Gazette dated 23-11-1936. +

Regulation of Child Labour in India:

Legislation under Consideration of Government  
of India. +

It is understood that the Government of India may shortly address Provincial Governments on the subject of legislation to protect child labour in unregulated industries. A draft bill may be sent for eliciting their opinions.

At the Industries Conference held last year, the Government of India put forward certain proposals as a basis for legislation. They were that employment of children below ten years should be prohibited, that children between 10 and 14 should not be asked to work for more than 7 hours, that there should be a weekly holiday, <sup>and</sup> that there should be no overtime and no work at home, ~~and so on~~. These proposals, however, did not appear to have been favourably received by representatives of certain important Provincial Governments on various grounds.

The Royal Commission had suggested that legislation for child labour should first be applied to big factories and then gradually extended to small factories, but the Government of India's proposal at the Industries Conference was that legislation should first be applied to certain selected industries in which the conditions of employment of child labour were known to be particularly bad.

The subject did not come up before this year's Industries Conference, but it is understood that the Government of India have the subject actively under consideration and are engaged in preparing a draft bill.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-12-36).  
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Conditions of Labour.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act  
in the Punjab, 1935.\* +

According to the Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during 1935, the year under review was the first year in which, subsequent to the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, returns in the revised forms prescribed by the Government of India have been submitted by the employers. The revised returns give information only regarding (i) the number of cases in which compensation has been paid, and (ii) the amount of compensation paid.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation. -The following table gives details of the number of cases in which compensation was paid and the amount thereof:

Employment.	Total No. of Persons Employed.	Accidents.					
		No. resulting in			Compensation paid for		
		Death	Perm.Dis- ablement.	Temp.Dis- ablement.	Death	Perm.Dis- ablement.	Temp.Dis- ablement.
				Rs. L. P.	Rs. L. P.	Rs. L. P.	
.	20,867	7	36	557	6840-0-0	18915-7-0	6159-6-4
.	2,276	4	3	23	2731-11-9	985-8-0	322-1-6
cerns.	1,349	...	5	36	...	1119-5-6	585-11-6
	24,492	11	44	616	9371-11-9	14918-6-6	7077-7-4

\* Number of Cases and Agreements. - 17 proceedings filed under section 10 were pending from the previous year. 35 fresh proceedings

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1935.-Lahore: Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab.1936.-Price Re.1-5-0 or 2s. - pp.3+xi

were filed during the year under report, and 3 were received from other Commissioners. Of these, 3 were disposed of without notice to the other party, 23 were admitted by opposite party, 3 were allowed ex-parte and 13 were contested. Of the contested cases 5 were allowed, 1 was allowed in part and 7 were dismissed. 10 cases were pending at the close of the year under report.

52 agreements were filed with the Commissioners during the year, and 12 were pending from the previous year. Of these, 59 were registered as filed, leaving 5 pending at the close of the year.†

#### Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act

in U. P., 1935.\* †

According to the Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the United Provinces during 1935, the Act on the whole worked smoothly in the province during the year under report, and no particular difficulty in its working ~~was~~ reported to have been experienced by the Commissioners.

Statistics of workmen and accidents.- The average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories was 139,260 against 125,986 in the previous year; nearly 95 per cent of this is adult male labour. The number of accidents rose from 2,099 to 2,133, comprising 31 fatal, 449 serious and 1,653 minor accidents.

During 1935, compensation <sup>was paid</sup> amounting to Rs. 38,864 in respect of

\* Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) in the United Provinces for the Calendar year 1935.-Allahabad:Supdt., Printing and Stationery, U.P., India, 1936.-Price 5 annas. -pp.7

56 cases of death, Rs. 14,967 in respect of 60 cases of permanent disablement and Rs. 14,595 in respect of 1,016 cases of temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid came up to Rs. 68,224, as against Rs. 46,725 in 1934 for 44 cases of death, 32 cases of permanent disablement and 726 cases of temporary disablement.

The majority of the persons to whom compensation was awarded drew Rs. 18 per mensem or less. 37 out of 56 victims of fatal accidents and 25 out of 34 of permanent disablements belonged to this wage class.

Statistics of Cases and Agreements.- The year opened with a pending list of 20 cases before the Commissioners. During the year 95 cases were filed as against the same number in the previous year, 50 cases were received from other provinces and three were transferred. Thus out of 140 cases in all 105 were disposed of leaving a balance of 35.

During the year 60 agreements for payment of compensation were registered ~~xxx~~ against 45 in the previous year. Of these 47 were for cases of permanent disablement and 13 for cases of temporary disablement. As usual, Cawnpore topped the list with 27 agreements.,

Madras Labour Department and the Depressed  
Classes, 1935-1936\* r

The following details regarding the work of the Madras Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed Classes are taken from the Administration Report for 1935-36 submitted to the Government of Madras by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The Collectors of districts continued to be the responsible officers in the mofussil charged with the work for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, with the Commissioner of Labour as the co-ordinating officer to ensure that sustained and well-directed efforts are being made for the betterment of the depressed classes. The ameliorative work for the depressed classes was carried out as usual under the following heads:-

- (1) Provision of house-sites.
- (2) Opening of schools, granting of scholarships, stipends, boarding grants, etc.
- (3) Provision of wells, tanks, etc, for the supply of drinking water.
- (4) Provision of sanitary amenities, such as pathways, burial grounds, etc.
- (5) Assignment of land for cultivation.

House-sites.— Owing to financial stringency, the department was prepared to take up acquisition of house-sites this year, as in the last three years, only when the entire cost of the house-sites was deposited by the applicants before acquisition proceedings were taken up, the cost of the portion of the acquired land required for streets and other communal purposes only to be borne by the

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\* Government of Madras Development Department G.O.No.1768 dated 8th October 1936.—Labour Department —Administration Report, 1935-36.

Government. There were seven applications for acquisition on these terms. An extent of 12.05 acres comprising 2,333 sites was acquired at a cost of Rs. 5,161-8-8. During the year, however, an extent of 168.49 acres providing 989 house-sites was assigned from land at the disposal of Government. This brings the total number of house-sites assigned under the method of free assignment to 36,192 up to the end of the year under report.

Education.- The work on behalf of the depressed classes in the field of education was continued on the usual lines and consisted of: (i) the maintenance of separate schools for the depressed classes; (ii) the provision of scholarships, boarding grants and grants for purchase of books and payment of fees to pupils of the depressed classes; (iii) the grant of stipends for the training of teachers; (iv) the maintenance of free hostels at important centres for the benefit of the students of the depressed classes; and (v) the grant of financial help to private associations engaged in maintaining schools, hostels, etc, mainly for the benefit of the depressed classes. Some changes have been made in the methods of administration of scholarships, boarding grants and elementary schools, which, it is hoped, will lead to improved results and more careful selection of recipients of assistance.

As additional funds were not available few new schools were opened and attention was mostly devoted to an attempt to improve the working of existing schools and reduce the stagnation referred to in last year's report.

Criminal Tribes Settlement.- The number of settlements during the year continued to be 6. The settlements at Aniznagar,



Konnur, Sitanagram, Bitragunta (including the Reformatory) and Siddhapuram continued to be managed by the Government agency while the Stuartpuram Settlement was managed by the Salvation Army. The population of the settlements on 31-3-1936 was 5,392. In addition to the above, there are in the settlements certain exempted and unregistered settlers. Their strength was 1358.

Employment of Members of Criminal Tribes.- Out of 1,421 families in these settlements, not including the Konnur settlement, 907 families were engaged in agriculture. The Aziznagar Settlement is running weaving, carpentry and leather goods industries. The value of sales in the year under review of goods produced in the Settlements came to Rs. 4,725 for woven goods, Rs. 3,436 for carpentry works and Rs. 3,020 for leather goods.

About 1,100 settlers of the Stuartpuram settlement are employed in the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company factory at Chirala and their earnings during the year amounted to Rs. 40,700. At Sitanagram, the quarries provide work for almost all the families. During the year a sum of Rs. 16,400 was paid as wages to the settlers employed in the quarries.

(The work of the Labour Department for the uplift of the Depressed Classes during 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 19-20 of our January 1936 Report.) . +

11

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers

for various centres in India for August and September 1936.+

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during August and September 1936 as compared with July 1936.

Bombay.- The index number (Base July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in August 1936 remained unchanged at 101.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 rose by 1 point to 102. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (Base:Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad remained unchanged at 71.

The index number of the cost of living rose by 1 point to 72; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.-The index number (Base:Year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur rose by 2 points to 73.

The index number of the cost of living rose by 3 points from the August figures to 75. The average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (Base:January 1927) of the cost of living in August 1936 remained stationary at 59.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 also remained stationary at 59.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (Base:January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in August 1936 rose by 3 points to 60.

The index number of the cost of living in September 1936 remained stationary at 60.

Rangoon.- The index number (Base:1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers remained unchanged at 90 (provisional figures).

The index number of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 1 point to 89 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of  
Business Conditions in India", August  
and September 1936 issues).

(The Cost of living index numbers for various centres in India during July 1936 were given at page 20 of our September 1936 report).

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Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1934-35.\*

Report of Controller of Emigrant Labour. †

General.- On the 1st October 1933, the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act came into force, and the Assam Labour and Emigration Act was repealed. Simultaneously, the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board with headquarters in Calcutta, became Controller of Emigrant Labour, with headquarters in Shillong. The change of headquarters was made in conformity with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India that the Controller under the new Act should direct his attention less to the recruitment of labourers and more to their forwarding to the tea gardens, and in particular to their treatment on the tea gardens.

Amendments to Act.- No amendment was made in the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act during the year; nor was there any change in the extent of its application. Certain minor changes were made during the year in the Provincial Rules under the Act in Bengal, the Central Provinces and Madras.

Conditions of Tea Industry.- Conditions in the industry during the period under review have generally shown some improvement since the opening of the new season's sales in June. By a steady reduction in the United Kingdom stocks the statistical position is better, this situation being aided by a reduction in the percentage of quota released for export. An agreement was again reached amongst producers to regulate production. A satisfactory feature of marketing conditions has been the rather higher prices realised for the better quality teas. Taken together these factors may be said to point to more favourable prospects in the industry; but results during 1935, whilst they may show appreciable improvement with some

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1935. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Govt. Press. 1936.-Price Annas 8 or 10d. pp.43.

profits, postulate the need for continued economy in expenditure to keep down costs with the diminished crop allowed under the regulation schemes.

Recruitment.- As during the previous year, recruiting was carried on in the five provinces (Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces, Madras and United Provinces), which have been declared to be controlled emigration areas, through Local Forwarding Agents licensed for various districts. The number of licenses issued by the Controller was 63. Others were renewed locally by District Magistrates. The Bombay Presidency continued to be an uncontrolled recruiting area.

Provincial Distribution of Recruits.- 18,764 souls were recruited for Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families during the year, as against 47,688 during the previous year. The provincial distribution was as follows: Bengal -268; Bihar and Orissa -13,121; Central Provinces -1432; Madras -2872; United Provinces -356; and Bombay -725. Normally, recruitment in the controlled emigration areas continued to be carried on under the Sardari system. But 662 souls were recruited by other means during the year. 3,993 non-assisted emigrants (i.e., ex-garden coolies returning to Assam within 2 years) and members of their families were also forwarded to Assam during the year as against 8,231 in the previous year.

Cost of Recruitment.- The average cost of recruitment through the Tea Districts Labour Association in 1934-35 was Rs. 57-1-6 per soul and Rs. 76-15-6 per adult, as against Rs. 49-2-0 and Rs. 66-3-0 respectively in the previous year. The 16 per cent rise in the year under report is due to the small recruitment of labourers resulting in a larger proportion of the standing overhead charges being debited to each. Throughout the year under report many times as much labour was available for recruitment as was required. Bad harvests were general throughout the recruiting areas; and agricultural wages continued to fall. Consequently employers were in a position to make such stipulations as they thought fit with regard to the class of recruits that they would accept; and many restricted recruitment to married couples; and some, in view of the obligation to repatriate at the end of three years, added the additional stipulation that there should be no infant children, or that there should not be more than 2 children per family.

Labour Conditions on Tea Estates: Labour Population.-The total population of adult labourers working and not working on tea estates in Assam was 620,728 at the end of the year under report, as compared with 625,041 in the preceding year, and of children 515,841 as compared with 503,958 in the previous year, making a total population of 1,136,569 as against 1,128,999 in the preceding year. The number of new emigrants arriving in Assam during the year was 19,968 as against 47,960 previous year.

Average Earnings.- In the Assam Valley, the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on the gardens fell from Rs. 7-7-7 to Rs. 7-2-11, Rs. 5-14-4 to Rs. 5-7-3, and Rs. 4-3-8 to Rs. 3-5-3 respectively. In the Surma Valley, the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on tea gardens rose from Rs. 5-6-3 to Rs. 5-10-9, Rs. 3-11-10 to Rs. 3-12-4 and Rs. 2-10-2 to Rs. 2-11-5 respectively. The usual concessions of free housing, medical treatment, maternity benefits, and, where available on the garden, free grazing and fire wood, and land for cultivation, sometimes free of rent, and sometimes at concession rates, were continued throughout the year. The water-supply is good in most gardens.

Vital Statistics.- Vital statistics show a satisfactory margin ~~of~~ of births over deaths, viz., 35.86 births per mille ~~xx~~ and 22.56 deaths per mille as against 37.21 and 22.55 respectively in the preceding year. There was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease in tea districts during the year.

The majority of the tea garden labourers belong by habit and heredity to the drinking classes. It is estimated by the Excise Department that the tea garden population is responsible for about two-thirds of the consumption of country spirit in the province of Assam.

