

C 1903/133

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for December 1939.

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1.

National Labour Legislation.

Attention is directed to the following:-

Assam.

Assam Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1939.

The rules relate to the appointment of inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and to the form of certificate of age required by the Act.

(Notification No. 7725-G.J. dated 12-12-1939: The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 20-12-1939. page 1432).

Assam.

Draft of Assam Employment of Children (Railways other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1940.

The draft Rules relate to the appointment of inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and to the form of certificates of age required by the Act.

(Notification No. 7726-G.J. dated 12-12-1939. The Assam Gazette, Part II).

Bengal.

The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939.

The Bengal Government introduced in the local legislative council on 6-12-1939 the Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939. The Bill extends to the whole of the Province, but it is to apply, in the first instance, to Calcutta City and suburbs and to municipal areas in the districts of the 24-paragans, Howrah and Hooghly. The Bill applied to shops, commercial establishments and establishments for public entertainment or amusement like restaurants, eating houses, cafes, theatres, etc. An obligation to close all establishments covered by the Bill for 1½ days in a week is prescribed. The closing time for shops is 8 p.m., and working hours are fixed at 10 per day and 56 per week. Hours of work in commercial establishments are fixed at 208 per month, while the spread-over per day is not to exceed 12 hours.

The Bill also regulates the payment of wages of employees in establishments covered by it, and stipulates for over-time work 1¼ times the usual wage rate. One month's sick leave with pay per annum to employees is also prescribed.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary, dated 6-12-1939, pages 297 to 305)



The Bill was referred to a Select Committee on 11-12-1939.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 13-12-1939).

Bengal.

The Bengal Workmen's Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Government of Bengal has introduced recently in the local Legislative Council a Bill (for text vide pages 21 to 23 of Part IV B of the Calcutta Gazette dated 31-8-1939) which seeks to amend the Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934, so as to make its provisions regarding prevention of besetting industrial establishments more effective. Further, the Bill extends the protection afforded by the Act to workmen in the employ of local authorities and public utility services, as also to seamen.

The Bill was passed by the Council on 11-12-1939.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-12-1939).

Berar.

Amendment to Factories Rules.

The C.P. and Berar Government has notified an amendment to the Factories Rules of Berar; the amendment refers to the rules relating to prior intimation by employers of the weekly rest-day.

(Notification No. 5570-1445-VII, dated 20-12-1939; The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III dated 22-12-1939, page 1905).

Madras.

Amendments to Madras Trade Unions Regulations, 1927.

The Government of Madras has notified certain amendments to the Madras Trade Unions Regulations, 1927; the amendments relate to changes mostly verbal, necessitated by the introduction of Provincial Autonomy.

(Notification No. 983 dated 11-12-1939 G.O.Ms. No.3004, Development; Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 19-12-1939, page 1637).

Madras.Amendment to the Madras Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The amendment relates to the form for the annual return relating to deductions from wages prescribed in the Madras Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

(Notification No. 997, dated 14-12-1939, Fort St. George, Part I, dated 19-12-1939, page 1640).

Punjab.Select Committee's Report on Punjab Trade Employees Bill, 1939.

The main alterations which the Select Committee has made in the Punjab Trade Employees Bill, 1939, are the deletion of sections relating to closing hours, (section 3) provisions as to trading elsewhere than in shops (section 4), closing on Sundays (section 8), payment of wages on holidays (section 9), and closure of shops on public holidays (section 10). Other amendments include the reduction of hours of employment prescribed in section 6 and grant of holidays with pay (section 11).

(The Government Gazette, Punjab, Part V, dated 15-12-1939, pages 118 to 131).

U.P.Draft Amendments to U.P. Factories Rules, 1935.

The U.P. Government proposes to amend Rule 102 of its Factories Rules so as to exempt work in electrical steel-smelting furnaces and rolling mills working in conjunction with such furnaces from the operation of the provision of the Factories Act relating to hours of work and rest periods.

The draft amendment is to be taken into consideration by 15-3-1940.

(Notification No. 7167/XVIII - 563 (1) dated 11-12-1939; The U.P. Gazette, Part I-A, dated 16-12-1939, page 421).

Social and Economic Conditions in War TimeHours of Work +Bombay. -

A draft notification of the Bombay Government proposes to exempt adult workers employed on work on choppers, digesters, kneaders, strainers and washers, beaters, paper-making machines, pumping plant, reelers, cutters and power plant from the operation of sections 35, 36 and 37 (intervals for rest) of the Factories Act, subject to the provision that workers shall be engaged only on 8-hour shifts and that a day of rest should be given at least once in 14 days.

(Notification No.S.129 dated 13-12-1939:  
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part  
IV-A, dated 21-12-1939, pages 2310  
to 2311.) +

Mamras. -

A notification of the local Government exempts two engineering workshops from the Hours of Employment provisions of the Factories Act for the duration of the war emergency. The workers in these workshops, however, are to be given due overtime pay, substituted holidays and rest intervals.

(Notification No.982 dated 11-12-1939,  
G.O.Ms.No. 3001, Development: Fort  
St. George Gazette, Part I, dated  
19-12-1939, page 1637.) +

EmploymentEffects of War on Cotton Industry:Increased Production and Employment. +

The following information about the repercussions of the war on the Bombay cotton textile industry is taken from a note on the subject published in the Times of India dated 16-12-1939:

Absorption of More Workers and Extended Working Hours. - The textile industry in Bombay has been able to absorb no fewer than 12,000 operatives during the last few weeks.

Several mills in the city which had been working partially even during the day till about three months ago are now manufacturing piece-goods to their full capacity, while 12 other mills have started night shifts during the past three months. Consequently, the employment situation in the industry has improved by about eight per cent.

Increased Production. - It was only in July 1939 that the cotton manufacturers were planning for an organised effort to reduce production, with a view to adjusting their production<sub>x</sub> to the fall in demand. The

war relieved them of the glut of stocks lying uncleared with them and encouraged them to abandon the idea of restricting production.

Fall in Cotton Imports.- Owing to the difficulties in regard to obtaining freights and the preoccupation of the cotton manufacturing countries with war, the imports of cotton piecegoods are likely to fall substantially. Some of the piecegoods merchants are of the opinion that Japan will not follow an aggressive sales policy in the Indian market on the eve of a fresh trade agreement with India, while Italy will not be able to replace Lancashire piecegoods.

Balanced Exports.- Assuming on a reasonable basis that the imports of cotton piecegoods into India drop during the first year of the war by about 50 per cent. and the exports of Indian piecegoods to overseas markets are up by about 100 per cent., Indian textile mills will have an additional market for about 500,000,000 yards during the current cotton year. To this can be added the volume of "war orders" that may be placed by Government with the Indian mills during the year.

Comparison with 1914-1918.- This war will not, however, be able to benefit the industry to the extent to which the last World War was able to, because during 1914-18 India was mainly dependent on foreign supplies, whereas now 90 per cent. of her requirements are satisfied by indigenous production. And in view of the rising cost of production and the resultant rise in the prices of cotton piecegoods, it is probable that the domestic demand may shrink partially. The industry is at present greatly alarmed at the tremendous rise in the prices for raw cotton and other textile auxiliaries, as well as at the difficulties in obtaining supplies of textile chemicals and spare parts of textile machinery from abroad. The cost of obtaining raw materials has gone up during the past three months by more than 100 per cent., while the prices for cotton piecegoods during the same period show an increase of about 50 per cent. +

### Price Control

#### Efforts to Control Prices:

#### Profiteering Curbed by Government of Bombay. +

As a result of the outbreak of War in Europe the prices of essential commodities of life shot up in the various provinces, and both the Government of India and the various provincial Governments had to take steps to protect the interests of the consumers and more particularly of the poorer classes. The information given below about the steps taken by the Government of Bombay in Bombay city summarised from a note on the subject published in "Public Information Series", Bombay, dated 1-1-1940 would serve to give an idea as to how the problem of profiteering is being tackled:

On 8-9-1939, the Government of Bombay received sanction from the Government of India to take all necessary steps to control prices, and on 9-9-1939 the Government of Bombay issued an order fixing the prices of certain essentials of life at the rate prevailing on the 1st of September, plus 20 per cent. This order had more or less the desired

effect inasmuch as the prices of certain commodities dropped. Later Government took steps to control the prices of certain medicines which had shot up by as much as 100 per cent. in some cases. On 22-9-1939 the Government, in response to the pressure of public demand, decided that, in view of the stabilisation in the prices of food-stuffs and in view of the existing level of prices for eatables, the maximum prices which shall be fixed in respect of eatables should now be reduced to 10 per cent.

On 14-10-1939, the Government was instructed by the Government of India to take into consideration the increased cost of production or importation in determining the maximum prices of controlled commodities, and accordingly certain increases were allowed in the case of commodities the cost of production of which was increased by a rise in the cost of raw materials since 1-9-1939 or the landed cost of which had increased since 1-9-1939.

It having been brought to the notice of Government that some of the retail traders and wholesale dealers were resorting to various methods to circumvent the measures taken by Government to check profiteering, the Government instructed all Collectors of Districts that at places where such profiteering is noticed cheap grain shops and provision stores should be organised with the collaboration of municipalities in towns and cities and village panchayats in other market places where municipalities do not exist. In fixing the prices to be charged by these shops to the customers, only the overhead charges (rent, establishment, transport, etc.) and interest on capital at a reasonable rate not exceeding 6 per cent. was to be added to the purchase price. Where the funds for the shops were not forthcoming from prominent persons of the areas concerned, Government was prepared to consider schemes of giving advances provided proper security for the loan was forthcoming.

As a result of this circular and also the previous orders of Government, prices slowly came down and it was found that traders and merchants were afraid of coming in conflict with the law. In the first week of December, however, it was noticed that prices were going up once again. Sir Gilbert Wiles, Adviser to His Excellency the Governor, discussed the steps that Government proposed to take at a Conference with leading residents and officials. He explained that the principal object of the Government was to protect the poorer classes and to see that they obtained their main food-stuffs at a reasonable price. To do this it was proposed, in co-operation with the Bombay Municipality, to open throughout the city "cost price" grain shops. At these shops food would be sold at the wholesale cost plus a margin suitable to each locality to cover overhead charges. At the start their stock should be restricted to grain—the principal food-stuff of the poorer classes. Government also appointed a Controller of Prices and a Consultative Committee to control the operations of the "cost price" grain shops.

Bombay Millowners' Association's Proposal to set up Grain Shops for Mill Workers.

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has been closely watching the rise in the prices of food-stuffs and necessaries of life since the outbreak of the war. Until recently, there had been no appreciable increases in the prices of essential food-stuffs, but during December 1939, there has been a very noticeable increase in prices, which,

on investigation, would appear to have been speculative rather than economic. The Millowners' Association proposed, therefore, to open by the end of December 1939 sixty grain shops for the benefit of their employees who number about 150,000. The scheme, it is expected, will enable the workers to save about Rs.300,000 every month on the basis of the present level of commodity prices. Textile workers in Bombay may not, therefore, have to pay anything more than they used to pay for their food-stuffs and other necessities of life before the outbreak of war.

(December 1939 issue of the  
Indian Textile Journal, Bombay).

Cheap Grain Shops in Ahmedabad:  
Action by Millowners' Association.

Early in December 1939, the Central Executive Committee of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association resolved that the Millowners' Association be requested to open cheap grain shops in labour localities in order to supply unadulterated and pure commodities at cheaper rates to the working class. It further resolved that a joint committee of the Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association be formed to attend to the administration of shops that may be opened. (The Bombay Chronicle, 8-12-1939). The Millowners' Association has acceded to the request and started some 40 cheap grain shops. The Ahmedabad Textile Association has also passed a resolution demanding an adequate war allowance. (The Bombay Chronicle, 10-12-1939).+

Grant of War Allowance by Delhi Mills.

The Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills, Delhi, and the Delhi Cloth and General Mills announced towards the end of December 1939 increases in the wages of the workers on account of the rise in price of food stuffs. Details of the increases are given below:

Birla Mills.- For wages upto Rs. 20, Rs. 2/8 per month from Rs. 20 to Rs. 45, 12.5 per cent of the wages, from Rs. 45 to Rs. 70, 7.5 per cent of the wages.

Delhi Cloth Mills.- For wages upto Rs. 20, Rs. 2-8-0 per month; from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40, 12.5 per cent of the monthly wage; and from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75; Rs. 5 per month.

Conditions of Labour.

Women Workers of Delhi Province: Chief Inspector  
of Factories describes Conditions of Work. +

The conditions under which the female labour force of Delhi province, numbering about 22,000, are working in small and big factories and elsewhere was the subject of an interesting talk given by Sardar S.S.Mehtab Singh, Superintendent of Industries, and Chief Inspector of Factories, Delhi Province, at a gathering of women social workers of New Delhi on 8-12-1939. A brief summary of the exposition is given below:

Nature of Women's Work.- Roughly speaking women workers constitute 20 per cent. of the labour force of the province. The quarrying of stone, and building and construction works employ the major portion of the women workers. Apart from employment in factories, women workers are engaged also in different industrial occupations, including cottage industries and domestic services.

Conditions in Stone Quarries.- The majority of the stone quarries are in scattered localities which are not difficult of access. The work is largely in the hands of contractors. Little machinery is used and, except in the case of Government quarries, no special arrangements are made for housing, sanitation and health. The quarries particularly depend on contractors' labour, which is attracted and apparently retained by a system of advances. Women workers are mostly employed on the conversion of stone into ballast etc., and are paid at piece rates, the unit of measurement being a box in some cases, and a vehicle (a thela, bullock cart, or lorry) filled to a certain level in others. The wage disputes which have occurred in the past appear to be due mainly to variations in the size of the box and to the substitution of lorries for thelas. There is no protection against petty frauds in the measurements and payments at piece-rates. The average earnings of an adult woman worker are estimated at annas five a day.

The protective provisions of the Indian Mills Act, 1923, have been applied by the Government to most of the stone quarries, with effect from 6-3-1939, to ensure working conditions which are reasonably safe and sanitary. There is no regulation of exempted private quarries, but exempt Government quarries are regulated adequately by an improved system of permits. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, does not apply to mines at present. Though accidents are comparatively rare there is evidence of cases in which no compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, was paid.

Women Workers in Building Industry.- Building operations of various kinds are, for the most part, unorganized and are scattered all over the province. In the aggregate, the proportion of women workers employed on construction, maintenance and repair work of all kinds is considerable and fluctuates continuously. Child labour is also not unknown here. The greater part of the labour employed is imported from Rajputana and Central India. In addition to private enterprise, building and construction

works are undertaken by Government and such works are generally entrusted to contractors, the Public Works Department exercising a general supervision over their execution. There is ~~provision~~ of a stipulation in the contracts for works in charge of the Public Works Department to the effect that no labourer below the age of 12 years shall be employed, and that the contractor shall pay his labourers not less than the wages paid for similar work in the neighbourhood. There is little or no reasonable provision in respect of proper housing, sanitation and health for the workers. Nor is there any arrangement provided for the treatment of cases of sickness or accident. So far as wages are concerned, no control is exercised at present, and there have occurred in the past a number of disputes regarding payment. The average wage earned by an adult woman worker employed on building operations is annas 0-5-6 a day. There is no restriction either on normal working hours or on overtime. The workers employed in the construction, repair or demolition of any building, road, bridge, tunnel, sewer, etc., come within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. There is, however, no regulation to provide for the proper reporting of serious accidents.

Factory Conditions.- The proportion of women employed in the large organized industries is comparatively small. In the year 1938, the number of women employed in such industries was 267 only as compared with 14,929 male workers. The conditions of work as are provided by existing law are satisfactory. In the matter of payment of wages or dismissals and punishments, the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, supplemented by fairly elaborate rules framed by the Government, have proved to be adequate in most directions. The protective provisions of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, as extended to the Delhi Province, apply to the regulated establishments and the total payment of maternity benefit during 1938 amounted to Rs. 340-15-0. The administration of the Act is entrusted to a qualified woman factory inspector, who is a lady doctor. The recent extension to the thread-balling establishments of certain clauses of the Factories Act, 1934, has ensured to about 2,100 women workers the protection of reasonably sanitary working conditions. The provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, or of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act (VII of 1929), as extended to the Delhi Province, are, however, not applicable to these newly-regulated establishments at present. Accidents are rare and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, provides for compensation for accidents which occur to women workers while they are at work in a factory. The workers are employed both on piece-wage and monthly wage systems of payment and their earnings vary with the nature of the occupation. The provision of welfare activities, such as recreation, education and medical assistance, is undertaken by the more enlightened section of employers alone. The large-scale employer in the organized textile industry has also made a provision on a fairly appreciable scale for the accommodation of his operatives. The women workers in the thread-balling industry are, however, left to provide for their housing accommodation themselves.

Women Employers in Commercial Establishments.- In the aggregate the proportion of women employed in commercial establishments, as Ayas (nurses), sales women, stenotypists, personal assistants, canvassers, etc., is small. The control of the employer in certain instances over the work and life of the worker is considered comprehensive. The hours



of work are, however, normally not excessive as discipline is laxer than in the regulated establishments. The woman worker is in some instances paid on a scale which is inferior to that enjoyed by the male worker in the occupation. There are, at present, no means by which, when necessary, the woman worker can effectively present her case.

Conditions in Cottage Industries.- Of the cottage industries in which women find employment the most important are embroidery, gota-making, manufacture of fancy-borders and tapes, niwar-making, leather-working, basket-making, tailoring and production of grocers' requirements. There is a large number of women engaged in different industrial occupations, but regularity of employment is non-existent. Nor is there any proper guidance for the successful prosecution of such occupations by women. The general level of efficiency of the woman cottage worker is from low to fair. The scale of earning per day of the worker varies within wide limits according to the character of the occupation.

Women in Domestic Service.- Domestic service for women mainly as cooks, is available in abundance in Delhi. The terms of employment vary according to the strength of the family. While a cook is generally paid from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10 a month, a domestic servant, commonly known as mehri, is usually engaged for Re. 1 to Rs. 4 monthly for purposes of sweeping and cleaning of utensils. Again while a cook accepts work for one or two families, a mehri undertakes duties for three to four units of families per day. The daily hours of work are normally not excessive and the general conditions of work are fairly reasonable on the whole.

Lack of Organisation among Women Workers.- There is, at present, no effective organisation of women workers employed in industrial occupations in the province. The social disabilities combined with lack of labour consciousness amongst women workers and the hostile bias of the employer generally have continued to be the main difficulties in the way of successful organisation of women workers. Supervision by males often leads to serious abuses and steps are still to be taken for employment of at least one educated woman in charge of their welfare and supervision where women workers are engaged in substantial numbers. To a large extent the obstacles to organisation which is necessary for the recognition of the workers' rights are internal rather than external; the need of education is great for a sound development of such movement.

(The Hindustan Times, dated  
9-12-1939). +

11

Conciliation Officer for Mines; Government of  
India considering Appointment. +

Encouraged by the success of the experiment of a Conciliation Officer for railway labour, the Government of India, it is reported, is now contemplating taking a similar step as regards mining labour, particularly in collieries. An early announcement is expected on the appointment of an officer, whose functions will closely approximate to those of the Railway Conciliation Officer.

*Towards the end of December 1939 the Government of India appointed Mr. N. H. Pyjar, I. C. S., Chairman, Coal Mines Working Board, as the Conciliation Officer for Collieries in addition to his other duties.*

(Industrial Bulletin No. 252 dated 4-12-1939 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Number for various  
Centres in India during September 1939. +

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during September 1939 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in September 1939 rose by one point to 106. The average for 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during September 1939 increased by 3 points to 76. The average for 1938 was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during September 1939 remained stationary at 73. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in September 1939 remained unchanged at 64.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in September 1939 rose by 4 points to 62.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during September 1939 advanced by 5 points to 103.

(Extracted from the September, 1939 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India). ,

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937:  
Motion for Circulation Carried.

On 8-12-1939 the Bengal Legislative Assembly adopted a motion for circulation of the Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937. The Bill seeks to protect the interests of fishermen of the province from middlemen. Generally, the main grievance of the fishermen is not against the actual rents to the proprietors but to extra impositions and levies, as well as the arrangements by which they are forced to sell their catches to certain people or agencies. These restrictions tell heavily upon the fishermen who cannot sell their catch to the highest bidders. In many places non-fishermen take lease of fisheries and ~~many of the fishermen~~ exploit the fishermen.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV - A, dated 21-12-1939, pages 227 to 230).+

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1939:  
Introduced on 1-12-1939.

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1939, was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 1-12-1939 by a non-official member. The Bill has the same objects as the Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1937, referred to above, but makes several improvements on that Bill. In this Bill provisions have been made for the settlement of fisheries with fishermen and co-operative fishermen's societies and for conferring occupancy-rights on the tenants in respect of fisheries in certain cases. This Bill also provides for the settlement of fair rent and abolition of vested assessment and illegal ~~cases~~ and abwabs. It has moreover provided for ~~the~~ penalty for the exaction of illegal cesses and abwabs, and restricted ~~the~~ interest on arrear<sup>of</sup> rent to 6 1/4 per cent. per annum.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV - A, dated 21-12-1939, pages 252 to 254).+

Conditions of Work in Indian Posts and  
Telegraphs Department, 1938-39\* +

Financial Working.- The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of four branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones and Radio.

The Financial results of the working of the Departments for the year 1938-39 are summarised below:

	Post Office.	Telegraphs.	Telephones.	Radios.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	8,12,73,618	2,43,04,189	1,00,72,931	11,09,153	11,67,59,891
Expenditure.	7,77,45,326	2,80,81,647	79,67,733	10,67,386	11,48,62,092
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	+35,28,292.	-37,77,458	+21,05,198	+41,767	+18,97,799

Strength of Staff.- On 31-3-1939 the total number of persons employed by the department was 117,151 as compared with 117,235 at the close of 1937-38. The figure includes 21,475 extra departmental agents who are not whole-time servants of Government and 2,756 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Out of the remaining 92,920 employees, 424 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, which includes 137 divisional and other Superintendents, 43 postmasters and 58 telegraph traffic officers, most of whom are in executive charge of the larger post and telegraph offices or of postal and railway mail service divisions, and 96 assistants and deputy assistant engineers, most of whom are in executive charge of engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 90 officers are holding higher charges such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department.

Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act.- Certain classes of employees of the Department are entitled to payment of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act for death or injuries received while performing their duties. During 1938-39, a total sum of Rs. 7,858-12-0 was given as compensation in 25 cases. Extraordinary family

\* Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi. 1939. Price annas 8 or 9d. pp. 82.

pensions were also granted in 12 cases amounting in all to Rs.1518-12-0 per annum to the dependants of employees who lost their lives while in the discharge of their duties.

Unions and Associations.- On 31-3-1939 the number of All India Unions ~~For~~ Associations of employees of the Department recognised by Government was 11. The total number of whole-time permanent employees in the Department is about 93,000 and the total number of part-time employees who are extra-departmental agents and are eligible for membership of the existing recognised Unions and Associations is 21,500. The total membership of all the recognised Unions as reported by the various Unions or Associations is 41,859.

Co-operative Credit Societies.- At the end of the year under report, there were 58 co-operative credit societies working for the benefit of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department with a membership of 66,043 and a subscribed capital of Rs. 2,961,000. These figures represent an increase of more than 2,000 members and Rs. 150,800 of subscribed capital over the corresponding figures at the end of 1937-38. Loans amounting to about Rs. 7,990,000 were advanced to 27,298 members as compared with Rs, 7,611,000 advanced to 26,229 members during the previous year. The deposits made by members in the societies increased from Rs. 1,988,000 in 1937-38 to Rs. 2,425,000 in 1938-39, indicating that the societies have not only provided cheap credit, but have also helped to encourage thrift.

Volume of Postal Business.- ~~Extending~~ <sup>Excluding</sup> air routes, there existed at the end of the year about 161,000 miles of routes over which mails were carried daily by different agencies, as compared with about 159,000 miles during the previous year. The increase occurred both in the mileage covered by Railways and by motor lines by about 900 under each, 51 mail motor lines having been newly introduced during the year. The following figures give some idea of the volume of business transacted by the Department during the year:-

	Approximately.	
Total estimated number of postal articles handled.	1,241 millions.	
Number of registered articles posted. . . . .	.39.4	"
Number of insured articles posted. . . . .	.2.6	"
Value of insured articles posted. . . . .	Rs.734	"
Number of money orders issued. . . . .	.40	"
Value of money orders issued. . . . .	Rs.743	"
Amount collected from the value-payable post. .	Rs.158	"

Conditions of work in the Indian Post and Telegraphs Department during 1937-38 were reviewed at pages 10 - 12 of our December 1938 report.

Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1937-38: Report of  
the Controller of Emigrant Labour, Assam.\* +

Labour Conditions on Tea Estates: Labour Population.- The total population of adult labourers working and not working on tea estates in Assam was 604,585 on 30-9-1938 as compared with 601,365 in the previous year, and of children 548,516 against 532,269 in the preceding year making a total population of 1,153,101 as against 1,133,634 in 1936-37. The number of new emigrants imported during the year was 33,015 as against 27,842 in the preceding year.

Recruitment.- The Bombay Presidency is still an uncontrolled emigration area, but 715 souls were recruited from it by the Tea Districts Labour Association, through their depot at Igatpuri, as against 565 souls during the previous year. As before, labourers were recruited from the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, the Central Provinces, Madras, and the United Provinces, all of which are controlled emigration areas. 27,740 souls were recruited by the Tea Districts Labour Association through their depots in those provinces, and 2,738 by the three other local forwarding agencies at Ranchi.

During the course of the year 31 local forwarding agent's licenses were granted for recruitment of labourers in the controlled emigration areas and some were renewed locally by the District Magistrates. No application for a license was refused and no license is reported to have been cancelled during the year.

During the year 31,193 labourers were recruited for both the valleys of Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families during the year as against 26,083 in the previous year. This year also the majority of the labourers were recruited from Bihar and Orissa, viz., 16,198 from Bihar and 9,176 from Orissa.

Cost of Recruitment.- The cost of recruiting through the Tea Districts Labour Association for the year was Rs. 58-13-6 per adult, the Sirdars recruiting an average of 6.4 adults each. The cost of recruiting for the year, <sup>on</sup> averaged Rs. 74-15-6 per adult and Rs. 57-15-9 per soul against the corresponding figures of Rs. 83-12-0 per adult and Rs. 63-15-0 per soul for the previous year. In spite of an increase in the forwarding rates, the cost of recruiting worked out lower than in the previous year owing to the rebate of commission.

Conditions in Tea Industry.- The conditions of the Tea Industry during the period under review differed from those which obtained during the previous year, in that the improvement in prices which took place in

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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 1938. Shillong. - Printed at the Assam Government Press, 1939. Price Re. 1 or ls. 7d. pp. 39.

1937 was not fully maintained. This is mainly attributable to the gradual increase in stocks which has taken place as a result of the larger release of tea for export for the twelve months ending 3-3-1938, and also an increase in the quantity of tea made available for internal consumption.

Two matters of importance to the Industry were, firstly, the passing of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, with effect from 1-4-1938 for a period of 5 years, and, secondly, the acceptance by 90 per cent. of producers in India of the scheme for the regulation of production and marketing of tea in India also for a period of 5 years.

Wages.- In the Assam Valley the average montly earning of men, women, and children settled on the gardens, were Rs. 7-1-9, Rs. 5-13-4, Rs. 4-3-4, as against Rs. 7-3-5, Rs. 5-13-7 and Rs. 4-4-7 respectively during the previous year. In the Surma Valley the average monthly earnings of men, women and children, were Rs. 6-2-5, Rs. 4-4-1 and Rs. 2-15-9 as against Rs. 5-10-11, Rs. 4-1-10 and Rs. 2-12-9. This shows that there was a fall in the Assam Valley and a rise in the Surma Valley Districts. The average monthly cash earnings of Faltu or Pastee labourers on tea gardens of Assam Valley Districts rose from Rs. 4-9-6, Rs. 4-4-6 and Rs. 3-0-7 to Rs. 4-11-10, Rs. 4-7-2 and Rs. 3-6-2 respectively for men, women and children. In the Surma Valley the average earnings of Faltu or Pastee labourers on tea gardens for men, women and children rose from Rs. 4-8-7, Rs. 3-3-2 and Rs. 2-3-7 to Rs. 4-12-3, Rs. 4-4-9 and Rs. 3-4-2 respectively. As usual, it will be seen that the settled labourers earn more than the Faltu or Pastee labourers.

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 375,680. The total number of tea garden schools in the Assam Vally during the year under report was 50 against 46 in the previous year, and the number of pupils attending them was 1,836 against 1,403 in the preceding year. In the Surma Valley there were 156,295 children living on tea gardens in the beginning of the year, and ~~there~~ there were 58 tea gardens schools attended by 2,317 pupils during the year as against 53 schools attended by 2,009 pupils in the previous year. In addition to this enrolment, 1,271 tea garden labourers' children, against 1,471 in the preceding year, attended ordinary primary schools situated in the vicinity of the tea gardens.

Land Holding.- 159,074 acres of garden land in Assam are held by labourers as tenants of tea estates, without any right of occupancy, the condition of their tenancy being that they should work as labourers on the gardens. 11,940 acres of Government land are held by tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley and 3,478 acres in the Surma Valley.

Inspections.- Out of a total number of 756 estates employing 50 or more labourers, only 354 estates were inspected during the year by the various inspecting authorities. Estates employing less than 50 labourers are not inspected by Magistrates or by the Controller unless there is reason to suppose that they employ emigrant labourers. Hitherto there has been no such case.

Repatriation.- 15,093 Emigrant Labourers and members of their families were repatriated during the year by their employers. Of these

8,413 were emigrants and 6,680 members of their families. The total number of souls who postponed their rights of repatriation during the year by executing agreements was 7,118. There were also a number of labourers who absconded from the garden.

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for various Centres in India during October 1939.

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during October 1939 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in October 1939 rose by two points to 108. The average for 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during October 1939 decreased by 1 point to 75. The average for 1938 was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during October 1939 rose by 2 points to 75. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in October 1939 declined by a point to 63.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in October 1939 fell by 1 point to 61.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during October 1939 advanced by one point to 104.

(Extracted from the October 1939 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India)..



Reports of Board of Conciliation and Committee of Enquiry  
on Digboi Strike: Resolution of Assam Government.

Attention is directed to pages 1401 to 1431 of Part II of the Assam Gazette dated 20-12-1939 where are published, first, the resolution dated 18-12-1939 of the Government of Assam on (1) the report dated 8-8-1939 of the Board of Conciliation and (2) the report of the Committee of Enquiry appointed to investigate the labour strike declared on 3-4-1939 in the Digboi oil fields of the Assam Oil Company and effect a settlement, and secondly, the full text of the two reports. The terms of reference of the Committee of Enquiry were:

(1) To enquire into the events leading to the incident of the 18th April, 1939 and into those subsequent thereto in so far as they are not sub judice.

(2) To enquire into the measures and actions taken by local authorities before, during and after the occurrence; and

(3) To consider the origin and causes of the strike and to suggest means whereby strikes of this nature can be avoided in future.

A brief summary of the Government of <sup>Assam's</sup> ~~India~~ resolution is given below:

No justification for Strike.- The resolution points out that the report of the Committee of Enquiry is not rendered the less important by the fortuitous conjunction of events resulting from the declaration of War exactly five months after the strike began, when the Digboi-Tinsukia area was declared protected under the Defence of India Ordinance owing to the national importance of the oil products in time of War, the removal from the neighbourhood of nine strike leaders whose conduct was preventing the resumption of work, and the consequent collapse of the strike, and draws from the prompt return to work of the strikers after the removal of their leaders the inference that the strike was not the result of any real dissatisfaction. After pointing out that Government have not yet framed their final conclusions on the recommendations in the two reports which concern the welfare of labour, the resolution directs attention to the finding in the Committee's report "that there was no sufficient cause for the strike either in the working conditions or in the actions of the Company, and that it must be ascribed to the ambition of a few individuals and their determination to impose their will at whatever cost in hardship to the men and loss of production to their employers".

Local Authorities exonerated - Regarding the first and second terms of reference, it is pointed out that the Committee found little of a serious nature to criticise either in the measures taken by the local officers or in the actions of any of those concerned with the events leading up to the riot of the 18th April, ~~or those subsequent.~~

though there were a few cases of indiscretion.

Ensurance of Industrial Harmony.- Regarding the third term of reference, the resolution points out that the Committee makes recommendations with respect to establishment of machinery for the prevention of unnecessary strikes, and the settlement of such real disputes as may arise, and says that the recommendations will receive the careful attention of the Government and that the necessary legislation has been under examination for some time; it is added that it will be necessary to consider in this connection the position and conditions of the tea industry which employs so large a proportion of labour in Assam, as also the question whether an official labour organisation, trained to treat labour and its problems with sympathy and understanding, is not a necessary adjunct to any legislation of this kind. +

Enforcement of Conventions.Factory Administration in Bihar, 1938.\* +

Statistics of Factories.- The number of factories in Bihar on the register at the beginning of the year 1938 was 351. 24 factories were added and 6 factories having ceased to exist as factories were removed from the register during the year under report. The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 369. Of these 369 factories 58 remained closed throughout the year. Of the 311 factories which worked during the year 240 were perennial and 71 seasonal.

Number of Workers.- The number of workers in factories at the end of the year was 93,034 as against 90,469 in the previous year which is an increase of 2.8 per cent. Of these, 86,137 were adult males, 6384, females, 326 adolescents and 187 children.

Inspections.- Of the 311 factories which worked during the year 276 factories were inspected as against 268 in the previous year and 35 factories remained uninspected as against 27 in the previous year. The total number of inspections of all classes during the year, including visits to unregistered factories, was 586 as against 401 in the previous year. 176 factories were inspected once, 58 twice, 23 thrice and 19 more than three times.

Prosecutions and Convictions.- During the year under report 15 factories were proceeded against as compared to 13 in the previous year. Of these, cases against two factories were withdrawn and one case was dropped as the accused had absconded and could not be traced. In the remaining 12 cases 27 convictions were obtained against 17 persons on a total of 22 charges. The total fine imposed was Rs. 870 as against Rs. 681 in the previous year.

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar for the year 1938. By H. M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1939. Price As. 8.

21

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisation

21st Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers  
of Commerce of India, Calcutta, 1939.

The 21st session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 18 and 19-12-1939 under the presidentship of Mr. H. H. Burn. The meeting was formally opened by Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy.

Viceroy's Address: Indian Industries under War.- The activities of the Department of Supply have resulted in large orders for Indian manufactured goods being received in this country, and there are two features about these orders to which special attention may be invited. Except in the case of jute goods and field dressings, the demands received from overseas are mainly from those who do not normally buy in the Indian market. Secondly, in some cases India is being invited to supply articles which she has not previously manufactured. Both these circumstances augur well for the possibility of India's being able to make a permanent extension of her markets in certain directions when the present direct stimulus owing to war conditions is over.

Up to date India's largest supplies have been jute manufactures, for which overseas orders to the value of nearly Rs. 110 millions have been placed in the first 13 weeks of the war. They include 713 million sandbags (this is exclusive of 200 millions ordered for A.R.P. just before the war) and 40 million yards of hessian cloth. Orders have also been placed for 3½ million yards of khaki drill cloth and two million yards of other cotton cloth valued at over Rs. 23 millions. For woollen cloth and blankets (contracts for the supply of three quarter of a million of which have already been placed) orders from overseas have been received which have justified not only the taking over for Government purposes of the whole production of the woollen mills in India, but the conversion of many cotton looms to woollen, and the stimulation of the handloom industry. Active steps have been taken to bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government and other overseas Governments the industrial capacity and potentialities of India. The latest success which has crowned those efforts is the obtaining of an order for the provision of steel huts for overseas forces, of the value of 2.8 millions of rupees.

Labour Policy.- In regard to the labour policy of the Government the Viceroy remarked: "I share in the first place your regret that the Conference of Labour Ministers which was to have been held in November last had to be postponed. But my Government attach the utmost importance to the need for co-ordination of labour policy and the fostering of mutual understanding in that connexion as between the centre and the provinces, and they have now convened the conference for January 22".