Education of Children.- The total number of children living on tea estates in the Assam Valley at the beginning of the year under report was 359,653. The total number of tea garden schools in the Assam Valley during the year was 54 as against 56 in the previous year, and the number of pupils attending them was 1,581 as against 1,730 in the previous year. In addition, 1,206 pupils are reported to have attended ordinary primary schools. In the Surma Valley there were 144,305 children living on tea gardens at the beginning of the year; and there were 42 tea garden schools attended by 1,429 pupils during the year as against 42 schools attended by 1,448 pupils in the previous year. In addition 1,543 pupils are reported to have ~~xxx~~ attended ordinary primary schools as against 1,731 pupils in the preceding year.

Money Remittances.- The total remittances by money order from the tea districts to the ten chief recruiting districts during the year under report are reported by the Postmaster General to have been Rs. 535,827-3-0: out of which Rs. 304,436 was sent to Ranchi Ranchi district, Rs. 92,558 to Sambalpur district, Rs. 49,089 to the Santal Parganas, Rs. 25,677 to Singhbhum, and Rs. 22,141 to Raipur district.

Land Holdings.- 154,422 acres of garden land in Assam are held by labourers who still reside on the gardens. These labourers are tenants at will, and can as yet acquire no right of occupancy. Ordinarily it is a condition of their tenancy that they continue

to work as labourers on the garden.

14,421 acres of Government land are held by tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley, and 3,860 by tea garden labourers in the Surma Valley.

Ex-tea garden labourers hold 2 329,478 acres of Government land in the Assam Valley, and 36,889 acres in the Surma Valley.

Labour Disputes.- During the year, there only six complaints made by labourers against managers, and three by managers against labourers, as against 15 and 12 respectively during the previous year.

The three cases brought by managers against labourers were all for rioting.

There were also 22 labour disturbances on tea gardens during the year. Five of these were strikes of from a few hours up to four days in duration on account of the reduction of wages.

The strikes passed off peacefully.

Repatriation.- No emigrant labourers can be due for normal repatriation under section 7 before the first October, 1936, as the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act only came into operation on the 1st October, 1933. During the year however 1,372 emigrant labourers and members of their families were repatriated by their employers for various reasons. Of 1,372 souls repatriated, 762 were emigrant labourers and 610 were members of their families. The reasons for repatriation were dismissals, ill-health, unsuitability for garden labour, mental deficiency, refusal to accept reduced wages, death of wage-earning member of family, etc. +

The B.N.Railway Strike begins on 13-12-1936. ←

Reference was made at pages 23-24 of our November 1936 report to the threat of a general strike on the Bengal Nagpur Railway as a result mainly of increase of hours of work, reduction of wages and demotion of staff. The efforts of Mr. V.V.Giri, the President of the Union and General Secretary of the A.I.Railway-men's Federation, to bring about an amicable settlement having failed, a general strike was declared on 13-12-1936 at Kharagpur. By 17th December the number of strikers had swelled to 40,000 out of a total number of 60,000 employees of the railway. According to a communique issued by the Agent of the Railway on 17-12-36, the strike called by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union has resulted during the course of the <sup>previous</sup> last three days in the abstention from work of practically the whole of the Indian Labour force of the Khargpur Workshops, and the absence from duty of about 80 per cent of the Indian inferior staff of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon, Transportation and Commercial Departments at most of the main headquarter stations on the railway. Certain elements of the Indian Supervising and Clerical Staff of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon, Transportation and Commercial Departments have also struck work, but the major portion of this class of staff are carrying out their normal duties. There has been no change in the situation.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 20 to 27-12-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-12-1936). +

According to a United Press of India message dated 5-1-1937, Mr. V.V.Giri has applied to the Government of India for the appointment of a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act for a settlement of the dispute.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-1-1937)

The Ahmedabad Textile Strike Situation:

Arbitrators give differing Awards: Case submitted to Umpire. +

References were made in our reports for August 1936 et seq. to the dispute in regard to wage cuts in progress in the Ahmedabad textile industry. Towards the close of ~~the~~ November 1936, the Ahmedabad Millowners Association appointed Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai as one of the arbitrators in place of Seth Chimanlal Parekh, who resigned in October. Representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad met the Board of Arbitrators consisting of Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai from 2 to ~~3~~ 4-12-1936. Differing awards were given by the arbitrators towards the middle of December 1936 upon which, at the close of the month, Mr. Govindrao Madgaoukar, an ex-Judge of the Bombay High Court, was appointed umpire by the two arbitrators. (The Bombay Chronicle, 24-12-1936). The latest reports go to show that the umpire is at present engaged in studying the case. (The Statesman, 4-1-1937). +

Poidih (Asansol) Colliery Disaster, 18-12-1936. +

On 18-12-1936 a serious explosion took place in the Poidih Colliery, near Asansol, as a result of which the whole of the shaft-head was blown away. The European Manager of the Colliery and 208 miners, of whom 63 are women, lost their lives. The Chief Inspector of Mines with the Government of India proceeded to the



colliery to hold an enquiry. Frantic efforts were made to rescue the miners trapped underground, but without success as the debris thrown up by the explosion barred ingress. Moreover, the presence of carbon monoxide was detected in sufficiently dangerous quantities. A conference of experts, including the Chief Inspector and Chief Mining Engineers of the Equitable Coal Company and Andrew Yule Company was held on 21 & 22-12-1936. It was unanimously agreed that the mine should be sealed because (a) it was clear after the first inspection that ~~none~~ no one below could have survived the explosion; (b) there was danger of fire; and (c) no progress could be made without several days' hard effort to clear a way through the pit at the risk of further loss of life. On 22-12-1936, the pits were sealed and the pit-mouths declared danger zones.

Poidih colliery is at Radhanagar, in Burdwan district, and was opened as recently as 1929. The mine is owned by the Bengal Coal Company, Ltd., whose managing agents are Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co.

(The Statesman, 19, 23 & 24-12-1936)

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Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives

in Baroda State, 1934- 1935.\*

Number of Factories.- The number of working factories subject to the control of the Factories Act during the year was 116 as against 126 in the previous year. Of these 116 factories, 27 were perennial and 89 seasonal. 15 factories out of the perennial class and 84 out of the seasonal class were connected with the cotton industry. 16 factories were added to and 23 factories removed from the register of factories during the year. The cotton ginning and pressing factories worked only intermittently during a very short period on account of the shortage of cotton crops.

Number of Operatives.- The total number of factory operatives in 1934-35 (year ending 31-7-1935) was 25,243, as against 25,859 in the previous year. Of these, 21,393 were employed in the cotton industry and 3,849 in other industries. The sex distribution was: men - 20,582, women - 4,025, and children 577.

Wages.- The average monthly pay of higher paid skilled labour suffered a slight decline in 1934-35. Thus the average pay of foremen was Rs. 87/- per month in 1934-35 as against Rs. 95/- in 1933-34, of fitters Rs. 55/- (Rs. 58/- in previous year) and of blacksmiths Rs. 53/- (Rs. 57/- in previous year). The average wages of masons, firemen, spinners and oilmen showed slight increases. The average wages of daily paid labour was for men Rs. 0-9-0 (1933-34 - Rs.0-9-4), women - Rs. 0-7-6 (1933-34, Rs. 0-7-8) and youths - Rs. 0-7-0 (1933-34 - Rs. 0-7-0).

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\* Annual Report of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State for the year 1934-35 ending 31st July 1935.-Baroda State Press, 1936. - Price Re. 1-0-0. -pp.126

Inspection.- According to the report, with the exception of a few, all the perennial factories were inspected more than twice, and the seasonal factories once and in some cases more than once.

Sanitation in Factories.- The report notes that suitable drainage facilities for disposal of trade waste are not provided in some of the textile and dyeing factories. In some factories drainage was seldom undertaken until insisted on by the Inspector and constant persuasions <sup>was</sup> ~~are~~ found to be necessary for maintenance of drainage. Statutory lime-washing of the walls of latrines, urinals and departments of factories has been insisted on and generally complied with. There is need for considerable improvement in the ventilating and cooling systems. Provision of modern ventilating, cooling and humidifying plants requires expenditure of a large sum of money and this kind of provision is not made except in a few mills. The factory owners are, however, getting alive to the fact that expenditure in this direction results in increased efficiency of workers under comfortable working conditions.

Safety Measures.- During the year under review, the Inspectorate made great efforts to have fencing and guarding round machinery provided where necessary. There is still room for great improvement in this direction. Light clothings were supplied to workers who were employed in hazardous work.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents amount to 120, out of which 97 were minor, 20 serious and 3 fatal, as against 91 in the last year, out of which 80 were minor, 9 serious and 2 fatal. No accident was reported from cotton ginning factories. The report points out that it is difficult to account for the increase of the

number of accidents this year, but suggests ~~max~~ that it may be due to the increased vigilance of the Inspectorate in seeing that all accidents are duly reported.

Strikes.-- There was no labour strike of long duration in any factory during the year. Minor ones of short duration which occurred in the City of Baroda, and in the towns of Tetlad, Kalol and Sidhpur were settled amicably.

Welfare Work.-- Of the 16 perennial cotton mills in the State, 10 provided medical relief on the allopathic system, and 3 provided medical relief on the ayurvedic or indigenous system. These mills also provided housing accommodation on a limited scale for the workers, the actual accommodation provided <sup>being</sup> about 2000 tenements. 9 mills provided canteens; 8 mills provided cheap cloth shops, and 10 mills provided cheap grain shops.

Revision of Factory Act.-- During the year, the State appointed a Committee consisting of official and non-official members to consider what amendments were necessary in view of the new factory legislation in British India. The Committee has not completed its work.

Maternity Benefits.-- The report points out that women workers in factories do not appear to take benefit of the Maternity Benefit Act. Out of 1548 women workers employed in perennial factories only one woman is reported to have claimed maternity benefit under the Act. The report ascribes this either to ignorance of the benefit conferred by the Act or to apprehensions entertained by women workers that if they claimed maternity benefits they may be discharged from service.

7

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The Indian Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act was applied to the Baroda State with necessary changes during the year. It extended the scope of its applicability and compensation. During the year compensation amounting to Rs. 5,259 was paid to workers in cases of accidents which occurred in industrial concerns, as against Rs. 3,145 in the preceding year.

Conciliation Board.- The Conciliation Board was maintained during the year, but no case was referred to it.

(The report on the conditions of labour of factory operatives in Baroda State during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 23-25 of the report of this Office for September 1935). 4

Enforcement of Conventions.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1935.\* †

The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous years the report deals with the following classes of mines: coal, iron, manganese, lead, silver, gold, tin, wolfram, chromite, copper, gems, mica, salt, slate, lime-stone, stone, clay and a few other minerals.

Number of Persons Employed.-During the year 1935 the daily average number of persons working in ~~and~~ about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 255,970, as compared with 229,381 in the previous year. The increase was 24,589 persons, or 10.72 per cent. Of these persons 129,381 worked underground, 59,882 in open workings and 64,707 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

	Men		Women.	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Underground...	119,830	109,023	9,551	11,193
In open workings..	45,689	38,451	14,193	12,173
Surface.	48,548	44,756	13,159	13,805
Total	214,067	192,210	36,903	37,171

The increase in the daily average number of persons employed in 1935, as compared with 1934 is reflected in the larger quantity of minerals produced, the increases being most marked in coal, iron ore, and manganese.

Number of Women Workers.- The number of women employed underground was 9,551, or 7.38 per cent of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 8.99, as compared with 10.94 per cent.,

\* Indian Mines Act, 1923. - Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1935. - Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1936. - Price Rs. 2-6 or 4s.3d. *PP 205*

in 1934, 13.14 per cent in 1933, 14.84 per cent. in 1932 and 13.91 per cent in 1931. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows:-

Province	Number of women employed underground.		
	In coal mines.	In salt mines.	Total.
Bengal. ..	3,575	..	3,575
Bihar and Orissa.	3,136	..	3,136
Central Provinces.	765	..	765
Punjab	..	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,476</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>9,551 in 1935</b>

as compared with 11,195 in 1934.

Distribution of workers: Coal mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 159,254, which is 7,879 more than the number employed in 1934. Of these persons, 42,209 were males employed in cutting coal, 24,033 were males employed as loaders of coal and 22,591 were women. Annual returns relating to coal mines contain the number of persons employed, and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent, on a selected day in February chosen first on the day selected 219,695 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 59,841 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1935. Some of the percentages of absentees are as follows:-all mines from which returns were received 7.1; Jharia 3.2; Raniganj 8.6 and the Central Provinces 7.9. It is probable that the reason for the low percentage of absentees in the Jharia coalfield is that a larger proportion of the labour force is resident at or near the mines than in the other areas.

Average Output of Coal per Person.- Figures showing the average output of coal per person employed are given below:-

	Tons of coal per person employed.			
	Underground and in open workings.		Above and below ground.	
	1935	1933-34	1935.	1933-34.
British India. . .	185	181	132	130
Bengal and B. & O.	189	185	134	133
Assam.	138	150	120	104
Baluchistan	39	30	39	56
Central Provinces.	162	155	116	114
Punjab.	113	105	78	83

There was an all-round increase in the average output of coal per person employed except in Baluchistan, in which output was seriously affected by the Quetta earthquake. The increase may be ascribed partly to the increased demand for coal and partly to the increased output from the extraction of coal in pillars. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines.

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 94,716, which is 16,710 more than the number employed in 1934. 77,374 were men and 17,342 were women. Of the women, 75 worked underground in salt mines.

Wage Position.- In most cases there has not been much change in the average daily earnings. The daily earnings of coal miners, however, in the Raniganj coalfield were 2 annas and 3 pies less than in December 1934, and in Jharia coalfield 3 pies less. In the Central Provinces daily earnings remained about the same as in 1934. The earnings of mica miners in Bihar and Orissa were one anna and three pies higher and there was a considerable increase in the earnings of salt miners.

Accidents.- During the year 1935 <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 202 fatal accidents, which is 25 more than in 1934 and 24 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents, there were 842 serious accidents involving injuries to 869 persons, as compared with 679 serious accidents involving injuries to 692 persons in the previous year. The so-called "serious" accidents reported are those in which an injury has been sustained which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days. 312 persons were killed and 918 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 49 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 103 more than



in 1934. 284 persons killed were men and 28 were women. In one case 62 lives; in one case 19 lives; in one case 11 lives; in five cases 3 lives and in eleven cases 2 lives were lost. The increase in the number of persons killed over the previous year was mainly due to the large number of lives lost in two accidents by explosions of inflammable gases and coal-dust at Bagdigi and Kurhurbaree collieries.

Causes of accidents.- There was an increase in the death rate of men employed underground and in open workings and a decrease in the rate for men employed on the surface. With respect to women there was an increase in the death rate underground and on the surface and a decrease in open workings. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure. ...	122	60.40
Fault of deceased....	35	17.55
Fault of fellow workmen.	10	4.95
Fault of subordinate officials.	20	9.90
Fault of management.	10	7.42
Total.	207	100.00

Health and Sanitation.- (a) Asansol.- The Asansol Mines Board of Health held four special and eleven ordinary meetings during the year. The birth-rate in the mining Settlement fell from 29.1 in 1934 to 21.5 per thousand in 1935. The health of the mining population was on the whole satisfactory. The general death-rate for all ages was lower than that of the preceding year, being 21.5 against 22.3 per thousand. There was considerable decrease in the infant mortality rate from 169.4 per thousand in 1934 to 146.5 in 1935. Deaths from fevers including malaria showed appreciable decline compared to the previous year. The total sickness, as registered in the colliery dispensaries, was appreciably less during the year—the monthly sickness rate fluctuating between 4.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent in 1935 against a range of 5.0 to 9.8 per cent in 1934.

The leprosy campaign was reorganised during the year. The medical personnel was provided by the Board of Health while the maintenance of the clinics was undertaken by the local leprosy

Relief Association. Two new clinics were opened during the year. This brings the total to 11 and provision has been made for three more with a view to serving the entire mining population.

Anti-malaria work was carried out in two highly malarious areas - one of which includes an important group of collieries. A definite improvement in the malariousness of the places has been noticed as a result of the campaign.

(b) Jharia.- During the year the Jharia Mines Board of Health held twelve ordinary <sup>and</sup> four special meetings and five joint meetings with the Jharia Water Board. The estimated population of the Settlement was 544,559 persons. The death rate was 20.45 per thousand, as compared with 18.27 in the previous year. Along with the rest of the province, the coalfield suffered from an outbreak of cholera, there being 893 cases with 447 deaths, as compared with 916 cases with 413 deaths in the previous year. The number of deaths on the collieries from cholera was 42, as compared with 51 in the previous year. The total number of anti-cholera inoculations performed was 26,457. There were 1,186 cases of suspected small-pox with 58 deaths, as compared with 959 cases with 71 deaths in the previous year. 445 samples of food were analysed in the Board's laboratory and prosecutions were ordered in all cases of adulteration. With a view to improve the colliery housing still further, the moratorium granted in 1926 was withdrawn with effect from 1st April 1955, and all collieries were requested to remodel one-fifth of their non-standard houses to Board's standards. Subjects chosen for propaganda work were leprosy, maternity and child welfare, general hygiene and sanitation and ventilation in the mines. Anti-leprosy work was extended by the opening of a new fully equipped centre.

Inspections.- During the year, 1,172 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times; 3,515 separate inspections were made. On the suggestion of the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan who stated that most of the coal mines in Baluchistan had been closed down as a result of the Quetta earthquake, the Baluchistan mines were not included in the annual tour of the mines in Northern India. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal

accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mineowners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large proportion of the time of the Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground working of coal mines, in dealing with underground fires, and in examining protective works against the risk of inundation. In addition a large number of inspections of the sanitary conditions <sup>in</sup> at mines were made by medical officers as Ex-officio Inspectors of Mines. †

Factory Administration in B. & O., 1935.\* †

Statistics of Factories.— The number of factories on the register at the beginning of the year was 359, and 18 factories were taken on the register during the year under report. Of the new registrations electric power stations formed the majority. 5 factories were struck off the register during the year, leaving a balance of 372 factories at the end of the year. Of the 372 factories on the register, 65 remained closed throughout the year, and out of 309 working factories, 243 were perennial and 66 seasonal.

Number of Workers.— The number of persons employed in factories during the year was 86,527 against 78,224 in the previous year.

The increased number of persons employed were mainly spread over iron and steel, textile, and brick and tiles manufacture. Sugar

\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar and Orissa 1935. By the Chief Inspector of Factories Bihar. -Suptd., Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1936. -Price Rs. 1-8. - pp.30.

and shellac manufacture showed small decreases.

Women and Children.- The number of women workers during the year under report was 6,517 as against 5,540 in 1934. Of this increase, 82 per cent was absorbed in the iron and steel industry and 25 per cent in the brick and tiles manufacture. The number of adolescents employed in factories during the year was 253. Of these, 60 per cent were certified as fit to work as adults and 40 per cent as children. The number of children employed during the year was 207 as against 254 in 1934.

Inspections.- The number of factories inspected during the year was 290 as against 283 in the previous year and the total number of inspections made was 519 as against 404 in 1934. Of the 290 factories inspected, 10 were closed down during the year.

Sanitation, Ventilation etc.-The requirements of the Factories Act and of the rules with regard to sanitation and water-supply in factories are reported to be generally observed. The disposal of effluents from rice mills and sugar factories has been found to be a difficult problem. The jurisdiction of the Factories Act does not extend beyond the factory premises and the Act is, therefore, helpless to control any unsatisfactory external arrangement for discharge of effluents outside factory limits. The solution lies more in the hands of the local authorities than of the Factories department.

The water-supply is generally in compliance with the prescribed standard of good quality. Ventilation and lighting in factories have continued to improve.

Health of Employees.- The health of workers appears to have

been normal. No epidemic and no case of industrial disease was observed by or reported to an inspector.

Wages. - As compared with the last year, the rates of wages showed slight increases in 5 trades, slight decreases in 9 trades and no changes in 16 trades.

Safety. - As in the previous years, the safeguarding of machinery and the adoption of other safety measures in factories continued to receive constant attention of the inspectors and the standard of fencing has in general considerably improved. The general progress on the working of Safety Committees in factories may be described to be steady. The number of such Committees formed up till now (mostly in larger factories) represents a little over 10 per cent on the number of working factories. Some of these Committees are well organised and take adequate interest in the cause of safety of workpeople. The activities shown in this direction were chiefly confined to the framing and enforcing of their own Safety Rules and to the stricter compliance with the requirements of the Factories Act and the Rules relating to safety.

Accidents. - The total number of accidents during the year was 2,884 against 2,481 in 1934. Of these, 2,712 accidents occurred in perennial factories and 172 in seasonal factories. The increase in the number of accidents over last year's figure is chiefly under the head "minor", and of this increase 75 per cent was reported from Railway workshops. There was no change in the rate per 100 employees in the province as a whole under the heads "Fatal" and "Serious".

(The working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1934 is reviewed at pages 18-20 of our September 1935 report).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Federation of India: 4th Annual

General Meeting, Calcutta, 1936. +

The fourth annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 22-12-1936, Sir H.P.Mody presiding. The following is a brief summary of the Presidential address:

State Control of Industries.- Sir H.P.Mody referred to the Chelmsford Club speech of His Excellency the Viceroy (vide pages 34-35 of our November 1936 report) in the course of which His Excellency expressed himself in favour of State-control of industries, and said that while there is a great deal in His Excellency's analysis of the situation with which one must agree, the inference to be drawn does not seem very clear. It would help in the discussion of a problem which must ~~soon~~ soon become insistent, if employees were to know the reaction of the Government of India to the policies which even strongholds of economic orthodoxy have been compelled to pursue in face of the 'malaise' which has overtaken the world. The question is whether the Government of India, confronted as they are with a new world situation, and with the lessons of other countries before them, are applying their minds to the question of the policy they should pursue towards Indian industrial development. Sir Hormusji declared: "I am not inviting any wanton or day to day intervention in the domestic concerns of any industry. I am merely inquiring whether Government have been actively considering what is being attempted in countries like Great Britain, and whether their settled policy is going to be one of non-intervention at all costs. I see a time coming when, for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of well established industries, something more will be required of the state than an occasional application of the dose of protection".

Protection.- As regards the general issue of protection, Sir Hormusji said: "The Finance Member has facetiously observed, on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, that what I was asking for was "more and more protection with less and less inquiry and for longer and longer periods". I refuse to admit its implications as embodying the settled policy of Government. I hope it is not their intention to give less and less protection after longer and longer inquiry and for shorter and shorter periods, or, to put it in another form, more and more imports, less and less production, greater and greater unemployment. As regards the major industries, the question arises whether the principles laid down by the Fiscal Commission do not require to be revised and rendered more liberal in their application when the whole world

is moving towards a policy of intense economic self-sufficiency and there are no portents on the horizon indicating a return to pre-war conceptions of international trade, or normalcy, to use a horrid new coinage. Very exaggerated contentions have been advanced by the protagonists of both points of views, and it therefore gives me particular pleasure to quote the very balanced judgment which the Member for Industries and Labour, Sir Frank Noyce, has recently pronounced on the subject. He said: "the real arguments for industrialisation ~~in~~ in India are that the consequent diversification will render the economic life of the country less precarious than if it depends on agriculture alone, that the capital of the country will be made more mobile by opportunities of industrial investment, that a higher standard of life in industrial centres will exert some influence in gradually raising the standard of life in the country and breaking down the innate conservatism of Indian labour, and lastly, that industrial enterprise will have the effect of quickening initiative and practical intelligence and thereby contributing certain new elements to the national character."

Protection and Smaller Industries.- Coming to the question as it affects the small-scale industries, Sir Hormusji emphasised that their growth through a more active policy of protection might help in the establishment of a proper balance between agriculture and industry. Properly appreciated, there should be no conflict between agriculture and industry. Those engaged in industrial development recognise the fundamental position that an increase in purchasing power can only come from the well-being of the masses, and that serious attention must be paid by industrialists to this fundamental problem, if a conflict between the town and countryside is to be avoided. In one important direction there have been recent developments which go to establish the interdependence of agricultural and industrial undertakings. Hydro-electric generation schemes are being applied to problems of irrigation, and there has been a great development, in Northern India particularly, of the system of electrically operated tube wells directed towards the same object. Industry is thus trying to subserve the interests of agriculture. The question of animal husbandry and of food supply in the neighbourhood of large industrial centres might also engage the attention of those who are concerned with the well-being of workers in large scale industries.

Review of Labour Legislation.-(1) Payment of Wages Act.- During the year under review some important legislation of vital concern to employers has been enacted. The Payment of Wages Bill was placed on the statute book. A spokesman of the Government of India has termed it a workman's charter, and there is no doubt that the measure is of a far-reaching character. The regulations to be framed by Local Governments under the Act are being considered at the present moment, and it is possible that different conditions may obtain in different provinces in the administration of the Act.

When the final rules are published by the various Local administrations, it will be necessary to examine them with a view to finding out whether there are any considerable inequalities, and whether some sort of uniformity cannot be brought about.

(2) Trade Disputes Amendment Bill.- The Trade Disputes Amendment Bill is before the country for its opinion. As members may be aware, the Federation addressed the Government of India in September 1934, urging them to amend the Act in consonance with certain principles enunciated in their representation. In view of later developments, the Federation felt that both the Trade Disputes and the Trade Union Acts ought to be suitably amended if industrial peace was to be assured. Government have undertaken, however, only a part of the reform which is called for, and the Bill now before the country aims principally at the prevention and control of industrial disputes and the establishment of conciliation machinery. In a measure like this, different considerations must apply to different provinces in matters of detail, but there are certain general features with regard to which there should be unanimity of opinion, and it is proposed to communicate to the Government of India the considered views of the Federation.

Advent of Socialism.- Sir Hormusji, in conclusion referred to the advent of socialism in India, and said: "In my address last year I spoke of certain forces in this country which seemed to be gathering strength and which could only be countered by the united efforts of all who believe in the evolutionary processes by which humanity is continually moving upwards. The menace to which I referred has come appreciably nearer during the last few months, and from very influential quarters the doctrine of expropriation, or what is tantamount to it, is being insistently preached. It is being dinned into the ears of the people of this country that the ills from which the masses are suffering cannot be cured, except by a very drastic reorganisation of the whole basis of society. This is a challenge to all who have a material stake in the country, and if it has to be met, the policy of inaction and self-complacency will have to be abandoned. Incidentally, it must bring home to employers of the old school, if there be any left, a realisation of what they owe to the vast body of wage-earners engaged in the manufacture of the articles of necessity to which, very largely, industrial production in this country is at present confined. I have always deprecated excessive intervention on the part of the state in the domain of labour legislation; too often burdens are imposed which the industries concerned are unable to bear in the present stage of their development. I am equally strongly, however, an advocate of every measure, voluntarily undertaken, calculated to ease the burden of life and improve the lot of the poor and the oppressed, and I ~~trust~~ hope that employers in this country will pay increasing attention to the amelioration of the conditions of work of the labour engaged in their establishments. The new constitution will impose upon



employers in this country, as upon other interests, added responsibilities. I know that at the present moment it is somewhat futile to expect that commercial and industrial interests will bestir themselves with a view to organise their forces. A time must very soon come, however, when the necessity for organisation is sharply brought home to us; and when that day arrives, I hope we shall not be found wanting."