Trade Relations.- Negotiations are now in progress for the conclusion of a fresh trade agreement between India and Japan. The need for a good understanding between India and Burma in the matter of trade is obvious. As for Ceylon, the Viceroy hoped that such obstacles as stand at present in the way of further discussion for the conclusion of a trade agreement beneficial to both countries will be resolved, and that whether in matters of commerce or otherwise, relations between the two countries, so closely associated with each other for centuries, will be put on a satisfactory basis.

The rest of the speech was devoted to a review of Indian taxation problems and to the present political situation in India.

Mr. Burn's Presidential Address.- A review of the situation in India and the changed conditions caused by the war was made by Mr. H. H. Burn in his presidential address.

Resolutions: Co-ordination of Taxation.- A resolution on the subject of co-ordination and co-operation between the Central and Provincial Legislative and taxing authorities was moved by Mr. G. H. Hodgson of the Madras Chamber. Mr. Hodgson said that he thought that it would be generally conceded that the provinces in their not unnatural desire to develop their resources to the full had in the process shown a tendency to encroach upon the Central field. For purposes of illustration he mentioned the Madras General Sales Tax Act and the Madras Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Licensing) Act. He sought to show that in respect of both these measures, there was on the one hand doubt, and on the other the possibility of conflict, as between the provinces and the Central Government. He urged that there should at least be some uniformity of principle, and this can best be secured by the creation of some machinery whereby the Centre and the provinces may from time to time discuss matters of common interest in the provincial legislative sphere.

Provincial Labour Legislation.- Sardar Sobha Singh of the Punjab Chamber moved a resolution reaffirming the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting urging the establishment of some machinery of co-ordination to secure uniformity in provincial labour legislation and drawing attention particularly to the disparity now existing in the rules, framed by Provincial Governments under the Factories Act, prescribing safety measures to be adopted by factories against outbreaks of fire as a sphere where co-ordination is immediately desirable.

In moving the resolution, Sardar Sobha Singh detailed the disparities which now exist in the rules laid down by the various provincial Governments under the Factories Act and pointed out that in no province in India were such costly preventive measures required to be provided as in the Punjab and Delhi. In these two provinces, Sardar Sobha Singh observed, a factory is required to possess an ample water supply at all seasons, buckets to the number of a prescribed scale in each storey and, in addition, chemical fire extinguishers - one for each 1,000 square feet of floor space. These requirements, the Sardar emphasized were not alternative but cumulative.

Seconding the resolution, Mr. R. Menzies, representing the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, observed that events since the Chambers last met had shown that unless an adequate system of co-ordination was devised, future labour legislation would be introduced haphazardly in several of the provinces more from political expediency than from a general regard to industrial requirements viewed on an all-India basis. It was further apparent, he said, that in those provinces which returned a large number of Left Wing candidates to the legislatures, labour legislation would be extreme and the danger of maladjustment was more than a shadow of menace.

Payment for Police Protection.-A A third resolution pressed <sup>ed</sup> for the amendment of section 14 of the Police Act of 1861 which provides that employers of labour may be held financially responsible for additional police protection accorded to factories, etc., during periods of strikes. It was contended that this provision was unsuited to present day conditions. Mr. Ross of the Bengal Chamber who moved the resolution pointed out that labour conditions had changed greatly since 1861 when the Act was made, and when the country was much less industrialised than at present and the regular police forces were considerably smaller than they are now. During recent years, Mr. Ross said, strikes, in most cases completely beyond the control of employers to avert, and in many cases without justification and against the wishes of the majority of the labour force concerned, had been a common feature of the history of industrial India. Mr. Ross declared that strikes had frequently been engineered by professional political agitators for political motives which had no relation to the welfare of the workers.

Other Resolutions.- Other resolutions (1) promising all possible assistance in the prosecution of the war; (2) urging need for careful check on State expenditure necessitated by war; and (3) demanding revision of the rates of stamp duty on inland currency bills were also adopted.

(The Statesman, 19 and 20-12-1939 and Text of Resolutions Communicated to this Office by the Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce). +

7th Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation  
of India, Calcutta, 28-12-1939.

The 7th annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 28-12-1939, Sir H.P. Mody presiding.

Presidential Address.- Sir H. P. Mody, in his presidential address, after referring to the war situation, said that the war furnished an opportunity which, if wisely utilized, will enable India to cover a good few milestones in the progress towards industrialization. An essential condition of success in this direction must be closer co-operation between Government and industrialists. Two lines of advance suggest themselves. There are certain industries, the existence of which is regarded as essential to national development in every country. Those must depend almost wholly on Government for their promotion. They must, as in the case of armament industries, be directly set up by Government or, as in the case of transport and other like industries, receive tangible and substantial encouragement from them. In the second category are industries for which it will be necessary, in the first instance, to provide a measure of spoonfeeding but which in the end might be expected to look after themselves. The ~~policy~~ <sup>policy</sup> of discriminating protection which, in spite of its defects, has contributed so notably to the industrial development of India, requires to be liberalized to meet the new situation. The conditions which govern its application must be relaxed, and a more positive policy of industrialization needs to be pursued to achieve the fullest possible realization of the present opportunities.

Labour Legislation retards progress.- Since the advent of provincial autonomy, a fresh impetus had been given to labour legislation, and schemes had been projected and ideas put forward which they could not but regard as calculated to retard industrial progress. Referring to National Planning, he said that some of the best minds in the country had been devoting themselves to it, and they (the Federation members) hoped that from their labours would emerge much that would be of value to the cause of national advancement.

Labour Unrest.- Speaking on industrial unrest, he said that it was a matter of satisfaction that action has been recently taken which makes stay-in strikes illegal. Legislation for the control of labour disputes has been put through during the year in the province of Bombay and is under the consideration of other provincial Governments. Even if a perfect piece of machinery could be devised, however, for the regulation of the relations between Capital and Labour, it cannot but have definite limitations. Fundamentally, it is the human touch that is required, and whilst in the conditions of modern industry it is extremely difficult to establish personal contacts, a great deal can be done to prevent injustices and to deal with individual grievances.

Resolutions.- The following were among the more important resolutions adopted:-

Need for Uniform Labour Legislation.- "This meeting places on record the considered view of the Federation that it is extremely desirable that every effort should be made by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to secure uniformity in labour conditions throughout the country, and this meeting hopes that the conference which

is to be held under the auspices of the Government of India on January 22, will result in the formulation of a definite scheme to ensure such uniformity."

Mr. S. K. Sinha, who moved the resolution, pointed out that before the Government of India Act of 1935 came into force the initiative for labour legislation was invariably taken by the Central Legislature, such as the Factories Act, the Trade Union Act, the Labour Disputes Act, etc., and that between 1920 and 1937 the Central Legislature specifically dealt with labour subjects. Since the new provincial legislatures had begun to function, the popular Ministers were, because of their election pledges, being stampeded into unwise courses of action.

Mr. R.B.Lagden, who supported, said that whilst the development and emancipation of labour is recognised by all as being one of the primary duties of industry and of employers, industry should be allowed to have a greater say in the evolution of its labour. The evolution of labour must be advanced on sound lines based on realities and suitable to the industry employing the labour. One way in which such an object could be achieved would be for the Government of India to have a co-ordinating official whose office it would be—on behalf of the Government—to see that standardization between Provinces wherever possible was carried out, and such matters as minimum wages, holidays with pay, sick leave, etc., were not left to the whim of local legislatures whose view may well be influenced by ignorance of real facts, and possibly by hostility to the industry and certainly to the employer.

Association of Employers with Control Schemes. - "This meeting welcomes the steps which have already been taken for the purpose of associating the interests concerned with the various schemes which are in operation for the control or regulation of the production, marketing, and prices of agricultural and industrial products, and hopes that the principle so established will continue to be observed by both the Central and the Provincial Governments."

Office-bearers for 1940.- Sir H.P.Mody was re-appointed President for 1940, while the Hon. J.H.S.Richardson and Mr.C.B.Gourlay, were appointed Deputy Presidents.

(The Statesman, dated 1-1-1940) +



Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unionism in Burma, 1938-39.

Number of Unions.- There were nine registered trade unions in Burma on 1-4-1938. Of these, one union ceased to exist during the year under report and its certificate of registration was cancelled. Two new trade unions were registered during the year. Thus the number of registered trade unions at the end of the year was ten. Of the 10 unions, 9 alone submitted annual returns.

Membership of Unions.- The total membership of the registered unions on 1-4-1938 was 4,175. 2,311 joined these unions during the year and 835 left them. The membership of the unions at the end of the year was 5,633. The number of women members at the end of the year was 1.

Federations.- No federation of trade unions in Burma has applied for registration yet.

Political Fund.- No political fund has been constituted by any of the registered trade unions.

Trade Unions of Government Servants.- No rules for the recognition of associations of its industrial employees have yet been framed by the Government of Burma.

Unregistered Unions.- There is still a number of unregistered trade unions in Burma; but in view of the difficulty, as mentioned in the previous reports, of preparing a complete list of such unions, their number of membership is not ascertainable.

General Remarks.- It is stated that although there has been an increase in the number of registered trade unions during the last five years, there is still some hesitation on the part of unregistered trade unions in Burma to take advantage of the provisions for registration afforded by the Act. The membership of most of the registered trade unions is inconsiderable and the bulk of the workers employed in large industrial establishments still remain unorganised. The progress of the trade union movement depends, as remarked in the previous reports, largely on the raising of the standard of literacy and intelligence among industrial workers. Although under the Government of Burma Act, 1935, membership of a recognised trade union is a qualification for the labour franchise, this has not yet proved any great stimulus to the growth of trade-unionism in Burma.

(Summarised from the Roneoed Report on the Working of the Trade Unions Act in Burma during the year ending 31-3-1939, supplied to this Office by the Government of Burma).+

27

Intellectual Workers.

Punjab Journalists' demands: 8-Hour Day;  
Fixed Increments; Leave with Pay, etc.

At a meeting of Lahore journalists held on 3-12-1939 the following demands regarding their conditions of work were formulated:

(1) Maximum hours of work must on no account exceed eight hours a day; (2) Working journalists should be allowed 15 days' casual and one month's privilege leave, excluding the usual weekly holidays; (3) Salary should be paid on a date not later than the 15th of each succeeding month; (4) Increments in salary should be on an yearly basis and five per cent of the salary should be the minimum yearly increment, and (5) the institution of a provident fund should be obligatory on the part of the employer, which should be governed, in the absence of any special stipulation, by Government provident fund rules.

The meeting appointed a deputation to wait on the Premier and place the above demands before him, with the request that on the basis of these demands legislation be passed.

(The Hindustan Times dated,  
5-12-1939).+

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28

Economic Conditions.

Indian Sugar Industry in 1937-38.

The year 1937-38 was an eventful one for the sugar industry in India and abroad, says the Director, Indian Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, in his review of the progress of the industry during the year ending October 1938. The review states:

World Production.- The International Sugar Conference concluded its sittings early in 1937. The chief achievement of the Conference consisted in the division of the free market among the different exporting countries by the allocation of export quotas. No quota was allotted to India, this country having agreed not to export sugar by sea to any other country except Burma. An International Sugar Council with powers to restrict the quotas by as much as 5 per cent was formed to supervise the working of the agreement. As a result of the Sino-Japanese war and other causes the requirements of the free market in the first quota year fell short of the original estimates. It, therefore, became necessary to make drastic reductions in the basic quotas. The International Council, therefore, cut all quotas by 5 per cent and further asked for voluntary surrenders in order to prevent over-supply of the market.

The world production of sugar in 1937-38, according to Messrs. Lam-born & Co., New York, showed an increase of 173,000 long tons or 0.6 per cent over that of the previous year. The world consumption on the other hand showed a decline of 792,000 long tons or 2.6 per cent from that of the previous year. The stocks on 31st August 1938 showed an increase of 1,234,000 long tons over that on the corresponding date of the previous year.

Indian Production.- The production of white sugar in India exceeded a million and a quarter tons during the season 1936-37. This large production was mainly due to the bumper cane crop. The canegrower suffered losses as a result of difficulty in disposing of his crop and the reduced cane prices. The Manufacturers also were faced with serious difficulties in the marketing of this large production of sugar. The stocks of sugar with factories when the 1937-38 manufacturing season commenced amounted to about 170,000 tons. Prices dropped heavily as a result of the keen competition among producers in disposing of the carry-over from the previous year. In spite of the enhancement of the excise duty by 8 annas per maund, the fall in price continued till it reached the record low figure of Rs. 6-1-9 in June, 1937. It was felt by Government as well as by the industry that there was urgent need for the regulation of the production and marketing of sugar.