Office Bearers for 1937. - Sir Hormusji Mody was re-elected president and Sir Edward Penthall and Mr. C.K. Nicholl (president, Indian Tea Association) were re-elected deputy-presidents of the Association for 1937.

(From a communication <sup>Sent</sup> to this Office  
by ~~from~~ the Employers' Federation of  
India and the Statesman of 25-12-1936)

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Annual Report of the Employers' Federation  
of India for 1936. +

According to the annual report of the Employers' Federation of India, submitted to the 4th annual meeting <sup>of the Federation</sup> held at Calcutta on 22-12-1936, the year closed with 22 members having 1,700,000 workers under their control.

Legislative Enactments. - The outstanding legislative measures of interest to employers referred to in the report are the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1936, the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1936 and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

Co-ordination of Industrial Legislation. - It was reported last year that the Federation had decided not to approach Government for the time being with regard to co-ordination of industrial legislation, but to watch the situation in the light of developments that might take place. During the course of the year it was observed that several States had passed legislation based upon that in force in British India, and some had introduced Bills for that purpose, while others had not shown any indication of their intentions in this matter. The President obtained detailed information on all these questions and had it circulated to the members for their confidential information. As soon as Provincial Autonomy is introduced, the Federation will have to consider the question further, particularly in view of the fact that labour legislation will then become a concurrent subject and its

administration with regard to important matters will pass completely into the hands of Local Governments. The Industries Conference this year has discussed some of the questions which would arise under the new Constitution, and it is reported that the Conference came to the conclusion that powers of co-ordination with regard to the administration of certain matters might be reasonably exercised by inter-provincial boards. In view of the fact that Provincial Autonomy will be introduced in a few months, and in view also of the fact that certain States do not still seem inclined to follow the legislation in force in British India, the Federation, the report states, will have to consider the matter at an early date.

The Federation has during the year also taken up the question of Workmen's Compensation in the States.

International Labour Conference.- The report next refers to the Indian employers' delegation to the 20th, 21st and 22nd sessions of the I.L. Conference. In certain memoranda on the items on the agenda of the Conference supplied to the Employers' delegation to the 20th session, it was pointed out that, <sup>in respect of the 40-hour week,</sup> besides the general considerations of rising costs and lower production, ~~of which a summary was given in the last Report,~~ the various industries in India which would be affected had some special difficulties to face. On the question of Holidays with Pay, the President drew the attention of the Delegate and Adviser to the fact that the Government of India had, in their reply to the International Labour Office, opposed the proposal for a Convention more or less on the same grounds as the Employers' Federation of India had taken. Government, however, had suggested that a Convention on the principle and a Recommendation giving guidance on the details were open to less objection. The Federation, taking Indian conditions into consideration, felt bound to oppose any Convention, but the opinion was expressed that all that employers' organisations in India could do was to encourage individual experiments in this direction.

On their return from the Conference, both the Delegate and the Adviser sent in Reports of their work at Geneva. They stated they had discussed the questions before them with the International organisation of Industrial Employers and had worked fully in co-operation with that body. Both the Delegate and the Adviser were appointed to committees of the Organisation and were asked to speak on its behalf. In the course of the proceedings of the International Labour Conference, the Delegate and the Adviser were members of seven out of the twelve Committees of the Conference. In the open sessions of the Conference, they participated in discussions on the question of the 40-Hour Week in the textile and steel industries and on the proposal for Holidays with Pay, and on the Annual Report of the Director of the International Labour Office.

Publications.-In addition to the weekly Bulletin, the Federation issued early in 1936 a publication entitled "An Industrial Survey for 1935" in which a review was given of the economic activities of the various administrations and organisations in this country and also of certain declarations of policy made by Government. It is intended to publish a more comprehensive review for 1936.

(From a communication \* sent to this Office by the Employers' Federation of India). +

18th Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India - Calcutta, December 1936.

The 18th session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India was held at Calcutta on 21 and 22-12-1936 under the presidentship of Sir Edward Benthall. The Director of this Office attended the meeting by invitation. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. the Viceroy .

Viceroy's Address.- In his opening address, the Viceroy comprehensively reviewed economic conditions in the country, directed attention to evidences pointing to an upward trend in trade and industry, and optimistically concluded with the assurances that the upward swing might be taken as a definite indication of the dawn of better times.

Agriculture and Industry.- Emphasising the insistent need for an all-round improvement of the conditions of life and work of the Indian agriculturist, the Viceroy referred with satisfaction to the feeling increasingly entertained by all classes

of the population that the prosperity of commerce and industry in India is very largely conditioned by the ~~prosperity~~ prosperity of the agriculturist. He complimented the Association on its willingness to accord full support to all measures designed for the improvement of agricultural conditions, and, in particular, for its readiness to cooperate with the work of the agricultural experts whom the Government of India had brought down from England for this purpose.

Problem of Unemployment.- Taking the question of unemployment next, to which reference was made in Sir Edward Benthall's welcome speech, the Viceroy said that the problem of unemployment was the most depressing problem of the day. Referring to the effort made by the Association to enhance employment possibilities and the approach that ~~it~~ it had made in this connection to the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, he said that he attached the greatest importance to such collaboration between employers and those who are in a position to influence potential employees, and emphasised the fact that ~~it~~ in the formulation of agreed programmes of action between educational authorities and prospective employers lay the best hopes for a reduction of the incidence of educational unemployment. He complimented the Presidency of Bengal on the active steps it had taken to combat unemployment and said that if much still remained to be done it was not the result of a failure on the part of the local Government to realise the gravity of the situation. Dealing with the future programme of activities in this field, he said:

I am confident that the several provinces to which you

belong can look for the whole-hearted and active co-operation of the firms which you represent and of your Chambers of Commerce in giving any practical assistance to deal with unemployment, and I feel sure that your anxiety to take all steps in your power to grapple with it and to reduce the number of those who are at the present time its victims is as great as is my own. The problem, which is world-wide in its incidence, is a most difficult one, but the extent of the damage and suffering which it inflicts must serve to stimulate us to greater efforts in seeking means wherever possible to remove its cause, or at least to mitigate its severity".

Economic Nationalism.- Referring to the recent trend towards aggressive economic nationalism observable in several countries, the Viceroy said:

"There is much in the existing outlook that I do not relish. I do not like the rise of what is called economic nationalism, with the inevitable debasement of standards of living which must flow from its ruthless exercise, and with the whole hurtful apparatus by which it is prosecuted, designed for the purpose of inhibiting the international exchange of commodities. Nor do I believe, for reasons some of which I touched upon in a recent speech to the Chelmsford Club (vide pages 34-35 of our November 1936 report) that this unfortunate tendency is likely soon to disappear. It is not possible to regard with satisfaction such part of the revival of business as is founded in a widespread increase in the manufacture of warlike material, for—quite apart from the hazard of war—there can be no doubt but that this is a kind of activity which, when it is undertaken on a scale appropriate to present-day requirements, must profoundly disturb the normal organisation of the trades most affected, with the very real prospect that when the tide turns, those important industries may find themselves precipitated into a period of enforced deflation with consequences profoundly prejudicial to business as a whole."

Indications of Recovery.- The Viceroy closed his speech with a note of optimism, and directed attention to the indications which went to show that "business everywhere was travelling with slowly gathering speed upon the upward curve of one of those major and cyclical movements of trade which, impelled by forces still too little understood, now rise like a mighty tide to penetrate even the remotest back-waters of commerce, and then again, for reasons equally obscure, after a due interval of time subside."

The Political Situation.- Stressing the fact that India was on the brink of great political changes, the Viceroy appealed to the Association to take a serious view of Indian politics and to send the best men available as representatives of commerce and industry to the legislatures.

Resolutions Adopted.- Resolutions were passed (1) urging that the creation of a Department of Communications in the Central Government be expedited, (2) opposing the continuance of preferential tariff on Aden Salt, (3) suggesting certain amendments to the Indian Companies Act, 1936, (4) opposing the unification of the Code and plain language rates for telegrams and cablegrams, (5) suggesting improvements in the services rendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, (6) urging the starting of an Indian Central Statistics Bureau, (7) suggesting the early removal of the remaining surcharge on income-tax and super-tax, (8) urging legislation to fix uniform standards of weights and measures; and (9) urging grant of protection to the Indian engineering industry.

(The Statesman, 22-& 23-12-1936)+

Workers' Organisations .

3rd Annual Session of All India Congress

Socialist Party Conference - Faizpur, 23 & 24-12-36. +

The Third Annual Session of the All India Congress Socialist Party Conference was held at Faizpur on 23 & 24-12-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Jaiprakash Narain.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. Jaiprakash Narain expressed impatience with the slowness of the growth of the political movement in India and said that the nation must so work as to make Swaraj possible within five years. Dealing with the poverty of the Indian masses, he affirmed that the Government of India's gift of Rs. 10 millions for rural uplift was only by way of counter-blast to Mahatma Gandhi's village uplift programme. He pointed out that an attempt must be made to relate the dire needs of the peasants with the struggle for independence, to make that struggle itself a struggle for reduced rents, revenue, freedom from debt, a more just distribution of the burden of taxation, and a juster system of tenancy. A similar programme should be evolved to meet the needs of the industrial worker also. He urged that the Congress should identify itself further with the masses and forge out of mass unrest a mighty weapon against imperialism. He urged that provision should be made for giving organised sections of the masses collective representation in the Congress. Referring to the fear that if such a scheme were adopted the Congress would become the cockpit of a clash of interests, he asserted that such fears were groundless and were unworthy of the Indian National Congress.

Messages from Other Organisations. Fraternal delegates then addressed the conference and conveyed the greetings of respective organisations to the Conference. Dr. Collin d'Silva, fraternal delegate on behalf of the Socialists of Ceylon, said the anti-Imperialist front could be achieved only by the working classes and peasants, and hoped Socialists would capture the Congress and win freedom for India.

Mr. Karnik, on behalf of the All India Trade Union Congress, declared that the workers were not going to rest till a workers' Government was established, but they realised that, for that, first national independence was essential.

Mr. Rameswara Prasad of the All India Students' Federation, hoped that all anti-imperialist organisations would assemble on one platform.

Mr. N.G.Ranga, M.L.A. representing the Indian peasants

movement, said that millions of peasants were being organised in India in a militant fashion. The Congress Socialists had done for the peasants much more than any other organised political party in the country. Kisans were becoming more and more class conscious. It would not be very long before they were found to be an invincible phalanx in the anti-imperialist struggle. Mr. Ranga advocated collective representation in the Congress for workers' and peasants' organisations.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the course of a message to the Conference, pointed out that the cause of India was best served by building up a powerful anti-imperialist joint front in the country, and that the National Congress ~~was~~ the only organisation which can function as such a joint front.

Mr. Reginald Bridgeman, International Secretary of the League against Imperialism and for National Independence in London, sent a message of greetings to the Congress Socialist Conference, which says:

"The situation in Europe never has been more critical than it is today. I do not wish to strike a pessimistic note. On the contrary, the creation and triumphant maintenance of the Peoples' Front in France and in Spain represents one of the most important successes in the workers' struggle for democracy and freedom against reaction". In conclusion, he stressed the need for the most solid anti-imperialist front being built up in India and in Britain not only on a national basis but internationally, as is being achieved very successfully in Spain today. The message expressed the fear that the new constitution may serve in India as the screen for the establishment of a Government <sup>which</sup> with its permanent reactionary majority, will possess a thorough-going Fascist character.

Resolutions Adopted.- Resolutions were adopted at the Conference congratulating Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his re-election as Congress President, welcoming Mr. M.N.Roy ~~z~~ on his release from prison, extending sympathy to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway strikers, calling all Indian railway workers to initiate a general strike and thus demonstrate sympathy with the B.N.Railway strikers, reaffirming the unequivocal condemnation of the new constitution, welcoming the robust and militant tone of the Congress election manifesto and deploring the action of the



Congress Parliamentary Board in refusing the candidature of Socialists in several provinces and opining that it violated the spirit of the Congress election manifesto, calling upon the country to observe hartal on 1st April 1937, the day on which the new constitution will be inaugurated, condemning imperialist wars, protesting against the repressive policy of the Government of India, and urging a boycott of the forthcoming coronation celebrations.

The Conference terminated on 24-12-1936.

Mr. Jaiprakash Narain was elected General Secretary of the All India Congress Socialist Party, and Messrs. M.R.Masani, Namboodiripad, Dinkar Mehta and Sampurnanand were elected Joint Secretaries.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23,24, and 25-12-1936) +

2nd Session of All India Kisan Congress,

Faizpur, December 1936. +

The second session of the All India Kisan (Peasants) Congress was held at Faizpur on 26 & 27-12-1936 under the presidency of Professor N.G.Ranga, M.L.A.

Mr. V.M.Bhaskute, Chairman of the Reception Committee, ~~xxxxx~~ welcoming the delegates directed attention to the abject poverty and misery of the Indian peasant. He said:

"The average peasant holding today is less than one-eighth of what it was even 75 years ago; that means that in the course of 3/4 of a century the toiling peasant has been robbed of 7/8th of his land. Side by side with the vilka ge sowkar, big business has now entered vigorously into the predatory game of despoiling the peasantry. The most noteworthy examples of this process in our province are the expropriation of peasants by the Tata Hydro-Electric Companies and by the Belapur Sugar Syndicate, and these are not solitary examples. The landless peasant becomes either a pitiful serf of his landlord, or a wage-slave in big or small factories, or, as is most often the case, a recruit in that crowning creation of capitalism—the reserve army of labour, the vast toiling mass of the unemployed millions. The peasant, who continues to remain the nominal proprietor of his little patch of land is so oppressed by the burden of debt, that he is virtually a slave of the sowkar."

Outlining a programme of action for Indian peasants, he said:

"The first and most essential step in the direction of the emancipation of the peasantry, is the abolition of all the vestiges of feudalism, the cancellation of the whole burden of debt and the apportionment of sufficient land to each toiling peasant. This, in short, is the programme of the Agrarian Revolution, which is not possible within the x frame-work of Imperialist rule, and therefore the struggle for complete national independence becomes of vital importance for the peasantry. The Imperialist exploitation of the masses in our country takes place not only directly, but also—and in fact to a larger extent—indirectly, through the Indian exploiting classes, who are able to secure a liberal commission in the business, and it is not possible in the name of national unity, to make peace with the latter while carrying on war against the former."

Discussing relations with the Congress, he said: "The Indian National Congress is the biggest rallying ground today for the anti-imperialist forces in the country. But constituted as it is

today, the anti-imperialist masses cannot come to the top and impress their ideology and method of struggle on the organisation as a whole. Hence, ~~the~~ independent class-organisations of the workers and peasants, like the Trade Union Congress and the Kisan Congress, have to take up, not merely the economic but also the political struggle of the exploited masses for emancipation. The National Congress, embracing as it does ~~it~~ within its fold the bourgeoisie and landlords also along with the exploited peasantry and workers, is forced to either sit on the fence ~~or~~ intervene on the side which is against the class-struggle and hence on the side of the dominant class. This situation prevents the Congress from being considered today, <sup>as</sup> an already accomplished United Front of all genuine anti-imperialist forces. But in order that the national struggle, which is a struggle of the masses, should be an all powerful United Front against Imperialism, it is necessary that the workers and peasants must rally to the National Congress in an organised manner and with a clear-cut programme of their own for the development of the national struggle, and for the transformation of the National Congress into a powerful organ of the United Front."

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Professor Banga asserted that Indian peasants were organising themselves to ~~na~~ inaugurate a socialist ~~state~~ of society in the country. Such a state of society, ~~he~~ defined, as one in which every one is assured of a minimum amount of food, clothing, housing, culture and pleasure, and all are made the beneficiaries of the fruits of all public utilities, property and mineral resources, and in which no set of individuals is remunerat~~ed~~ more than others without any good or valid ground of contribution made to society. Discussing the attitude of Kisans' organisations <sup>to</sup> ~~with~~ the Indian National Congress, he said:

"It is to centralise and guide our independent, but mutually dependent, propagandistic, organisational and ideological campaigns so as to make them most effective and least wasteful, we need the Indian National Congress. It is our common forum. Unfortunately the Congress is not quite as advanced, clear-headed and convinced in its massive ideology as we would like it to be, if it is to play its historic role ~~as outlined above~~ successfully. But it is the duty of every section of the masses to struggle hard and revolutionise its attitude towards the masses as a whole ~~and every one of our sections in particular~~. To this end functional

representation has to be provided in the Congress for the peasants, working class, youths, women and middle-class functionaries."

Directing attention to the dual nature of the fight that Indian workers have to wage, he said: "Unlike the working classes of other countries which enjoy their own political freedom, we have to be fighting at one and the same time both British Imperialism in all its manifestations and Indian Medievalism with all its ramifications. At every stage, our zamindars and capitalists are obstructing our struggle for Swaraj. It is however largely true to say that in direct proportion to our success in our anti-zamindari and anti-capitalist campaign, the strength of the British domination comes down. Hence the edifice of safeguards for the vested interests so scrupulously built up in the 1935 Government of India Act. Therefore, we have to organise ourselves so intensively, so class-consciously and so determinedly as to be able to carry on our double-sided struggle to a successful end."

Stressing the need for the cultivation of class consciousness by the Indian peasants, he said: "The rich and the landed are highly class conscious, but it is not conducive to the progress of humanity and so it is bad. The class consciousness of our masses is yet in its early development, but when fully developed, it will do a tremendous amount of good to the society at large because it will succeed in putting an end to the present-day exploitation of our society by the religious and social, political and economic vested interests. The class war is unnoticed as long as the masses allow themselves to be exploited without any effective or visible effort to stop or minimise it. But once the masses refuse to be downtrodden and exploited, class war comes to the surface. But to say that workers and peasants create it is to libel them. It only ~~speaks to~~ <sup>speaks to</sup> the bankruptcy of honest thought on the part of some of our intellectuals and leaders."

Resolutions Adopted.- The Congress adopted resolutions: (1) protesting against high rents and the conditions of tenants, (2) appointing a committee consisting of Messrs. Indulal Jagnik, Ranga and Shahjanand to enquire into agrarian conditions of peasants, (3) stressing the necessity ~~of~~ <sup>for</sup> a militant organisation of peasants, (4) opining that the existing famine relief code is inadequate, and (5) appointing another committee of Messrs. Ranga, Indulal Jagnik, Shahjanand and Bankim Mukherjee to go into the constitution of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Kisan Congress.

The Congress also decided that the next <sup>session of the</sup> All-India Kisan Congress Committee will meet in April 1937 to consider the results of provincial elections, and that the next session of Kisan Congress will be held in Bengal in April, 1938.

Office Bearers for 1937:- The following office-bearers were elected for 1937:- President - Professor N.G.Ranga; Working Secretary - Swami Shahjanand; Joint Secretaries - Messrs. Indulal Jagnik, Bankim Mukherjee and B.Bedi.

(The Bombay Chronicle and the Hindu,  
26 to 28-12-1936). +

Intellectual workers.

Conditions of Work of Journalists.

Minimum Demands of Journalists' Association

of India, Bombay. +

The Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, had appointed a Sub-Committee some time back to inquire into the actual wages and working conditions of journalists in Bombay City and submit <sup>a</sup> report. The Executive Committee of the Association recently considered the report, and formulated a number of recommendations embodying the minimum amenities demanded by working journalists. A special general meeting of the Association was held at Bombay on 1-12-1936, and after discussion of the Executive Committee's recommendations, accepted them. The following is a summary of the recommendations:

Salaries.- Decent salary; the scale of salary to be fixed, having due regard to the arduous nature of the work and other circumstances attending it.

Regularity in payment of salaries; date of payment not to be extended beyond ten days after the end of the month for which payment becomes due.

Fixity of Tenure.- Security of service to be ensured by the strict observance of the rule that every case of discharge or <sup>b</sup> resignation should be preceded by two calendar months' notice on either side.

Increments.- Increments in salary at stipulated intervals, and on a graded scale.

Leave Facilities.- One month's privilege leave and 15x days' casual leave in a year.

Six months' leave with half pay on production of medical certificate, in case of illness.

Six days off in a month.

Seven hours' work in the day; six hours' work at night.

At least 5 holidays in a year to be observed by all newspapers and news agencies.

Provident Fund.-Benefit or provident fund, on approved principles, employers contributing an amount equal to that of the beneficiaries.

Apprentices. - On the question of apprenticeship, in the best interests of the profession, the following minimum requirements should be satisfied:

(a) That not more than one apprentice to every six full-time members of the regular editorial staff should be engaged on the staff of newspapers and news agencies.

(b) That the apprenticeship period should not in any case exceed 12 months at the end of which, all possible efforts should be made to absorb the recruits into regular staff.

(c) That the recruit should be paid a living wage during the period of apprenticeship.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-12-36) +

## Economic Conditions .

### Trade of India in 1935-36.\* +

Agricultural Conditions.- A review of the conditions in India during the year under review indicates a steady, if not spectacular, improvement. Despite the large industrial advance made in recent years, India's prosperity depends, in the main, on good harvests and satisfactory prices for her commodities. Agricultural conditions during the year under review were, on the whole, fair. Agricultural prices, on the whole, made distinct recovery. Prices of rice were firmly held in spite of a diminished overseas demand. Jute was on a much higher level owing to the smaller crop output. Cotton prices during the year under review were also maintained well on the whole. The improved world demand for oils and fats was reflected in the higher price-level of most oilseeds. The prices of groundnuts, castor seed and rapeseed all improved. Linseed prices made a distinct recovery in the last two quarters of the year. Tea, in its third year of restriction, made a moderate recovery in prices. Wheat prices also were better than in the preceding year. The price level of rubber also was satisfactory, but the coffee market continued depressed.

Industrial Conditions.- Turning to industrial conditions, while there was improvement in several directions, there was some deterioration in others. The cotton textile industry broke its previous record of production, but both internal and external competition were severe, and in spite of prices being marked down, large stocks remained in hand at the end of the year. The voluntary scheme of restriction of production in the jute industry broke down in the year under review and the prices of jute manufactures declined. Larger overseas demand, however, absorbed the increased production of the year, a testimony to the general improvement in trade and industrial conditions. The iron and steel industry increased

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\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.-Review of the Trade of India in 1935-36 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. - Delhi:Manager of Publications -1936.-Price Rs.3-2 or 5s.6d. - pp.xxiv + 364

its output and sales. The production of cement also increased and negotiations were in progress during the year for the unification and control of the industry on its marketing side. Sugar production reached a new record and the Indian sugar industry is approaching a stage when it will be able to meet the entire internal demand. The problem before the sugar industry is now one of orderly marketing and the avoidance of wasteful competition. There was larger production of matches, paper, wheat flour, heavy chemicals and petrol, but there was a small decline in the production of kerosene oil. In the mining industry, coal did not show much improvement, but the demand for mineral ores showed a large improvement. Non-speculative industrial securities generally showed a small appreciation, but speculative industrial securities were on the down grade, jute and cotton shares, in particular, showing a dull record. Cheque clearances, as well as the average active circulation of currency notes, were higher than in the preceding year. Foreign trade showed a slightly larger export surplus in merchandise owing to the increased demand for commodities and manufactures. The gross customs revenue realised in 1935-36 was Rs. 563 million, as compared with Rs. 544 millions in the preceding year.

Industrial Strikes.- Industrial disputes during 1935 were few and the number of workers involved and the loss in working days were the lowest in the fifteen years for which statistics are available. The strikes which accounted for the greatest loss in working days during the year occurred in the Keshoram Cotton Mills, Calcutta, in which about 5,000 workers were involved with a loss of 119,000 working days, and in the Ahmedabad Textile Mills which affected 23,000 workers and resulted in a loss of over 93,000 working days.

Rupee Sterling Exchange and Gold Prices.- The rupee-sterling exchange remained steady throughout the year sustained by the continued export of gold. Fluctuations were few and the average rate for the year was 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub>d. The exports of gold during the year amounted to 4,122,733 fine ozs. valued at Rs. 385.1 millions. Prices of gold during the year were on a higher level than in 1934-35. The total exports, however, declined.



The Money Market.- Money conditions during the year were exceptionally easy. The continued exports of gold enabled the market to receive large supplies of funds through sales of sterling to Government. On the 28th November, the Reserve Bank of India rate was reduced from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 5 per cent at which it still remains. In August, the Government of India issued a medium-term rupee loan for Rs. 150 millions at 3 per cent, and applications for the loan amounted to nearly Rs. 300 millions. The gilt-edge market underwent some violent fluctuations during the year at the time of the Italo-Abyssinian crisis and the crises in the silver market in Bombay. Except for such temporary relapses, gilt-edge was very firm and prices rose.

Company Flotations<sup>a</sup>.- Of joint stock companies registered with an authorised capital of Rs. 500,000 or more during 1935-36, six companies having among them an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 5.3 millions, had, as their object, the manufacture of chemicals and allied products. Companies for iron and steel manufactures accounted for Rs. 157.5 millions, one company alone having an authorised capital of Rs. 150 millions. Ten electric supply companies had between them an authorised capital of Rs. 3.1 millions. Two cement companies were floated during the year, of which one in Burma had an authorised capital of Rs. 3.5 millions. Twenty-seven companies with a total authorised capital of Rs. 29.2 millions were floated for cotton manufactures. Five jute mills had between them an authorised capital of Rs. 13.3 million. Of two paper mills with an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 11.0 millions, one in Bengal accounted for Rs. 10 millions. Nineteen companies were formed with the object of manufacturing sugar, and they had between them an aggregate authorised capital of Rs. 21.8 millions. Thirteen companies having between them an authorised capital of Rs. 16 millions were floated for the purpose of producing cinema pictures. Two companies, having between them an authorised capital of Rs. 2.5 millions, were floated for the purpose of manufacturing rubber goods.

Balance of Trade.— The total value of the imports of private merchandise into India advanced from Rs. 1,320 millions in 1934-35 to Rs. 1,340 millions in the year under review, while exports, including re-exports, advanced by Rs. 90 millions from Rs. 1,550 millions to Rs. 1,640 millions. For purposes of comparison it may be mentioned that the total value of the imports in 1932-33 and 1933-34 was Rs. 1,330 millions and Rs. 1,150 millions, and of exports, including re-exports, Rs. 1,350 millions and Rs. 1,510 millions respectively. The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure in 1935-36 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 670 millions, as compared with Rs. 760 millions in 1934-35. The transactions in treasure on private account resulted in a net export of treasure amounting to Rs. 365.3 millions, as against Rs. 525 millions in the preceding year. Net exports of gold amounted to Rs. 375.3 millions, while silver showed a net import of Rs. 12.5 millions. Net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 2.9 millions.