Control of Production and Marketing.- The Sugar Factories Control Acts were accordingly passed in the United Provinces and Bihar (which account for nearly 85 per cent of the production of sugar in India), which introduced a system of licensing of sugar factories and prescribed

that a licence to crush cane should be subject to such conditions as the Provincial Governments might, after consulting the Sugar Control Board, impose in respect of membership of any organisation of the sugar industry the main object of which is to regulate the sale of sugar and which is recognised by the Provincial Governments. Later, in the Rules made under the Acts by the Provincial Governments, the Indian Sugar Syndicate was recognised as such an organisation. The Acts also provided for the zoning of areas for supplies of cane to factories and for the fixation of minimum cane prices.

Reduced Production leads to Improved Prices.- The area under sugar-cane in 1937-38 was about 14 per cent less than in 1936-37. The production of sugar directly from cane shows a decline of about 16.3 per cent from that of the previous year. As a result of the lower production prices began to improve towards the close of the year.

(Industrial Bulletin (No.252) dated 11-12-1939 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay). +

Planning the Jute Industry of Bengal: Recommendations of the Bengal Jute Enquiry Committee. +

An Enquiry Committee consisting of 21 members and presided over by Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, I.C.S., Commissioner, Dacca Division, was set up in July 1938 by the Bengal Government. The Committee's terms of reference were (1) the regulation of the production of jute; (2) the marketing of jute; (3) the improvement of the price of jute; (4) the fixation of the price of jute; and (5) jute forecast, including the collection of information regarding stocks. The Committee has now submitted its report, a brief summary of which is given below:

Recommendations.- The Committee appear to have reached unanimity with regard to the problems of regulation of production, several important aspects of the marketing of the crop, and the question of the jute forecast, including the collection of statistics of stocks. But there has been some difference of opinion as to the establishment of a marketing organisation under the aegis of Government, and the fixation of a minimum price for raw jute. While the majority of the Committee advocate both these steps, the minority consider that it is neither necessary nor desirable that Government should, at present, assume the large-scale financial hazards implicit in these proposals. There is also some difference of opinion with regard to the policy to be adopted in respect of the Futures Market in raw jute.

Factors affecting jute prices.- Dealing with the various factors affecting the price of jute, the report points out on the demand side, apart from sand bag orders, the noticeable decline in trade demand since 1936-37. (An explanatory note at the beginning of the Report points out that it was drafted long before the war). The necessity for finding new uses for jute and new lines of manufacture is also emphasised. On the supply side, the surplus productive capacity of the industry comes in for close examination, and an expert investigation into this and other technical matters connected with the industry is recommended. The question of the reduction of the cost of manufacture comes in for scrutiny, and an interesting point about increasing the differential advantage of the Indian mills through manipulation in the price of the raw material is discussed.

Marketing.- Examining the defects and drawbacks of the present system of marketing, the report recommends the abolition of illegal deductions and allowances, standardization of weights and measures, and grading of loose jute. It also advocates some changes in the present practices with regard to the export trade and recommends the establishment of regulated markets and warehouses. The majority of the Committee further recommends that these should be established simultaneously all over the Province, and if they fail to bring an improvement in the price of Jute, Government should undertake the responsibility of marketing and financing the entire jute crop. With regard to the Future Market, the majority recommends its immediate dissolution, while the minority suggests that Government should forthwith appoint a competent and expert Committee to go into its organisation and working, and take necessary action on its report.

Plan of Action.- After making several recommendations relating to the fixing of a minimum price, transport freights, jute forecast, collection of statistics of stocks, etc., the Committee works out a detailed plan of action, which is designed to correlate its varied and numerous recommendations, into a coherent programme of work. The majority report recommends a period of two years for the execution of the plan, while the minority one suggests three years. The contents of the plan outlined by the majority varies somewhat from those of the plan framed by the minority.

(Summarised from a communique dated 6-12-1939 issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal).

The Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy Bills, 1939:  
Introduced on 8-12-1939.

Two non-official Bills were introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 8-12-1939 for the protection of tenants holding lands in permanently settled estates for non-agricultural purposes by compelling the proprietors and other classes of landlords in those areas to exercise in moderation their powers of ejection or extortion of exorbitant rents and other payments.

The statement of objects and reasons appended to one of the Bills points out that with the steady growth of municipal towns and market places in the country, the need for clearly defining the status and rights of non-agricultural tenants is becoming very acute. Laws entitling landlords to eject non-agricultural tenants, mostly inhabitants of the municipal towns and market places in the Province of Bengal, are so very hard that such tenants may be ousted from their homestead, shops and stalls with ~~fifteen days or six months~~ <sup>have</sup> notice even if they might ~~be~~ there for a very long time and spend their money in building their houses or shops or factory houses or in making improvement of the holding. The eviction can only be prevented if the tenants agree to pay exorbitantly high rates of salami and extremely high rates of rents.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV A, dated 28-12-1939 Pages 293 to 295 and 298 to 301).+

11th Industries Conference convened by Government of India, Bangalore, 15 and 16-12-1939.

The 11th Industries Conference convened by the Government of India was held at Bangalore, Mysore State, on 15 and 16-12-1939, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member with the Government of India, presiding. All the provinces and a few Indian States of industrial importance were represented. A novel feature of the Conference was the invitation to representatives of organised Indian industries to attend the session. The items on the agenda of the Conference were: (1) constitution and functions of the Economic Resources Board, (2) war and the industrial situation in India, with particular reference to shortage --- +

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and minor industries, (3) compilation of industrial statistics, (4) handloom weaving, (5) industrial research, (6) review of the work of Sericultural Committee ~~industry~~ and (7) review of the work of the woollen industry committee.

Presidential Address.- Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar gave a broad survey of the industrial position in India today in its bearings to the war and pointed out that War had created a gap in the imports of essential commodities to this country and had thrown into greater relief <sup>the</sup> needs, industrial and otherwise, of the country. One such need which was actually brought to public notice was lack of essential drugs. The Government of India had carefully considered the subject and had decided to appoint a Committee to investigate the production of drugs and how best shortages could be made up.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar also referred to the development of new industries as a result of the war and the synthetic support which the Government of India was prepared to give to deserving ones.

Proceedings of the Conference.- The following information about the work of the Conference is taken from press reports:-

War and Industrial Situation.- On the question of war and <sup>the</sup> industrial situation, several Provinces pointed out the shortages they were experiencing in certain essential drugs. The Chairman said that the shortages would be examined by a special committee.

Handloom and Minor Industries.- On minor industries and certain problems concerning handloom weaving, the chairman summed up the position that it was the desire of the Conference that these difficulties should be further examined and ~~essentially~~ the field of co-operation between the handloom and mill industries should be further explored. He also announced that the Government of India would extend the annual grant of Rs. 500,000 per annum to the end of 1941-42.

Compilation of Industrial Statistics.- Dr. T.E. Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India explained the Government's proposals for a Collection of Statistics Act. The object of the Act will be to make provision for the collection of important industrial statistics to enable the Government to have adequate information about industrial progress in the country. At present there are two publications issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, but the present position, said Dr. Gregory, was far from satisfactory. "Unless we can extend the range of information and can cover a large number of industries we shall hardly be in a position to assess the progress of industries in the country". The principal matters for which the Act should provide are, said Dr. Gregory, compulsory submission of returns by the parties concerned, prevention of wilful fraud or negligence in the compilation of returns, prevention of irregular disclosure of information collected under the Act and co-operation of provincial governments.

Opening of Commercial Museums.- On a <sup>discussion</sup> decision initiated by the Punjab Government regarding the work of Trade Commissioners, the Chairman explained the actual work that was being done by the Trade Commissioners and suggested that the Provincial Governments should themselves use this agency more.

An important suggestion was made to establish a trade or commercial museum at the headquarters of the Indian Trade Commissioners. The chairman pointed out that they would be only too glad to open such Trade Museums.

Other Work.- The Conference finally considered the usual reports arising from the proceedings of the Industrial Research Committee and the Imperial Sericultural and Woollen Committees and agreed that the distribution of grants among various Provinces should be continued on the existing basis.

(The Hindu dated 16 and  
17-12-1939). +

Indo-Ceylon Trade Agreement: Negotiations break  
down on Position of Indians in Ceylon. +

In September 1939 the Ceylon Government suggested to the Government of India that a conference should be held to discuss the former's proposals to restrict immigration into Ceylon and that the opportunity should be taken to enter into trade negotiations and to discuss other outstanding matters of common interest. The Government of India expressed its readiness to receive a delegation from Ceylon in India, provided that the Ceylon Government's scheme for the retrenchment of non-Ceylonese daily paid employees which had proved the stumbling-block to ~~the~~ earlier inception of trade negotiations, could be discussed at the conference and its operation held in abeyance.

The Government of India had based their objection to the retrenchment scheme on two main grounds. Firstly, the scheme, as originally announced, gave preference, so far as retrenchment was concerned, to all Ceylonese, however short their service over all Indians. Secondly, it placed indirect pressure upon Indian labourers by requiring all those with less than 10 years service to decide before December 1939 whether they would give up their employment in consideration of receiving a bonus and free tickets to their homes, the alternative being to continue in employment at the risk of retrenchment in 1940 without any bonus or other concessions.

According to a communique issued recently by the Government of India, the negotiations between the two governments on this question have not been successful. The Ceylon Government has refused to suspend the scheme or to modify it except to the extent, that Indians with more than 10 years



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service would be treated in respect of retrenchment, on the same footing as Ceylonese. The Government of India has come to the conclusion that this does not offer a sufficient basis for entering into negotiations as proposed by the Government of Ceylon and has informed that Government accordingly.

(The Statesman, dated 14-12-1939)-

U.P. Employment Tax Bill, 1939: Consideration  
suspended by Governor-General.

At page 37 of the report of this Office for February, 1939, reference was made to the U.P. Employment Tax Bill, 1939, introduced in the U.P. Assembly on 24-2-1939 by Mr. G.B. Pant, the then Premier of the province. The Bill proposed a graduated tax on employees receiving over Rs. 2,500 per annum ranging from Rs. 90 (for incomes between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 3,500 per year) to Rs. 32,000 (for incomes over Rs. 300,000).

A Press Note of the Government of India issued in the first week of January 1940 says that the Governor-General has decided to suspend consideration of the Bill. In the opinion of the British Government, which was consulted in the matter, the powers of taxation given to provincial Governments by the terms of item 40 of the provincial legislative list were never intended to bear the very wide interpretation which the Bill puts upon them. To make the situation clear, a Bill amending the Government of India Act was introduced in the House of Lords on 5-1-1940; the amendment is to the effect that, though such taxes cannot be called in question on the ground that they relate to a tax on income - a Central prerogative - they shall not exceed Rs. 50 per annum payable in respect of any one person to the Province or a local body therein. A larger amount is permissible only if fixed by a law of the Federal Legislature.

(The Statesman dated 7 and  
8-12-1939). +

Employment and Unemployment.

Alleviation of Unemployment in Jodhpur State:

Government to appoint Enquiry Committee. +

It is understood that, in pursuance of a resolution passed by the State Central Advisory Board at its last session, the Government of Jodhpur State has decided to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to explore ways and means of reducing unemployment amongst educated and uneducated Marwari youths of the State.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 14-12-1939). +

Unemployment among Bombay Secondary Teachers:

Teachers' Association sets up Employment Bureau. +

The Executive Committee of the Bombay Secondary Teachers' Association has started an Employment Bureau for the benefit of those of its members who seek employment in secondary schools. Every applicant who seeks employment through the Bureau must first be enrolled as a member of the Association.

(The Times of India, dated 12-12-1939). +

Incidence of Hemp-Drug Addiction in India.\*

Forms of Use.— Three forms of hemp drugs are at present used in India, viz., bhang, ganja, and charas. When finally ready for consumption the physiological effects produced by them are similar, there being only differences in the degree of potency. Charas and ganja are preparations from the same plant and differ in the amount of the narcotic principles they contain; the physiological effects produced by them are similar, differing in degree. Ganja and charas are mostly smoked, while bhang is usually taken by the mouth in the form of a beverage. Ganja is nearly four to five times more potent than bhang; the effects produced by smoking of ganja are approximately twice as strong as that of drinking bhang; and the effects produced by smoking charas are even stronger than produced by ganja.

Areas of Production.— The hemp plant grows wild over extensive tracts in northern India along the southern slopes of the Himalayas, coming well down into the plains. Its cultivation for narcotic purposes is strictly controlled and is confined to selected areas under careful supervision of the excise authorities. Hemp for ganja is mainly cultivated in Naogaon in the Rajshahi district of Bengal, in Ahmednagar in Bombay, in Khandwa in the Central Provinces, and in Santaravur in the Madras Presidency. Bhang is mainly prepared from the wild growth, except in one small area in Larkana district in Sindh where it is prepared from the cultivated plant. The preparation of charas is forbidden in this country, the entire supply being obtained from Yarkand in Chinese Turkestan, via Leh in Kashmir State and is stored in certain depots in the Punjab.

Uses.— The present use of hemp drugs in India may be considered under three main headings: (i) use in connection with religious and social customs; (ii) medicinal uses; and (iii) use for narcotic and euphoric purposes. The use of hemp drugs in order to produce euphoria and mild stimulation, although still common, is gradually declining. It exists mostly at the present time among the lower and working classes. Labourers who have to do hard physical work use hemp drugs in small quantities to alleviate the sense of fatigue, depression and sometimes hunger. This produces a sense of well-being, relieves fatigue, stimulates the appetite, and induces a feeling of mild stimulation which enables the worker to bear the strain and perhaps the monotony of his daily routine of life more cheerfully. The low cost and easy availability of these drugs are important factors in their use by the working classes, whose economic condition is low in this country. Hemp drugs are perhaps the only narcotic drugs which fall comfortably within their means and they make use of them as occasion arises. A dose worth two to four pice ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 penny) is often sufficient for producing the desired effect in a few individuals.

Consumption Statistics.— The total consumption of hemp drugs in British India during the year 1934-35 amounted to 1,031,496 lb., which

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\* Indian Medical Research Memoirs, Memoir No. 31 (July, 1939) (Supplementary Series to the Indian Journal of Medical Research), "The Present Position of Hemp-Drug Addiction in India" by Brevet-Colonel R.N.Chopra, C.I.E., M.A., M.D., Sc.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond) K.H.P., I.M.S., and Captain Gurbakhsh Singh Chopra, M.B., B.S., A.I.R.O. (Drug Addiction Inquiry, Indian Research Fund Association.) Published under the authority of and for The Indian Research Fund Association, by Thacker, Spink & Co. (1933), Ltd., Calcutta, Price, Rs. 4-0-0 or 5s. 4d. pp. 119.

works out approximately at 4.24 lb. per 1,000 of population per annum (according to the Census figures of 1931) as compared with 15 lb. during 1912-13. The consumption is therefore gradually decreasing and is nearly one-fourth of what it used to be two decades back. The United Provinces are the largest consumers of hemp drugs; next in order come the Punjab, Bengal, Bombay, and Central Provinces and Berar, respectively. As regards the incidence of the hemp-drug habit, Sindh shows the highest with a consumption of 35.12 lb. per annum per 1,000 of population, then comes Delhi with 23.84 lb., Ajmere-Merwara 14.6 lb., Baluchistan 8.27 lb., the Punjab 7.6 lb., N.-W.F.P. 5.94 lb., the United Provinces 5.94 lb., Bombay 4.4 lb., Assam 2.18 lb., Bihar and Orissa 2.2 lb., Bengal 1.6 lb., and the Central Provinces and Berar 1.6 lb., respectively. Charas is mostly used in northern and western parts of India, i.e., the North-West Frontier Province, the Punjab, and the western districts of the United Provinces. In Sindh, Rajputana, and western districts of the Punjab and the United Provinces, bhang is more commonly used in the form of a cooling and refreshing beverage suitable for the hot and dry summer months. In the rest of India, i.e., Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, Madras, etc., ganja is the drug of choice.

**Incidence of Addiction.**— It is difficult to form an accurate idea of the number of persons addicted to all the three forms of hemp drugs, as there are many occasional consumers and there is no system of registration of addicts. It is estimated that there are at least between 855,844 and 1,000,000 hemp-drug addicts in this country, i.e., approximately 0.5 to 1 per cent of the population of this vast country take hemp drugs habitually at the present time. The habit is on the whole declining and certainly not on the increase. The localities in each province where the incidence is high are urban and not rural. Addiction is also high in religious and industrial centres.

(A copy of the report on Hemp-Drug Addiction in India was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1915/39 dated 24-12-39.) +

#### Present state of Opium Smoking Habit in India. \* +

Reference was made at page 16 of our September 1939 report to certain investigations on the opium-smoking habit in India undertaken by the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. Further details of the results of the investigation as regards the present extent of the habit in the various provinces are given below:

**General Remarks.** The habit of smoking opium is considered so disreputable that no self-respecting person will own to it. Besides this,

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\* The Opium Smoking Habit in India and Present Position of the Opium Smoking Habit in India. Parts I, II and III. By R.N.Chopra, C.I.E., M.A., M.D., Sc.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.) Erevet-Colonel, I.M.S. Honorary Physician to the King and G.S.Chopra, M.B., B.S. (Department of Pharmacology, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta). (Reprinted from the Indian Medical Gazette, Vol. LXXIII, Nos. 2, 3 & 4.) (Feb., March & April, 1938)

there are restrictions placed on it by law, and both these factors make an accurate survey of its incidence very difficult. Opium dens are found in many of the large towns in India even to the present day, but the proportion of people who smoke the drug is very small at the present time. Its incidence among the people is very irregular and, although there are areas and certain classes of the population which are badly affected, these fortunately form a very small minority. The practice is at present confined to the poorer classes. It may be stated that the habit of opium smoking has considerably decreased in India during the last 30 years. According to some authorities the reduction has been by as much as 75 per cent. Below is reproduced a table showing the total consumption of opium in the different provinces in 1932-33 and the approximate number of smokers.

Provinces	Total consumption in lb.	Approximate number of addicts.
Madras .. ..	59,782	5,000 to 6,000
Bombay .. ..	38,084	900 to 1,000
Sindh .. ..	8,216	2,000 to 4,000
Bengal .. ..	56,180	6,000 to 7,000
United Provinces.	39,978	2,100 to 3,000
Punjab .. ..	63,082	800 to 900
Burma .. ..	43,625	3,000 to 4,000
Bihar .. ..	38,483	6,000 to 8,000
Orissa .. ..	..	2,000 to 3,000
Central Provinces	25,388	12,000 to 15,000
Assam .. ..	26,765	20,000 - 25,000
North-West Frontier Province. ..	1,682	3,000 to 5,000
Administered areas (Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and Delhi).	10,922	200 to 400

Position in Provinces of High Incidence (i) Assam: With the exception of Sylhet and Goalpara, all other districts of Assam show a rise of the curve above the standard laid down by the League of Nations. The consumption is high in the upper districts of Assam valley, particularly in the hill tracts and the Sadiva frontier tract. The consumption of opium here ranges between 122 to 188 lb. per 10,000 of population and the opium conference at Simla in 1930 marked these as 'black spots' in the province. The districts of Sylhet and Goalpara have a consumption even lower than the League standard, being 0.44 and 0.64 lb. per 10,000 per annum. The consumption of total excise opium in the whole of Assam including Manipur State was 26,765 lb. during 1932-33. The total population of the province according to the last census report was 9,247,857 and the incidence of opium consumption per 10,000 of population per annum works out to be 30.6 lb. per annum as compared with 84 lb. in the 'black spot' area.

As regards the actual number of opium addicts in Assam of 69,391, the survey made leads the investigators to believe that the actual figures on the official register do not represent the true number of addicts and that there are at least half as many more addicts who still remain unregistered and consume the drug obtained from various illicit source. In spite of these figures, the enquiries showed that the habit of smoking opium

has declined considerably in Assam during the past 20 years, and this is borne out by the fact that the consumption of the drug per 10,000 of population per annum, has been greatly reduced during this period. From the inquiries in different tea estates it would appear that the proportion of smokers is much the same there among the imported labour as amongst the indigenous population. Finally, it is remarked that the opium smoking habit is gradually being replaced by eating.

(2) Central Provinces.- A detailed survey of the prevalence of this habit in this province during the last few years showed that its incidence is still high as compared with some of the other provinces of India. The total consumption of opium during 1932-33, for example, was 25,388 lb. and the number of smokers on official record was 10,345 a figure probably somewhat on the low side. 'Madak' is the preparation which was principally used for smoking in this province. The types of persons given to opium smoking are low-class Mohammedans, artisans, hackney carriage drivers, and a few agriculturists. It is a vice of the urban rather than of the rural areas. In certain areas the habit also exists in the lower strata of society. Opium smoking has also spread to certain districts inhabited by the aboriginal tribes.

(3) Burma.- In Burma besides the special opium pipe, prepared opium is smoked in the form of what is known as 'katpon'. It is made by mixing the prepared opium with dried plantain-leaf torn into shreds and dried over a fire, the opium being thoroughly mixed with the leaf. This is then smoked in an ordinary pipe. On account of the large Chinese population, the smoking of opium is very prevalent in Burma. Among the Burman addicts, more eaters of opium than smokers have been registered. There were 53,000 licensed opium eaters and smokers in Burma, out of a population of 14,667,146 in 1933. The number of illicit opium consumers is probably quite large. In the deltaic areas of Burma and Arracan, where two-thirds of the opium consumers in Burma reside, the drug is consumed in small doses as a prophylactic against disease. Burman consumers are as a rule mostly eaters.

(4) Bihar and Orissa.- The habit of smoking 'madak' prevails to a certain extent in some districts but is usually confined to towns and important centres of trade. There were 5,979 individual registered smokers under the 'Bihar and Orissa Opium Smoking Act' up to 31st December, 1931, when the register was finally closed. There are probably 4,000 to 5,000 opium smokers in Bihar province at the present time.

Aetiological Factors in Opium Smoking.- (1) Social and Environmental Factors. The report states that a study of the conditions existing in the areas where the practice of smoking opium is common has convinced the investigators that social and economic factors play an important part in starting and continuing this habit. The standard of social and hygienic conditions of the working classes in these areas is very low. No healthy amusements are available and the workers living under such conditions are in search of some form of diversion which will enable them to forget, at least for the time being, the monotony, hardships and worries of their daily existence. Their intellectual development is low, the housing conditions are primitive, and overcrowding is general. The temptation and need for a euphoric is therefore always there. A large proportion of the addicts we have studied in the tea gardens and forest areas in Assam and the Central Provinces said that they took to opium smoking because they had to perform strenuous work in an unhealthy climate. They believed

5. that opium had a general stimulant action and increased their vigour and working capacity, and kept off hunger and fatigue. This belief has been responsible for the spread of the habit amongst the labouring classes in some of the tea gardens and the forest areas.

2. Racial Factors.-- Among the Mongolian races there appears to be an instinctive desire for a stimulant, and drugs possessing euphoric properties appear to have more attraction on account of their pleasure-giving and probably supposed aphrodisiac properties. The racial factor is in all probability responsible for the higher incidence of opium smoking in Assam and Burma as compared with any other part of India. The high incidence in the Central Provinces is, however, difficult to explain.

3. Heredity and Contact.-- 94 (or 31.3 per cent) of the addicts in a series of 300 gave a history of addiction in some member or other of the family, while in the remaining 206 (or 68.6 per cent) no other member of the family smoked the drug. Further, in 44 cases (14.6 per cent) one or other of the ~~present~~ <sup>present</sup> was an addict.