Imports.— Imports of cotton manufactures of all kinds showed a decline of Rs. 7.2 millions in value. Imports of cotton piecegoods declined by Rs. 11.5 millions, but the loss was partly made up by larger imports of cotton twist and yarn. The total quantity of piecegoods imported, however, actually increased from 944 million yards to 947 million yards. The most noticeable feature of the year's trade in cotton piecegoods was the striking advance made by Japan in all branches, notably in printed and grey goods. The share of the United Kingdom declined correspondingly. Not less striking was Japan's advance in the imports of cotton twist and yarn. The total quantity imported increased by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. or 31 per cent to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs., and most of this increase was absorbed by Japan. Among other items in the "textiles" group, there was a decline in the imports of artificial silk yarn, piecegoods of artificial silk mixed with other materials, silk piecegoods, piecegoods of silk mixed with other materials and woollen piecegoods. On the other hand, imports of artificial silk piecegoods showed a further improvement and the increase under this head in the last two years was sufficient to offset the decline in the imports of silk piecegoods and piecegoods of silk or artificial silk mixed with other materials. Imports of raw wool, raw silk and silk yarn were well maintained. In respect of all these articles, Japan continued to be the most important source of supply.

In the "Metals" group, there was a pronounced improvement in the imports of iron and steel materials. The total quantity imported rose by 22 per cent to 446,000 tons, the value of the imports rising by 13 per cent to Rs. 72 millions. There was a general improvement

in the imports of machinery and millwork, the total value of the items included under this head improving by Rs. 10 millions. Cotton and mining machinery and sugar machinery, however, showed no improvement, but there was a significant increase under jute mill machinery. Imports of electrical machinery, as well as of electrical instruments and apparatus, also showed considerable increases. In general, imports of capital goods and consumers' goods of a durable character were larger than in the preceding year. Imports of metals, other than iron or steel, of which a large portion consists of metals in the semi-manufactured state, showed in the aggregate some decline owing to smaller imports of mixed or yellow metal and copper sheets. There were increases in the imports of hardware. Imports of motor cars, which had shown a marked increase in 1934-35, showed a fall in the year under review. Among other luxury goods, imports of exposed cinematograph films showed a small decline. Wireless instruments and apparatus, however, showed a large improvement. Imports of precious stones further declined. Imports of liquor were well maintained. There was also a considerable increase in the imports of proprietary and patent medicines.

Under "Mineral oils", while imports of kerosene declined, those of fuel oils and petroleum improved. The year also saw larger imports of chemicals, coal-tar dyes and paper and pasteboard. There were also increases in the imports of provisions and oilman's stores. Imports of salt, cigarettes and cigars showed small increases, but those of unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco for pipes and cigarettes declined.

Exports.- On the export side, there was some decline in the demand for Indian cotton, the shipments during the year totalling 3,397,000 bales with a recorded value of Rs. 337.7 millions, the fall as compared with the preceding year being 93,000 bales in quantity and Rs. 11.8 millions in value. The shrinkage in exports was primarily due to lesser demand from Japan which took 1,759,000 bales, or 295,000 bales less than in 1934-35. Exports to some of the Continental countries also declined. The larger use of Indian cotton in Lancashire was reflected in the increased off-take of the United Kingdom. In 1935-36, the United Kingdom took 456,142 bales, which was 109,000 bales more than in 1934-35. Exports of Indian piecegoods showed some improvement in the year under review, but overseas exports form only a small proportion of Indian mill production.

Foreign demand for raw jute continued to increase and the exports during the year totalled 771,000 tons as compared with 1933-34. Owing mainly to the restriction on the 1935 crop, much higher prices were realised, the average declared value of the exports in 1935-36 being Rs. 177-11-5 per ton as compared with Rs. 144-7-3 in 1934-35. The increased output of Indian jute mills during the year was accompanied by a revival of demand from foreign centres. The total exports of gunny bags improved from 423 million to 459 million.

The quantity of tea exported declined from 25 million lbs. to 51 $\frac{3}{8}$  million lbs. as a result of a reduced export allotment. The recorded value of the exports in 1935-36 was Rs. 1980 millions as compared with Rs. 2010 millions in 1934-35. Exports of foodgrains and flour showed, in most cases, a decline. The total value recorded under this group, however, rose from Rs. 118.4 millions to Rs. 124.1 millions owing to the higher price of rice. Exports of oilseeds of all kinds were valued at Rs. 105.3 millions as against Rs. 105.4 millions in 1934-35. Exports of metals and ores showed a striking improvement, manganese ore, wolfram ore, pig lead and pig iron being the principal items included in this group. Raw wool also had a better market and both the quantity exported and the value realised showed marked increases.

The Quantum of Trade.- The volume of exports, as compared with 1927-28, was at its lowest in 1932-33, while that of imports showed the greatest decline in 1931-32. Since then both imports and exports have recovered, but, while in the case of exports there has been a continuous improvement from 1933-34, imports, which made an earlier recovery, declined sharply in volume in 1933-34. In the last two years both imports and exports have advanced and the volume of exports is now about 12 per cent less than the pre-depression level of ~~1927-28~~ 1927-28, while the volume of imports is about 13 per cent less. As compared with 1932-33, exports have recovered by 18 per cent; imports have improved by 31 per cent from the 1931-32 level.

Tariff Changes.- The changes in the tariff made under the various Acts passed during the latter part of 1934 and the earlier part of 1935 were dealt with in the preceding year's Review. (See page 41 of our December 1935 Report). Since then three Acts have been passed, introducing certain changes in the tariff. (1) The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Act, 1936, extended the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, for two years, i.e., to the 30th April, 1938, subject to a reduction of the rate of duty from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  annas to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  annas per maund. (2) The protective duties of Rs. 1-8 per cwt. on wheat and wheat flour and of 12 annas per Indian maund on broken rice expired on the 31st March, 1936, but the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1936, imposed an import duty of Re. 1 per cwt. on wheat and wheat flour and of 12 annas per maund on broken rice for a further period of one year. The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 26th April, 1936, but the duties imposed by it were actually brought into force on the 9th April, 1936, under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, and are to remain in force till the 31st March, 1937. (3) The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1936, reduced the permissible length of silk and artificial silk ferts, the imports of which had been specially stimulated by the concessional treatment, from 4 yards to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  yards. The Act also imposed an alternative specific duty of 12 annas per lb. on cotton knitted apparel of weight not exceeding 4 lbs. per dozen and of 10 annas per lb. on those of weight exceeding 4 lbs. per dozen.

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Balance of Trade.- The visible balance of trade in private merchandise and treasure together in favour of India was Rs. 670 millions in the year under review. In 1933-34, the balance in her favour was Rs. 930 millions and in 1934-35, about Rs. 760 millions. The transactions in treasure on ~~xxx~~ private account resulted in a net export of treasure amounting to Rs. 361 millions of rupees, as against Rs. 522 millions in the preceding year. Net exports ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ of gold amounted to Rs. 373.6 millions while silver showed a net import of Rs. 12.7 millions. The net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 2.9 million.

(The Trade of India in 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 37-41 of our December 1935 report). +

8th Industries Conference, Lucknow, 7 & 8-12-1936.

The eighth session of the Indian Industries Conference was held at Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-36. This was the first time that this Conference met at a centre other than the headquarters of the Government of India. Lucknow was fixed as the venue of this year's conference at the invitation of the Government of the United Provinces so as to enable the delegates from the various Provinces and Indian States to attend the Lucknow Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, and by the Ministers and Directors ~~xxx~~ in Charge of the Industries Departments of the Provinces and of the more important Indian States. Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour with the Government of India, presided over the Conference.

Among the problems discussed by the Conference were the progress of schemes for the development of the handloom industry in various provinces; allotments for 1937-38; the introduction of hand-weaving industry among the women workers who are being excluded from underground work in Jharia coalfields; the grant for the all-India hand-weaving exhibition and competition to be held along with the U.P. Exhibition at Lucknow. Rule-making power in the Acts affecting industry with special reference to electricity and boilers ~~will~~ <sup>was</sup> also ~~be~~ considered. The other items on the agenda were the standardization of weights and measures throughout India; publication of fuller trade statistics regarding important manufactured and semi-manufactured goods in the country and raw materials consumed

therein, along with the figures of inter-provincial movements of these articles; removal of inter-provincial barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical and drug industry in India and matters arising out of the proceedings of the second session of the Industrial Research Council and <sup>the</sup> minutes of the second meeting of the Imperial Sericulture Committee and first meeting of the Woollen Industry Committee.

Presidential Address: Growth of Indian Industries.- In the course of his presidential address, Sir Frank Royce traced the growth of Indian industries during the last 34 years. He said; "Those were the days before that great enterprise, the Tata Iron and Steel Works, was established—the days when India imported 2,000 million yards of cotton piecegoods and manufactured only a quarter of that amount, the days when the factory production of sugar was trifling, the days when the output of coal, that valuable index to industrial activity, was less than one-third that it was last year. The position in regard to cotton piecegoods and sugar is now completely reversed. Last year the imports of cotton piecegoods had fallen to less than a thousand million yards, whilst mill production had increased to 5,500 million yards. The production of factory sugar was over 926,000 tons, some four and a half times the quantity imported, and the disparity between home production and imports will be very much greater this year. The output of pig iron has increased by about 75 per cent with other iron and steel manufactures in somewhat similar proportion, the sax output of cement by about 50 per cent, of matches by 30 per cent and of paper by 20 per cent."

State-aid to Industries.- Speaking on State aid accorded to Industries by Government—Central, Provincial and Indian States—; Sir Frank said that it has provided an organisation which has great potentialities of usefulness. That organisation falls into four parts. In the first place, there is the Industries Conference itself successfully revived in 1933 after being in abeyance for over a decade, which furnishes a forum for the discussion of industrial questions of common interest to the whole of India, a forum the value of which should become more and more apparent in the days ahead when there may develop a tendency for the Centre and the Federal Units more and more to go their own ways. In the second place, there is the Industrial Research Council by whose advice, the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and Governments of Indian States are guided in questions of policy in connexion with industrial research. The Council has so far held two meetings, in July 1935 and in July 1936. In the third place, there is the Industrial Research Bureau at the headquarters of the Government of India which is, so to speak, the executive agency of the Council,

and lastly, there is the Research Branch of the Government Test House at Calcutta, where research approved by the Council is carried out. The accommodation at the Test House is rapidly outgrowing its expanding needs and the question of enlarging it and of placing the Research Bureau on a permanent footing is engaging the active attention of the Government. Three Bulletins have already been published by this Bureau one on the glass industry, the second being a bibliography of industrial publications published in India since 1921, and the third a highly technical aspect of the annealing of copper bar. Six more bulletins are nearly ready for the Press and should appear early next year.

The Conference and its connected organisations have made the small and cottage industries their first care. Though, as time goes on, they may and will be able to render service to the larger industries, it is hoped that the smaller industries will always receive their special consideration. For it is to the development of the smaller and scattered industries, away from the big industrial centres which have in so many cases only too faithfully copied the evils which have accompanied industrialisation in the West, that there lies the best hope of raising the standard of living and with it, the cultural level of the countryside.

Planned Economy.- On the question of economic planning, Sir Frank said: "Critics, notably those who advocate planned economy, forgetting the close association between planned economy and dictatorship and the entirely unsuitable field for dictatorship presented by a country on the eve of great constitutional changes, will say that we might have covered a bigger field. There is so much to be done in this vast country that I readily admit there are other things I would have liked to have tackled, but I do claim that, considering the financial and constitutional difficulties under which we have laboured, we have no reason to be ashamed of our record."

Handloom Industry.- So far as the handloom grants are concerned, the progress made appears to be very satisfactory. A sum of nearly Rs. 1.1 millions has so far been allotted for expenditure on approved schemes and so far as can be judged, these sums and the amounts which provincial Governments are providing from their own revenues for this purpose are being wisely spent. Since the last session of the Conference the Government of India have made a further grant of Rs. .5 millions to be spread over five years for the benefit of the small scale and cottage woollen industry, and a committee has already been set up to advise on the administration of this grant.

Glass Industry.- The most important work undertaken by the Research Bureau during its short existence has been its work on glass. Its survey of the glass industry has drawn attention to the difficulties under which the industry is working and has enabled the Bureau to put forward concrete suggestions for carrying out research



in the laboratories of the Central and Provincial Governments and some of the Universities. The Government of India have accepted the suggestions which directly concern it and research on the lines proposed has been undertaken at the Test House.

Middle-class Unemployment.- The question of middle class unemployment, Sir Frank reminded the Conference, figured as an item on the 1933 session, but nothing such could be done by the Conference for various reasons. In the first place, it was agreed that it was a problem that could not be solved by any steps that could be taken on the industrial side alone, and in the second place it was felt by a section of the Conference that there was little prospect at that time of getting public opinion to support the steps that seemed best calculated to secure an agreement on the position. But a good deal has happened since then. The problem has received attention in many directions; it has been explored by further committees, including the important committee presided over by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru which was set up in the United Provinces, and certain aspects of it have been engaging the very close attention of educational experts and of the Central Advisory Board of Education. There is an increasing volume of support for some of the remedies that may be necessary and increasing determination to face up to the difficulties of the problem. The question of the development of schemes of apprenticeship is one on which a conference, composed as the industrial conference is, might be able to offer very valuable advice. There has been, and is still, a tendency to concentrate on academic teaching, even in the technical sphere, and to forget that the most important part of education for industry is generally that which only work in the industry can give.

There is no cut and dried solution of this great problem, for it does not owe its origin to any single factor and it will not be solved except by concentrated advance in many directions. In the light of Sir Frank's experience and of the thought he has given to the question over a long period spent partly in a Department of Education and partly in a Department of Industries he ventured to place before the Conference a few conclusions to which he has come. He said: "On the educational side of the question, I am satisfied that those responsible should endeavour to bring the educational results of the country into closer correspondence with its needs. I think you will probably all agree that on the more technical side of education it is impossible to justify the production of specialist officers for whom there is no particular demand."

"When you come to education of a more general and cultural type, the position is in at least one respect different, for it can be claimed that cultural education represents an enrichment of life, whatever the subsequent career of the student. But there are two further questions which those who encourage our young men to pursue academic careers must face. In the first place, they

must ask themselves whether the student who goes to a University is looking merely for cultural enrichment or whether he is looking ~~is~~ for a definite economic advantage as well and whether he would be prepared to go on if we told him frankly that he would be provided with the first and not with the second. In the second place, they must ~~z~~ ask themselves whether, educational resources being what they are, it is right to devote a substantial part of them in providing young men with an education which leads many of them into the desert, while those in other spheres of society are still unable to secure even the rudiments of literacy. The final suggestion that I would throw out for your consideration is that we can do little if we concentrate our attention too much on the educational ~~of the~~ middle class. Their prosperity depends, to a much greater extent than is often recognised, upon the welfare of the masses, and little can be achieved on the industrial side without a definite rise in the standard of living and in the demands of the bulk of the population. It is a fairly easy matter to demonstrate that in present conditions even if we were to make in this country everything that we now import, the result would, as Sir George Schuster put it, be but a ripple in the surface of India's economic life. But an increase in the demands from the villages would give a great stimulus to industry and would open up a multitude of new careers. I suggest that in the end it is in the village rather than in the colleges or the industrial areas that we must find a lasting solution."

The following is a summary of the proceedings of the Conference:-

Boilers and Electricity Acts. - In consequence of the fact that the Government of India would no longer possess powers to frame rules and regulations under the Boilers and Electricity Acts, the general conclusion reached was that the powers might suitably be exercised by Inter-Provincial Boards.

Handloom Industry.- The Conference discussed handloom grants and reports of the progress made by various provincial representatives and recommended small increases in the grants to Bihar ~~xxx~~ in view of the difficulty created by the separation of Orissa, and also to the Central Provinces, Assam, Orissa, Sind and the N.M.F. Province.

Women Workers of Mines.- The question of a grant for the purpose of teaching handloom weaving to women formerly working in coal mines was also considered, but the general conclusion was that expenditure in this direction would hardly be consonant with the main objects for which handloom grants were given.

(The Statesman, 8 & 9-12-36)+

Stimulating U.P. Industries :  
Intensive Development Scheme outlined by  
U.P. Government.

The Government of the United Provinces had appointed in 1932 a Committee presided over by the Minister of Industries, U.P., to scrutinise the working of the Industries Department of the U.P., and to suggest how it might work more efficiently and intensively for the industrial development of the province; its report was published in March, 1934. In addition, the work of the Department of Industries was also commented upon incidentally by the following committees: The Industries Reorganisation Committee, 1934, The Industrial Schools Committee, 1934, and the Industrial Finance Committee, 1935.

The Industries Reorganisation Committee had recommended the appointment of a special committee of industrial, banking and commercial experts to examine the questions relating to (1) the provision of suitable, adequate and reliable machinery for industrial finance; and (2) facilities for marketing for small industrialists. In addition, the United Provinces Unemployment Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Saprú surveyed, inter alia, the scope for the employment of educated young men in industries and in that connexion took into consideration the three reports mentioned above. The reports of three other committees appointed (1) to investigate the possibility of developing cottage industries in the grid area, (2) to draw up a practical scheme for the development of such industries on co-operative lines and (3) to draw up a plan of economic development for the United Provinces are being awaited.

Government's Decisions.- The extensive ground covered by the reports of these committees contain numerous suggestions for constructive work according to a plan, as funds become available. The Government of the United Provinces have in a recent resolution reviewed the reports of these various Committees, and announced their decisions on the major recommendations made in them. Without minimizing the importance of industrial and technical education, the U.P. Government accept the recommendations of the Industrial Reorganisation Committee that, for the present, the department should pursue the following as its main objectives:-

1. The intensive development of a few selected major industries so as to help them in all practicable directions including production, finance and marketing.

2. Assistance to industries generally, and cottage and minor industries particularly in marketing the articles produced.

3. Industrial finance, primarily for minor and cottage industries.

4. Helping middle class educated young men to set up, on their own in industry or business or, failing that, to find employment therein.

Development of Major Industries.- A majority of the Committee recommended sugar, oil and glass as the major industries to be selected for intensive development, while a minority has recommended various leather industries in preference to glass. The Government holds, however, that with its present and prospective resources the Department should concentrate on the three major industries proposed by the majority, though it should also keep in close touch with other major industries and render them such assistance as might be practicable.

Commercial Intelligence.— Government agree that the Department should take up systematically the collection, compilation and dissemination of commercial intelligence for the benefit of persons already engaged, or proposing to engage, in business or industry; and that, in particular, steps should be taken to build up detailed monographs relating to selected industries, undertake a survey of the markets—provincial, Indian and foreign—for the industrial products of the province, <sup>to</sup> compile surveys of the commercial potentialities of the cottage industries of the province, and <sup>to</sup> bring and keep up to date the district ~~the~~ industrial surveys which were carried out over a decade ago.

Industrial Education.— As regards technical and industrial education, Government accept the recommendations of the Provincial Schools Committee. They are inclined to hold that, in order to give fuller scope to local patriotism, enthusiasm and philanthropy, elementary schools in districts should ordinarily be "aided" rather than Government institutions. The principles governing the establishment of technical and industrial educational institutions will thus be:

- (a) wherever possible, the bent of students undergoing general education and, in particular, their aptitude for vocational careers, will be ascertained, and their capacity for manual work will be developed;
- (b) those who have an aptitude for industry will be encouraged to pass on to elementary industrial schools supplying a definite local need and imparting a certain amount of preliminary training;
- (c) endeavours will be made to have at least one central school for each important provincial industry or phase of industry;
- (d) commercial extension courses for a year ~~or~~ or two will be provided to enable students to be taught and helped to carry on commercial operations on their own; under proper guidance from the school authorities;
- (e) whenever necessary or desirable, steps will continue to

be taken to secure apprenticeships with factories, firms and individuals;

(f) to meet the needs of artisans tuitional classes will be held by master craftsmen staying in their midst sufficiently long to ensure that knowledge about new technique or new or improved designs is imparted or some specific improvement is effected.

(Summarised from pages 317-322 of the U.P.  
Government Gazette dated 5-12-1936). +

## Public Health.

### Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1935-36.\* +

The following information regarding health conditions in the Asansol Coal Mines is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 square miles. The population in the middle of 1935 was 405,341, of which 47,659 were living in municipal areas and 335,021 in other areas. The Mining Settlement consists of about 130 collieries, 490 villages and the two municipal towns of Asansol and Raniganj.

Vital Statistics.- During the year under review 10,381 births were registered in the settlement, against 11,133 in the previous year. The birth-rate per 1000 of population was 27.1 as against 29.1 in the previous year. The corrected birth-rate on the estimated population is 25.6 in 1935 as against 27.8 in the preceding year.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 8,165 as against 8,567 in the preceding year, the death-rate being 21.3 against 22.3 per 1000 in 1934. The corrected death-rate on the estimated population was 20.1 in 1935 against 21.2 per 1000 in 1934.

Infant Mortality.-The total number of infant deaths recorded during the year was 1521 against 1876 in 1934. The infant mortality rate calculated on 1000 births was 146.5 against 169.4 in the preceding year. Figures lead to the inevitable conclusion that prenatal factors i.e., adverse causes operating on the expectant mother by way of inanition, illhealth and indifferent hygienic habits contribute largely to the high infant mortality during the first month of the baby's life.

Principal Causes of Death.- Fevers (including malaria) were responsible for 3,045 deaths, cholera for 616 deaths, pneumonia for 532 deaths, respiratory diseases for 490 deaths and dysentery and diarrhoea for 390 deaths. There were 3,092 deaths due to other causes.

\* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36.- pp.45+ Tables..

Anti-Leprosy Measures. - <sup>A</sup>The Leprosy Relief Association was started in August, 1933, with a view to organise anti-leprosy campaign in Mining Settlement in co-ordination with the Board of Health. The campaign aims at detailed survey and investigation, treatment of leprosy cases, by opening Leprosy Clinics suitably distributed throughout the Mining Settlement, educative propaganda, home visiting of lepers and also organisation of village committees, to assist in segregation of infectious cases of leprosy resident in villages and collieries. Owing to <sup>R</sup>extensive area involved, the Mining Settlement has been divided into 12 convenient divisions - each about 25 sq. miles in area. Two more Divisions have since been constituted to cover the entire ground.

As many as 1218 fresh cases were detected during the year making a total of 4171 known cases. The average incidence in villages was 1.4%, in collieries 0.9% and in schools 1.75%. The history of infection, as far as could be traced, is also tabulated in the statement. The majority of school children suffering from leprosy are in the non-infectious stage and are permitted to attend school provided they take regular treatment.

Health Propaganda. - Health Propaganda was carried out during the year on the same lines as reported ~~on~~ in the previous year. For the general population lantern lectures were arranged throughout the year by the Propaganda Officer of the Board. He visited 43 collieries and 231 villages and delivered 197 lantern lectures during the year on prevailing diseases, maternity and infant welfare, personal and rural hygiene. He also carried out house-to-house propaganda in 77 areas in connection with epidemic outbreaks. The staff of the leprosy department carried out educative propaganda on leprosy by means of home visiting ~~home visiting~~ and lantern lectures.

Maternity and Infant Welfare. - There are 4 Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres - at Sitalpur, Sitarampur, Ghusick and Ushagram. All the activities are directed towards the improvement of the health of the mother and the baby. The scheme aims at bringing about a positive condition of good health and is not limited to the narrow groove of giving medical relief to ailing children or offering free maternity service at random.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest. - It was during the year 1935 that special Rules were introduced with a view to ensure proper distribution of work and rest for employees in the mines. A day's rest in the week has been compulsory for all labour working both above and under-ground. While the total period of work per week was already restricted to 54 hours of under-ground labour, the same limit has now been enforced for those working on the surface. In case of underground working a limit of 9 hours per shift has also been introduced. Lastly, for all surface workers except a few, ~~specified labour~~ one hour's rest has been enforced after 6 hours' work.



Employment of Women excluded from Underground Work.- Work was at first readily found on the surface for the women debarred from underground employment. Later on, as the number increased, the situation became more difficult. The problem of devising suitable employment on the surface for such women, it is remarked, will have to be faced in order to come to a satisfactory solution of the economic condition of the miner and his family. The rate of wages for the miner remained almost the same as in the preceding year. The weekly earnings of miners were probably higher than during 1934 owing to many of the miners working a greater number of days per week. Even then there is no doubt that the family income on the whole has decreased. Apart from that, the very fact that the partner is no longer contributing to the family expense will put the miner's wife at a disadvantage in the disbursement of the "family" income, while unemployment by itself will have a prejudicial effect on the mental outlook of the miner and his dependants. Cottage industries, the produce of which find a ready sale amongst the employees of the colliery was started in one colliery in Jharia Coal-Field in 1934 and is reported to have met with success - the work being on the contract system.. With a view to offer facilities for training of miners' wives, it has been decided by the Ramkrishna Centenary Committee, Asansol, to open training centres at suitable places throughout the Mining Settlement in co-operation with the management of collieries through the agency of paid and experienced workers. It is hoped that the Committee will succeed in giving a start to the much needed relief for the miners' families and that the management of collieries will feel inclined to give effect to specific schemes of employment for the unemployed women.

Sickness Insurance and Maternity Benefit.- The question of making provision for workers during sickness—as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India—was raised during the year by the Government of India for consideration of the local governments and of industrial concerns. A correct estimate of the incidence of sickness among workers for a number of years is necessary to arrive at the cost of any benefit which a scheme is to provide. Then again the scheme of sickness insurance involves payment of financial benefits in addition to medical aid which, in the case of the coal-field, is already provided for through the agency of colliery dispensaries. The question to be considered is how far medical attendance and cash benefits can be co-related and whether the scheme should be on a contributory basis or not. The special problem in the coal-field is the peculiar character of the majority of mining labour who are primarily agriculturists and hence are of a floating type. Any scheme of sickness insurance rightly includes maternity benefit during and immediately after the period of confinement. A large number of women continue to be employed on the surface who are likely to benefit by the scheme. (The Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 48-49 of our January 1936 report).

(A copy of the Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1935-36, reviewed above, was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1394/36 dated the 17th December 1936).+

Agriculture.

Agricultural Indebtedness in Madras: The

Usurious Loans (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1936. +

The Government of Madras proposes to introduce in the current session of the Madras Legislative Council a Bill to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918. The necessity for the amendment is that on a review of the working of the Usurious Loans Act, in the Presidency, it has been noticed that the powers conferred on Courts by the Act have not been utilized with any degree of uniformity, mainly owing to the fact that the powers conferred by section 5 are discretionary. The Government, after consulting the High Court, consider that it is desirable to make the exercise of such powers obligatory on Courts, when circumstances justifying such exercise exist.

The opportunity has been taken to make it clear that relief should be afforded if the transaction as between the parties was substantially unfair and that such unfairness should be presumed if the rate of interest charged is found to be excessive. The presumption is made rebuttable by proof of special circumstances justifying the high rate of interest. Having regard to the fact that agriculturists in this Presidency are, as a class, unable to bear the burden of loans at *provision has been made in the Bill that if compound interest* at compound interest, is charged on loans advanced to agriculturists, such interest should be presumed to be excessive.

The Bill is made applicable to suits pending on the date when it becomes law as well as to suits instituted subsequently.

*Gazette*  
(The Fort St. George, dated 24-11-1936,  
pages 359 to 361 of Part IV).