Exciting Causes.-- The main exciting causes are found to be association, with addicts and pleasure-seeking. In Assam, the Central Provinces and Berar, large sections of labourers in forest areas and tea estates are housed together. The opium smokers amongst them often try to tempt the non-smokers to smoke the drug. Others learn to smoke in clandestine smoking dens which are run by the traffickers in this drug. In India ordinarily it is difficult to obtain prepared opium for smoking purposes, but once the acquaintance with habitual smokers is developed, ways and means of securing these preparations are found. The addicts, as a rule, do not reveal the names of the manufacturers and distributors of these preparations. When the habit is confirmed, the new consumer realizes his helplessness especially if he has had the misfortune of running short of the drug and experiencing the symptoms of sudden withdrawal. Very often he himself starts manufacturing these preparations and keeps a supply in hand in case of emergency.

Other causes leading to opium smoking are diseases, fatigue and hard work, and as a substitute for alcohol and other drugs.

A copy of the Report reviewed above was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/1915/39 dated 14-12-1939. +

Social Insurance.

Unemployment Insurance Scheme proposed for Bengal:  
Motion in Assembly defeated..+

Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee moved a resolution in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 15-12-1939 urging the Government to introduce legislation for unemployment insurance. He suggested that legislation may be adopted on the lines of the Draft Bill on the subject prepared by the Government of Madras, providing for State control and sharing of financial responsibility primarily by the State, then by employers and for some years by the employees as well.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister for Labour, opposed the resolution and pointed out that the introduction of a scheme of unemployment insurance would entail a huge expenditure which would be beyond the capacity of even the Central Government.

The resolution was defeated.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
dated 17-12-1939)..+



Public Health.

2nd Meeting of Industrial Health Advisory Board, Ahmedabad:

Decision re. Medical Examination of Workers. ✓

The second meeting of the Industrial Health Advisory Board, Ahmedabad, was held on 29-11-1939, when the report of a Sub-Committee appointed at the first meeting for drafting a form for the medical examination of industrial workers, was considered and the form adopted with slight modifications.

In regard to the personnel for conducting the medical examination, it was resolved that mills which have their own doctors might be allowed to conduct the examination through those doctors, provided they were registered medical practitioners and came up to the standard of efficiency required by the Board, that part-time workers might be engaged as suggested by the Sub-Committee, that, in addition to them, full time doctors might be recruited on a salary of Rs. 50 per month, and that all the doctors should carry out the work under the guidance, supervision and control of the Board. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, has accorded sanction to the utilisation of the Fines Fund, available with individual mills, for defraying the expenses connected with the medical examination of industrial workers.

Dietary of Workers.- Another resolution of the Board related to the study of a balanced diet and ~~to frame~~ the actual dietary of the industrial workers. The recommendations of the Board on the subject are to be forwarded to the Textile Labour Association and the Mill-owners' Association, Ahmedabad, with a request that the latter body might issue a circular to its members instructing them to give effect to the recommendations by prohibiting the sale in mill restaurants of items other than those suggested by the Board and that a scheme should be drawn up for propagating the conclusions reached by the Board in regard to the dietary of workers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated 5.12.1939.) ✓+

1st All-India Food and Nutrition Exposition,  
Calcutta, 15-24-December, 1939.

The first All-India Food and Nutrition Exposition organised by the Publicity Department of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at Calcutta from 15 to 24-12-1939; Dr. Rabindranath Tagore opened the Conference and Sir Nilaratan Sircar presided. The Foreign Exhibits section contained a number of exhibits from the League of Nations, Geneva, the Ministries of Health of England, and Turkey, the Food Education Society, England, the Nutrition Research Institutes of Japan and Italy, the Eijkman Institute of Java, etc; this Office had also sent as exhibits the more important publications of the I.L.O. on the subject of nutrition.

The information given below about the food problems of Bengal is taken from a paper: "Food Planning in Bengal" read on 24-12-1939 at the Exposition by Dr. A.C. Ukil.

Cultivable Area and Population.- 51 millions of people live over an area of 50.3 million acres in Bengal, of whom 93 per cent. reside in 86,000 villages. It may appear from this that each person has one acre to grow his food from, but the net cropped area in Bengal is 24.7 million acres or nearly 50 per cent of the total, so that each person gets only 1/2 acre to get his food from, the amount of land which is allotted by animal husbandrymen for fodder to cattle. If 12 million acres of land which are lying waste as current fallow and culturable waste are reclaimed, 1/4 acre of crop area can be added to each person. The food yielding capacity of 100 acres of land is calculated at 100-110 persons in India, 45-50 persons in Great Britain and 70-75 persons in Germany, but the average yield of crops in the latter countries is several times (2 to 3 or more) more than in India and they have subsidiary industries to supplement the income from agriculture.

Pressure of Population on Soil.- Bengal is one of the most densely populated tracts in India, as well as in the world (650 per square mile as against 160 in England and Wales). The increase has been more marked in East Bengal, where in some places there are 1,200 persons to the square mile. Between 1900-1934, the area under food crops in India has increased by 9 per cent, whereas the population has increased by 21 per cent. The population of Bengal has increased by 38 per cent. within 50 years from 1881-1931, without a corresponding increase in the area of cultivable land. This has led to a fragmentation of uneconomic holdings and other causes of decline.

Deterioration of Soil.- The soils in most parts of India have now reached a stationary state of fertility at a low-yield level as a result of cultivation over many centuries, without adequate retention of organic matter and phosphate, and due to the lack of proper soil management in several important directions. The causes of agricultural deterioration in Bengal have been said to be due to the absence of adequate irrigation facilities, silting up of rivers and irrigation of tanks, deterioration

of bunds and tanks, bad drainage of 'bill' areas and water hyacinth, floods and denudation of forests. The proportion of irrigated to total sown area, which is 56 per cent. in the Punjab, is only 7 per cent. in Bengal (as against 15 per cent for the whole of India).

The Bengal Dietary.-- The main diet of the people of Bengal consists of rice, dal or pulses, vegetables, with a sprinkling of fish and or milk. Investigations have shown that the dietary of the Bengalees is too rich in cereals and lacks in animal protein which is essential for sustained growth, certain mineral salts, particularly, calcium and phosphorus, animal fat and vitamins, which are particularly needed for growing children, Milk consumption is only 3 ounces per head and, owing to defects in the supply and distribution of fish, the Bengal peasant hardly gets any tangible supply of animal food, which reacts seriously, particularly, on the physique of the growing children. The amount of rice consumed is far in excess of the body's requirements for a balanced diet, leading to a corresponding lower intake of pulses, animal protein, animal fat, vitamins and mineral salts. Fruits are rarely taken except during the summer (mango season).

Sub-Nutrition Standards.-- The result of this low level of nutrition is reflected in the poorly developed, toneless and physically inefficient people of the province with chronic ill health and low expectation of life, in contrast to manly, stalwart and resolute races of the north--the Pathans, Baluchis, Sikhs and Punjabis, who take, besides animal protein, wheat in preference to rice. The production of wheat in Bengal is only 0.7 percent and of pulses only 2 per cent of that of rice, thus contributing to the shortage of a cheaper type of (vegetable) protein in the food. To add to these difficulties, the Bengalees have, within the last few decades, taken over to milled or polished rice, throw ~~away~~ away the rice water which also contains valuable nutritive materials. The population are not only on a subnutritional level but also suffer from the inelasticity of dietaries due to religious prejudices, social customs and ignorance. The minimum cost at prevailing prices of an improved but not an optimum diet for a Bengalee adult of the poorer classes has been calculated to be Rs.5/- per month.

Need for raising Income Levels.-- There is an average of 5 persons per house or unit of family in Bengal and there are 2.5 non-working dependants to every earner and worker. Each family has only  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres of cultivable land, as against 21 acres in England. The living expenses of such a family consist of (A) food, (B) other necessities of life, such as tobacco, light, utensils, fuel, clothing and repairs to dwelling houses, (C) medical expenses, (D) social functions and (E) cattle food and manure. The cost of food at Rs. 5 per head per month comes to Rs. 240 annually. Other necessities of life based on the figures supplied by the Hon'ble Mr. Azisul Haque cost Rs. 40 per annum. Medical expenses have been put down to Rs. 24 and social functions to Rs. 6 per annum. To this may be added manure at Rs. 15 and cattle food at Rs. 25 per annum. The total comes to Rs. 350 per annum. Besides these, the ryot has to meet rent of land, cess, union rates, labour charges, bullock charges, cost of seeds, ploughs and other implements, interest for debt and perhaps some repayment of debt. Mr. Haque puts the amount of fixed liability of a peasant family for the above at Rs. 125 per annum. The above two major items added together make Rs. 475 per annum which represents the bare minimum for a healthy living without any provision being made, however, for education, recreation, and some measure of economic security. Against

this, the present annual income of a peasant family is Rs. 180-Rs. 250. It is manifest that the Bengal peasant needs to raise his income three times if he has to lead a healthy life according to minimum standards.

Insufficient Food Production. There is not only a shortage of cultivated and cultivable land for the growing population of Bengal, but the actual production falls far short of the food requirements of the inhabitants. The result is reflected in the shorter span of life, physical inefficiency, lack of resistance to diseases, chronic ill health and particularly in the growth of the young generation. On the top of this, Bengal imports annually Rs. 300 million worth of food materials to feed her hungry population. The Bengalee has to purchase these food commodities by incurring debts, as his income falls short of his estimated expenditure by at least 50 per cent.

Lines of remedial Action.- The problem is, therefore, not a simple one but a complex of several elements, which is difficult of solution except by co-ordinated efforts in several directions and perhaps by a thorough reconstruction of economic and social life. The possible ways in which the strain of a growing population in a densely populated area like Bengal can be relieved are (1) extension of acreage, (2) increase in agricultural output by improved methods of cultivation and by improvement of cattle, (3) relative rise in agricultural prices, (4) industrialisation and (5) emigration. ~~We shall refer briefly to some of these points.~~ It will be found in the end, however, that agriculture, industry, trade and finance are closely linked together and that without an organisation for intelligent production and fair distribution of wealth no satisfactory results can be ensured.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
dated 11 and 31-12-1939). +

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in Baroda, 1937-38.\* +

Position of the Movement.- The number of societies and membership increased during the year 1937-38 from 1,125 and 55,037 in 1936-37 to 1,139 and 55,735. The average membership for a society was 49. The working capital, share capital and reserve funds increased from Rs. 9,001,962, Rs. 1,028,677 and Rs. 1,572.124 to Rs. 9,181,048, Rs. 1,065,850 and Rs. 1,677,139 respectively. Deposits from members remained nearly the same. The borrowed capital, mainly loans and deposits from non-members, societies and Government was Rs. 2,132,882, Rs. 1,277,482 and Rs. 91,085 as against Rs. 2,009,685, Rs. 1,307,206 and Rs. 145,591 of the previous year, respectively. The owned capital was 61.8 per cent. of the working capital.

Classification of Societies.- Of the 1,139 societies, 24 were Central organisations, 901 agricultural societies (credit, 751; consolidation of scattered holdings, 77; cotton sale and groundnuts, 20) and 214 non-agricultural societies (credit, 173; housing 9; supply 7; students store, 21). +

13th Conference of Co-operative Registrars,

New Delhi, 1939. +

The thirteenth session of the Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies in India was held at New Delhi on 11 and 12-12-1939. The Hon'ble Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands, Viceroy's Executive Council, formally opened the Conference. In doing so, he stated that the present seemed, in view of the rising prices for agricultural commodities, to be a particularly favourable moment for an all-India drive for the better utilisation of the advantages which

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\* Report on the working of The Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1937-38. Baroda State Press 1939. Price Re. 1-9-0. pp. 111.

agricultural credit societies can afford, inculcation of the principle of thrift among agriculturists and for the reorganisation of societies which in the past were over-generous in their credit grants.

Resolutions: (1) Review of Financial Position.- One resolution, adopted by the Conference, recommended that the scale of fluid resources fixed for each province should be reviewed in the light of the distribution of working capital as suggested by the Reserve Bank and the results put before the next conference. In any case the scale of fluid resources prescribed by the appropriate authority should be strictly adhered to.

(2) Loan Policy.- Another resolution was to the effect that primary societies, other than land mortgage banks, should only give short and intermediate term loans repayable in a fixed period, ordinarily not exceeding three years and with due regard to the purposes of the loans.

(3) Bad Debts.- Provincial and central banks should in their balance sheets show the amounts advanced for more than one year and the amounts outstanding for more than one year. Bad and doubtful debts should be carefully estimated and shown in the balance sheets.