## Migration.

### Strike of Indian Workers of Singapore Municipality. †

On 1-12-1936, 2,500 Tamil (Indian) workers employed in the Singapore Municipal Sewage Department, struck work, and in sympathy with them the whole Indian contingent of the Municipal labour force, numbering about 13,000 downed tools. The demands of the strikers are: (1) The wages of all labourers should be increased to a minimum of 60 cents a day. (2) There must be an increase of 10 cents a day <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ the wages of all skilled workmen. (3) A labourer should not be ordered to work for more than eight hours a day. (4) All overtime work should be paid at double the rate of ordinary wages. (5) For days upon which labourers are prevented from doing work on account of rain or any similar hindrance, full wages must be paid. (6) In the case of illness, a labourer should be given free medical aid and should be paid his ordinary wages during the period that he is detained in hospital. (7) Water and light must be supplied to labourers free of charge. The present practice of cutting off water connections at 8 p.m. and restoring it at 5 a.m. must be discontinued. (8) Those labourers who are unable to get accommodation in the coolie lines should be given a rent allowance of \$ 1.50 per head. (9) All labourers should be paid full wages for days which are declared public holidays, whether they are taken for work or not. (10) No labourer should be dismissed from work without a thorough investigation by the head of the department. (11) The prosecutions commenced against some of the labourers in connection with the strike should be withdrawn. (12) All labourers who are on strike now on returning to work must be given the full wages for the

period they were on strike.

Negotiations for ending the strike were started by the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya <sup>and</sup> the Deputy and Assistant Controller of Labour who urged the strikers to return to work giving an assurance that an inquiry would be held into their demands for increase in wages and that other grievances would be considered, including the question of housing and food. Negotiations, however, broke-down suddenly owing to the ~~same~~ decision of the authorities, ~~namely~~, that 800 workmen would not be taken back and that the prosecutions instituted against 60 strikers would not be withdrawn. Fresh efforts are being made to settle the strike amicably.

(The Hindu, 17-12-1936)+

#### Control of Clove Trade in Zanzibar:

##### Mr. Binder's Recommendations. +

History of the Case.- As a result of representations made by the Government of India, the British Colonial Office <sup>one of its officers,</sup> deputed Mr. Binder, to report as to what modifications are necessary in the system of control over the clove industry of Zanzibar in the permanent economic interests of the Island. The enquiry by Mr. Binder was necessitated by the establishment of the Clove-Growers' Association and its operations in the clove trade of the island. Indians had objected to it on the ground that the decree which permitted its establishment had given virtual monopoly of trade to the Association by making private export subject to licence, secondly by imposing a heavy licence fee, thirdly by making the

Association itself the licensing authority, and lastly by exempting the Association from all fees, including the special export levy which every exporter had to pay, but which though nominally paid by the Association was placed to its credit. The complaint was that by discouraging the Indian exporter, it drove him out of the trade, and as the Indian middleman bought cloves from the grower to sell to the exporter, it knocked him out as well. ~~And as there were no Indian buyers of clove, large or small.~~

Government of India's Attitude.- The Government of India supported the Zanzibar Indians and argued that the remedy provided by the Clove Decree went beyond the requirements of the disease (unstable prices and speculative dealings). A minimum price, they said, should be fixed for the grower and ~~that~~ the Industry should be free from other restrictions. Failing this, they contended that there should be a fresh enquiry, When two years had elapsed in the operation of the Clove-Growers' Association, the enquiry by Mr. Binder was instituted, and Mr. Bozman was sent as observer on behalf of the Government of India, at the request of the Indian National Association.

Mr. Binder's Recommendations.- Mr. Binder's definite recommendation is to give to the Association monopoly of internal buying together with the power to fix the purchase and selling price. At the same time, the Indian small buyer might be employed by the Association as its buying agent paid on a commission basis. The Association thus becomes the organisation for co-operative buying and stocking. In another portion of his report, Mr. Binder suggests the appointment of two representatives of exporters (who are now mostly Indians) on the Advisory Committee of the Association with a view to discussing the actual fixing of prices, etc. As for export of cloves (40 per cent of which is bought by India), licences would be issued not by the Association as hitherto, but by the Government themselves and the export licence fee will be reduced to such a sum as will be within the means of the small exporter, who will be encouraged to explore new markets and bring orders. The export levy is also to be abolished.

These recommendations of Mr. Binder mark a definite improvement on the existing position so far as the export trade is concerned.

As for growers of clove, this is over 20 per cent under Indian control by reason of the fact that the lands are mortgaged to Indians. To the extent prices are stabilised by the operations of the Clove-Growers' Association, to that extent the Indian grower might be said to benefit by the recommendations of Mr. Binder, who gives complete powers to the Association in this respect. As for alienation of lands, Mr. Binder suggests to the Government of Zanzibar to publish the revised formula defining an agriculturist and a non-agriculturist without racial discrimination. He also recommends the raising of the moratorium under suitable restrictions and the rates of interest to be limited. Mr. Binder, concluding, observes that if his recommendations are adopted, they would serve to broaden the economic position and provide the electorate with the desired basis of a satisfied agricultural and trading community.

The Report of Mr. Binder has been published by the Government of India without any comments. It is reported that early steps will be taken to ascertain Indian opinion here and in Zanzibar. The Indian press has expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Binder's recommendations.

(The Statesman and the Hindu,  
12-12-1936). +

General.  
The 50th Session of the Indian National  
Congress - December 1936. +

The 50th session of the Indian National Congress was held at Faizpur from 28~~to~~ 30-12-1936 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. A feature of the session was that <sup>it was the first</sup> a session of the Congress <sup>to be</sup> ~~was held for the first time~~ in an Indian village. This departure of holding Congress sessions in villages and not in urban centres as hitherto, which, it is reported, will be maintained in future years, is interpreted to signify a closer identification of the Congress with the Indian agriculturist masses. The session was also remarkable for the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who holds ~~a~~ <sup>socialistic</sup> views, was chosen as the president for a second consecutive session. In a statement issued ~~by~~ previous to his election, Pandit Nehru had, however, affirmed that his socialistic views will be subordinated to the majority rulings of the Congress, and that for the present ~~he~~ would be content if attention was concentrated on achieving the independence of the country.

Reception Committee Chairman's Address.- The following are the main points brought out in the address of Mr. Shankar Rao Deo, the Chairman of the Reception Committee:-

After welcoming the delegates to the first village session of the Congress, he said: "Imperialism has yielded us constitutional reform on the one hand and repression on the other throughout the last half a century. The Rowlatt Act and the Amritsar massacre followed in the wake of the Montford Reforms. It was the rare good fortune of this land, to have amongst us Mahatma Gandhi who could offer a new and dynamic lead at such a time. He placed before the nation his programme of Non-cooperation. The National Congress accepted in full the Gandhian programme of Non-cooperation, and with the new programme came a new leadership."

Today there are on the platform of the National Congress three distinct groups. The advocates of the legislative programme,

the non-cooperating votaries of constructive work and village organisation, as well as those who stand by the mobilisation of the workers and peasants. Yet all these groups are united in their faith in the potency of Satyagraha as a powerful weapon of mass action. It is a token of our past grandeur that we have hit upon non-violent mass resistance as the peculiar technique of our struggle ~~we can~~ <sup>in our</sup> march steadily on towards ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> goal of Swaraj. Our immediate task is the liberation of our people from the death grip of British Imperialism. Hence, the Congress becomes the spear-head of anti-Imperialist resistance and the nation gathers under its standard."

Presidential Address: -Demand for Constituent Assembly.- In his presidential address Pandit Nehru pointed out that the real object before the nation was to build up a powerful joint-front of all the anti-Imperialist forces in the country, and that the basis of it was to be anti-Imperialism and independence. The immediate demand of this United National Front was to be for a Constituent Assembly leading to a democratic State where political power has been transferred to the mass of the people.

Socialism and the Congress.- Explaining the immediate objective of the Congress, the President observed: "We do not fight for Socialism in India today, for we have to go far before we can act in terms of Socialism. The Congress stands today for full democracy in India and fights for a democratic State and not for Socialism."

Council Entry and Office-Acceptance Issue.- Clarifying the Council entry programme and its implications, the President emphasised that Congressmen entered Legislatures "not to co-operate with the apparatus of British Imperialism, but to combat the Act and seek to end it, and to resist in every way the attempts of British Imperialism to strengthen its hold on India". According to the President, acceptance of office was a negation of the policy of rejecting the Act, and he challenged the Pro-office section to demonstrate that office-acceptance was the way to non-co-operate with the Act and to end it.

Wrecking the Constitution.- Elucidating the congress programme of wrecking the Constitution, he observed: "Our policy is to put an end to the Act and have a clean slate to write afresh. Thus our opposition to the Federal part of the Constitution Act is not merely a theoretical one, but a vital matter which affects our struggle for freedom and our future destiny." In reply to critics who urged that the new constitution was fool-proof against wrecking tactics, he observed: "The constitution cannot be wrecked by action inside the Legislatures only. For that, mass action outside is necessary and that is why we must always remember that the essence of our Freedom struggle lies in mass organisation and mass action."



Indian States and the Federation Idea.- "The present federation that is being thrust upon India is a federation in bondage and under the control politically and socially, of the most backward elements in the country. The world has gone on changing and hovers on the brink of yet another vast change. But not so the Indian States; they remain static in this ever-changing panorama, staring at us with the eyes of the early nineteenth century. We cannot recognise these old settlements of more than a hundred years ago as permanent and unchanging. The Indian States will have to fit into the scheme of a free India and their peoples must have, as the Congress has declared, the same personal, civil and democratic liberties as those of the rest of India".

Mass Contacts.- Stressing the need for mass contacts, he referred to the gradual transformation of the Congress from a small upper class body, to one representing the great body of the lower middle classes, and later the masses of this country, and said that the Congress had to be democratised still further. He also referred to the proposals made during the last year of affiliating other organisations, of peasants, workers and others, which also aim at the freedom of the Indian people, and thus to make the Congress the widest possible joint front of all the anti-imperialist forces in the country. "The Congress has an extensive direct membership among these groups; probably 75 per cent of its members come from the peasants. But, it is argued, that functional representation will give far greater reality to the peasants and workers in the Congress. This proposal has been resisted because of a fear that the Congress might be swamped by new elements. Any decision of this issue will make little difference at present. For there are few well-organised workers' or peasants' unions in the country which are likely to profit by Congress affiliation. There is not the least possibility of any swamping, and, in any event, this can easily be avoided. Now or later some kind of functional representation in the Congress is inevitable and desirable".

Rights of Labour.- Dealing with the rights of labour, he referred to the B.N. Railway Strike, and said: "A great railway strike is now in progress. For long the world of railway workers has been in ferment because of retrenchment and reduction in wages and against them is the whole power of the State. Some time ago there was a heroic strike in the Ambernath Match Factory near Bombay, owned by a great foreign trust. But behind that trust and supporting it we saw the apparatus of Government functioning in the most extraordinary way. The workers in our country have yet to gain elementary rights; they have yet to have an eight hour day and unemployment insurance and a guaranteed living wage".

World Peace Movement. - "The Congress must line up with all the progressive forces of the world and must stand for world peace. Recently there has taken place in Europe a significant development in the peace movement. The World Peace Congress, held at Brussels in September last, brought together numerous mass organisations on a common platform and gave an effective lead for peace".

"The problem of peace cannot be separated from imperialism, and in order to remove the root causes of war, imperialism must go. We believe in the sanctity of treaties, but we cannot consider ourselves bound by treaties in the making of which the ~~Indi~~ people of India had no part, unless we accept them in due course."

League of Nations.- "The League of Nations has fallen very low and there are few who take it seriously as an instrument for the preservation of peace. India has no enthusiasm for it whatever and the Indian membership of the League is a farce, for the selection of delegates is made by the British Government. We must work for a real League of Nations, democratically constructed, which would in effect be a League of Peoples. If even the present League, ineffective and powerless as it is, can be used in favour of peace, we shall welcome it."

Resolutions Adopted.- The session adopted on the whole 21 resolutions. Among these, the important ones were resolutions: (1) welcoming the efforts of the World Peace Congress to ensure universal peace and according India's support to it, (2) condemning the civil war in Spain and expressing sympathy with the Spanish Government, (3) declaring India's unwillingness to take part in future ~~imperialistic~~ wars of Great Britain, (4) condemning the Government's "forward" policy on the North West Frontier, (5) sympathising with detenus and demanding the release of political prisoners, (6) urging more active action by the Government for the betterment of the conditions of ~~Indians~~ overseas and for removing the numerous disabilities under which they laboured, (7) expressing concern at the alarming frequency in recent years of colliery disasters and recommending the adoption of more efficient safety provisions, (8) expressing sympathy with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway strikers, (9) advocating the taking of more efficient steps by the Congress to ensure closer contacts with the Indian masses,

(10) protesting against the suppression of civil liberties by the Government, (11) rejecting the Reformed Constitution, (12) urging the desirability of summoning by April 1937<sup>of</sup> a national Convention of Congress members of the provincial and central legislatures, members of the All India Congress Committee and such others as the Working Committee of the Congress might recommend, (13) demanding redress of the grievances of Indian agriculturists, (14) soliciting the support of the country for Congress candidates in the elections, (15) advocating non-participation in the coronation celebrations, and (16) recommending the observance of an hartal on 1st April 1937, the day on which the new Constitution comes into existence.

The following is the personnel of the Working-Committee of the Congress for 1937:-

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Seth Jammalal Bajaj, Acharya Kriplani, Sjt. Bhulabhai Desai, Acharya Narendra Dev, Sjt. Achyut Patwardhan, Sjt. Shankerrao Deo, Babu Sarat Chandra Bose, Pundit Govind Vallabh Pant, and Sjt. Jairamdas Daulatram.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27 to 31-12-36)+