(4) Loans in Kind.- Loans should be advanced in the form of seed, fertilizers and implements where practicable, after a survey of requirements.

(5) Rural Health.- A resolution points out that the improvement of health conditions in villages may form part of the normal activities of co-operative societies. In areas where medical facilities are not easily available, special health co-operative societies should be organised with, if necessary, financial assistance from the Government.

(The Statesman dated 12  
and 15-12-1939).+

Education.2nd Indian Adult Education Conference, Bhagalpur,  
2 and 3-12-1939. +

The second session of the Indian Adult Education Conference was held at Bhagalpur, Bihar, on 2 and 3-12-1939 under the presidentship of Mr. S.C. Tripathi, Director of Public Instruction, Orissa. The object of the Association, among other things, are: to spread knowledge among the people of India; to initiate adult education activities; to co-operate with movements aiming at the removal of illiteracy; to induce the universities to take up adult education work; and to organise an All-India Adult Education Conference at least once every two years.

Resolutions.- The following are some of the important resolutions passed by the Conference: (1) All Government and private bodies as well as citizens of India should be requested to make arrangements for conducting adult education classes, and contributions of money, loan of premises and voluntary service be sought from all. (2) Villages should be provided with libraries and newspapers after the literacy courses. (3) Suitable literature should be produced for new literates. (4) Experiments should be made for the education of women in child-welfare, hygiene, first-aid, literature, music, civics, history, and cottage industries. (5) The "Indian Journal of Adult Education", which has been started from the current month by Mr. R.M. Chetsingh, be the official organ of the Association.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 5-12-1939, and Statesman, dated 7-12-1939). +

Industrial Training in Bombay: Labour Welfare  
Department sets up Workshop in Ahmedabad. +

The Government of Bombay, it is understood, proposes to start an industrial training workshop at Ahmedabad from 1-1-1940; this is organised by the newly-established Labour Welfare Department of the Government.

Objects of the Workshop: Unemployment Relief and Technical Training.- There is a two-fold aim in establishing this workshop. Its primary function will be to help in solving the problem of industrial unemployment. It is also intended to assist in raising the standard of skill and efficiency of those who are engaged as operatives in the textile industry in the city. In pursuance of the primary aim, namely, unemployment relief, stress will be laid on the equipment of the industrial worker for the pursuit of a secondary occupation which may be carried on in his own home or in a workshop, when the industry fails to afford employment to the worker. Efforts will be made to furnish remunerative employment to those thrown out of employment owing to fluctuations in the industry to the

extent permitted by the available means and facilities. The secondary occupations will be selected with the object of utilising the idle time of the workers to produce things which may be consumed by the working class in the city and by the mass of people in the surrounding area, as also of meeting the requirements of public bodies. In the list of occupations, drawn up for the purpose, handicrafts will of course predominate. The spinning and weaving industry is of special significance from this stand-point. There will be provision also for some occupations requiring mechanical skill and the use of machinery, for example, turning, moulding, etc.

Basic Idea of the Scheme.- The basic idea of the scheme is that in the course of his normal employment, the industrial worker learns a new job in his spare time so that he will not find himself altogether helpless if and when he loses his place in the industry. The course must be undergone before workers can earn any appreciable amount in the workshop. The object is to avoid hardships which may be occasioned if the course of training has to start after unemployment sets in.

Training Facilities.- The training facilities will be available for those who are already out of employment and the training can be speeded up in their case because the whole of their time can be utilised for this purpose. It is possible to extend opportunities of vocational instruction to boys and girls as well as to adults belonging to the working-class, and to others who may choose to adopt any of these lines as their principal occupation.

(January 1939 issue of the Public Information Series issued by the Government of Bombay). +



Agriculture.

Rural Uplift Work in Bengal: National Welfare Units formed. +

A new phase in the rural uplift effort of the Government of Bengal was inaugurated on 2-12-1939 when 13 "National Welfare Units" were despatched to the rural districts of the province.

Each unit consists of a party of five, with an officer-in-charge and ~~of~~ a specially constructed van, drawn by bullocks, containing various helpful exhibits, apparatus for giving cinema lectures, and a medicine chest. The officer-in-charge of each unit has received a short period of training under the Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries and Co-operative Departments of the Government of Bengal; with each unit also there is also a doctor and a compounder. A unit will spend at least one week in each locality, and the medical officer will undertake free treatment of such sick villagers ~~as~~ have so far been unable to secure treatment, as well as the compiling of a record of the medical characteristics of the area. The remainder of the staff of each unit is made up of an operator, an assistant operator and the necessary menial establishment.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 4-12-1939). +

Migration.

Illicit Skilled Labour Emigration: Government of India promulgates Rules for Greater Control..

There is considerable illicit emigration from Bombay which is one of the main ports of emigration for skilled workers. In 1938, as many as 381 offenders were detected by the Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, who in his latest annual report, draws attention to the dishonest activities of certain passage-brokers, which, he considers, are mainly responsible for this state of affairs. Passage-brokers are often the real offenders and the emigrants are the victims of their misguidance. There is always the danger that employers may, with the help of passage-brokers, evade compliance with the provisions of the law, so that they may not have to pay for the registration and deposit money and may also be absolved of responsibility to any authority for the treatment of their employees. ~~When the law is thus evaded, the emigrant goes out for work abroad without the protection of the Indian Emigration Act, and for whatever treatment comes his way, there is hardly any legal redress from the Protector of Emigrants.~~ New rules designed to prevent such illicit emigration of skilled workers from India and to protect the emigrants from malpractices, have therefore, been promulgated by the Government of India recently.

Compulsory Licensing of Passage Brokers.- The rules which apply, for the present only to Bombay, provide for the compulsory licensing of passage-brokers whose general business is to assist the emigrant to depart from India by booking passages. No person will henceforth be allowed to do the work of a passage-broker unless he possesses a licence issued by the local Protector of Emigrants, authorising him to carry on this work. The Provincial Government which acts as the agent of the Central Government in connection with emigration work, may, however, exempt any shipping company or accredited agent of a shipping company from the provisions of this rule.

Recovery of Cost of Recruitment prohibited.- Recovery of the cost of recruitment from the prospective emigrant by the licensed broker -- a practice of which the illiterate emigrant is often the victim -- is strictly prohibited. The term "cost of recruitment" is intended to cover any commission paid to a licensee, passport fee, doctors' fee, fee for stamping agreements, trade test examination fee and charges for transport from the place of recruitment to the final destination and for subsistence during transport and at places of accommodation. This cost, under the orders of the Government of India, has to be

borne by the recruiting agents or the employers.

Penalty.- Subject to appeal to the Provincial Government, the Protector of Emigrants is empowered to cancel or suspend licences of persons committing breach of the rules.

(Press Note dated 27-12-1939  
issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India). +

21st Session of the National Liberal Federation  
Allahabad, 27 to 29-12-1939: \* Resolu-  
tion re. Indian Overseas, etc. +

The 21st session of the National Liberal Federation was held at Allahabad from 27 to 29-12-1939 under the presidentship of Dr. R. P. Paranjpye. In the course of the ~~the~~ presidential address, Dr. Paranjpye stressed the need for planning of Indian industries and expressed satisfaction at the setting up of the National Planning Commission by the Congress.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions of political, social & economic interest; the following is a summary of the more important resolutions bearing on economic and social subjects:

(1) Indians Overseas.- (a) Ceylon. The Federation protested against the Ceylon Government's policy of discrimination against Indians in ~~employment and retrenchment and repatriation~~ of Indians and expressed satisfaction at the Government of India's decision to prohibit emigration of Indians to Ceylon.

(b) South Africa.- The Federation expressed resentment at the continued ill-treatment of Indians in South Africa and the policy of segregation embodied in the Asiatic Land and Trading Act which was adopted in spite of there being no proof that Indians were violating any of the existing statutes, or were resorting to illegal practices and in spite of the Union Government having undertaken under the Cape Town Agreement to treat the Indian community as an integral part of the population of the Union of South Africa and to take steps to improve its position.

(c) Fiji.- The Federation drew the attention of the Government of India to the grievances of Indians of Fiji and urged the appointment of an Agent to the Government of India in Fiji ~~which is necessary~~ to develop better understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Fiji and to enhance the status of the Indian community.

(d) Malaya.- The Federation appreciated the action taken by the Government of India in stopping assisted emigration to Malaya as a protest against the reduction of the wages of Indian labourers employed on plantations and urged it to prohibit all emigration of labour, whether assisted or unassisted, as has been done in the case of Ceylon, in order to protect the rights of Indian labour.

(2) War and Industrial Development.- The Federation urged the Government of India to take steps to encourage and develop all such industries as can be expanded or established on a sound basis during the war or are necessary in the larger interests of the country.

(3) Rural Economic Development.- The Federation advocated measures to secure: (a) the relief of agricultural indebtedness and the adoption of measures to check further fragmentation of holdings and facilitate the consolidation of agricultural holdings; (b) the embodiment in legis-

lative enactments of the main principles of land revenue assessment in provinces where this has not been done; (c) substantial aid in the development of industries, big and small alike; (d) a fiscal and monetary policy wholly in the interests of the country; (e) legislation for the more adequate protection of the labouring classes both in urban and rural areas; (f) the early introduction of free and compulsory elementary education for both boys and girls; and (g) adequate provision for medical relief and the promotion of public health, particularly in rural areas.

(The Leader, dated 29 and  
31-12-1939).+

List of more important Publications received in  
this Office during December, 1939. +

Conditions of Labour.-

Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September, 1938. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press 1939. Price Re. 1 or ls. 7d.

Enforcement of Conventions.-

Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar for the year 1938, by Mr. H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar; Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1939. Price As. 8/-

Industrial Organisation.-

Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in Burma during the year ending 31st March 1939. (Received from the Labour Commissioner, Burma, Rangoon).

Economic Conditions.-

Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar, for the year 1937-38; Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1939. Price As. 12/-

Public Health.-

- (1) The Opium Smoking Habit in India and Present Position of the Opium Smoking Habit in India Parts I, II and III by Brevet-Colonel, R.N. Chopra and Dr. G.S. Chopra (Reprinted from the Indian Medical Gazette, Volume LXXIII, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, (February, March and April, 1938).
- (2) The Present Position of Hemp Drug Addiction in India by Brevet-Colonel, R.N. Chopra and Captain Gurbakhsh Singh Chopra. Memoir No.31. July 1939. Indian Medical Research Memoirs. Supplementary Series to the Indian Journal of Medical Research. Published under the authority of and for the Indian Research Fund Association by Thacker, Spink & Co. (1935), Ltd., Calcutta. Price Rs. 4-0-0. or 5s. 4d.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar for the year 1937; Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1939. Price Re. 1-13-0.
- (2) Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 30th June, 1938. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1939. Price Re. 1-8-0.
- (3) Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Baroda State for the year 1937-38. Baroda State Press 1939. Price Re. 1-9-0.

Education.-

- (1) Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial School, Matunga, 1937-38 and 1938-39, Bombay. Printed at the Government Central Press. Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay. Price Anna 1 or 1d.
- (2) Annual Reports of the Industrial School, Yervada, for the years 1937-38 and 1938-39. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press.
- (3) Osmania University. Annual Report for the year 1346 Fasli. October, 1936 - October 1937. Prepared by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor. *Hyderabad (Deccan)*.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, for the year ending 30th June 1938. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1939. Price Re. 1-4-0.
- (2) Report of the Agricultural Department, Bihar, for the period from the 1st April 1937 to the 31st March, 1938. Superintendent Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. Price Re. 0-10-0.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) ~~Administration Report of the Jails of the North West Frontier Province for the year 1938. By Col. R.S. Townsend, M.C., M.D., I.C.S., Inspector General of Prisons, North-West Frontier Province. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P., Peshawar. 1939, Price Rs. 4-1-0 or £.0-6-3.~~
- (2) The Central Provinces and Berar Government at work from 1st May to 31st July 1939. Volume II-No.3. Issued by the Publicity Department, Central Provinces and Berar. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1939.
- (3) Government of India, Defence Department, Master-General of the Ordnance Branch. Administrative Report of the Contracts Directorate 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1939. Price: Annas 12/- or 1s.
- (4) Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1938-39. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1939. Price Annas. 8/- or 9d. +

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