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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for September 1940.

N.B. ~~These~~ section of this report may be taken out separately.

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National Labour Legislation.

Government of India.-

Amendment of the Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Rules, 1939.

The Government of India has notified amendments to the Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Rules, 1939. The main amendment is the addition of a chapter containing rules governing the application of the Stowing Mand.

(Notification No. M.1276 dated 20-9-1940; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 21-9-1940, pages 1370 to 1371.)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939:
Measure passed by Legislative Assembly.

Reference was made at pages 3-4 of our August 1940 report to the passing of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939, by the local Legislative Council. The Bill as adopted by the Council was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 11-9-1940. The Congress Party urged the imperative need for including provisions for regulating hours of work in commercial offices, and an amendment for the purpose was moved; this, however, was defeated. The Labour Minister assured the House that he hoped to bring in an amending Bill in March 1941 to give adequate relief to employees in commercial establishments.

The Bill was passed by the Assembly on 12-9-1940.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13 and 14-9-1940)

Bombay.-

The Draft Bombay Shops and Establishments Rules, 1940.

The Bombay Government has published the draft of the General Rules which it proposes making under the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 1-10-1940.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Extraordinary, Part IV-B, dated 25-9-1940, pages 959A to 959L.)

British Baluchistan.-

Draft Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1940.

The Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan proposes adopting rules under the Employment of Children Act, 1938; the rules relate to the appointment of inspectors and the form of certificate of age required by the Act.

(Notification No. A/122 (39)-Tr.-
8498-G dated 27-9-1940; The Gazette
of India, Part II-A, dated 7-9-1940,
pages 1652 to 1653.)

BURMA.-

The Rangoon Dock Labourers Registration Bill, 1940.

On 28-8-1940, Mr. Ba Thane (non-official) introduced in the Burma Senate the Rangoon Dock Labourers Registration Bill, 1940. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill points out that dock labourers in Rangoon have for years been subjected to great hardships as the result of the system whereby they are engaged and paid not directly by the person requiring their labour, that is to say, by the stevedore, but by various intermediary agencies or coolie maistries, who make large deductions from their wages. There is sometimes an inordinate delay in the payment of the dock labourers' wages and many instances have been brought to light where they have not been paid at all. Moreover, the undue influence into the Port of Rangoon of labourers desirous of obtaining work as dock labourers has resulted in unemployment and distress, giving rise from time to time to considerable labour unrest in Rangoon. To overcome these evils and improve the condition of dock labour the Royal Commission on Labour, as far back as the year 1931, recommended the registration of dock labourers and the direct payment to them of their wages.

This bill seeks to provide a remedy for the evils detailed above.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated
31-8-1940, pages 130 to 131.)

Madras.-

Extension of Factories Act to Match Factories.

The Government of Madras has by a Notification dated 16-9-1940 extended the provisions of the Factories Act, except a few sections relating to health and safety now generally applied only to large factories, to all places in the Province of Madras wherein the process of manufacturing matches is carried on with or without the aid of power and wherein on any one day of the twelve months preceding the date of the notification ten or more workers were employed.

(Notification No. 754: G.O. Ms. No. 2213,
Development, Dated 16-9-1940: The Fort
St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 24-9-1940,
page 1268.)

Orissa.-

Extension of Payment of Wages Act to "Partially
Excluded" Areas.

The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940, has been extended to the districts of Sambalpur and Koraput, which lie in the "partially excluded" areas, and to the agency tracts in the district of Ganjam.

(Notification No. 6282-III L-44/40-Com.
dated 14-9-1940. The Orissa Gazette,
Part III, dated 20-9-1940, page 533.)

Punjab.-

Provision of Fire Extinguishers in Factories.+

The Punjab Government has notified amendments to the Punjab Factories Rules, 1936, in respect of the clauses dealing with the provision of fire extinguishers and other precautionary measures to deal with fires.

(Notification No.6471-I. & L.-40/35354 dated 29-8-1940: The Government Gazette, Punjab, Part I, dated 6-9-1940, pages 1511 to 1512.)

Sind.-

Adaptation of Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929.

The Sind Government has notified the adaptation for Sind of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Rules, 1929, with suitable modifications.

(Notification No. 108-M/38 dated 29-8-1940: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A dated 5-9-1940, page 1516.)

Sind.-

Proposed Replacement of Sind Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories rules, 1936.

The Sind Government proposes replacing the Sind Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Rules, 1936, by a new set of Rules.

(Notification No. 1936/95/83-I(a)-E dated 2-9-1940: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 5-9-1940 pages 1517 to 1521.)

Sind.-

Proposed Adaptation of Bombay Factories Rules to Sind.

The Sind Government proposes adapting, with suitable modifications, the Bombay Factories Rules, 1936, for Sind. Criticisms of the draft are invited to reach the Government within three months of the date of publication.

(Notification No. 108 M/38(b) dated 26-8-1940: The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 5-9-1940, pages 1514-1515.)

Conditions of Work.

4

Hours of Work

Proposed Legislation re. Weekly Rest to Shop Employees Views of U. P. Employers.

Reference was made at pages 7 to 8 of our August 1940 report to the Circular letter sent by the Government of India to Provincial Governments with a view to elicit the views of the interests concerned on the proposed Weekly Holidays Bill. The following is a summary of the views on the Bill expressed by the U.P. Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Chamber, U.P.

U.P. Chamber of Commerce.- While it is felt that some sort of provision for social recreation to persons employed in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants and theatres is necessary, the Chamber is opposed to the main provision of the draft Bill proposing grant of weekly holidays to such employees. In its opinion, one day's holiday in a month would give ample rest to the employees. So far as Cawnpore is concerned, the employees in shops and commercial establishments, etc., already enjoy one holiday in a month according to their own demand and consequently provision of a weekly holiday is quite unalled for. The committee would like to add that "the provision of a weekly holiday would disturb long-established customs and usages of various markets and would go to reduce the volume of trade and earnings, with consequent diminution in the revenues of the Government".

Merchants' Chamber, U.P.- The Merchants' Chamber, U.P. recognises that legislation should be enacted, in view of the public demand and the passing of such Bills by the Bombay, Punjab and Bengal Legislatures to secure a minimum number of holidays for persons employed in shops and commercial establishments. The Council of the Chamber particularly welcomed the views expressed by the Central Government that such legislation should be undertaken centrally, and should thus be uniform in general outline in all British Indian provinces. It notes with interest that the provisions of the Draft Bill are elastic enough to suit the varying ~~many~~ local and provincial conditions, as also the exigencies of individual establishments. It, however, feels that restaurants and theatres should be excluded from the provisions of the Bill. The Council does not consider that, at the initial stage of social legislation affecting shops and commercial establishments, provisions should be made for a half holiday in addition to weekly holidays. The Council is strongly opposed to the exemption granted to shops and establishments under the control of municipal authorities or Government from the provisions of the Bill as laid down in clause 12 of the Draft Bill. The Council is also opposed to holidays being granted on fixed days according to clause 3 of the Bill and desire that option should be reserved to the individual employers to fix a weekly day of closing. In the end, the Chamber desires that the Central legislation regulating the grant of holidays to employees in shops and commercial establishments should be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible.

(The Leader and the Hindustan Times, 7-9-1940.)

The Employers' Association of Northern India.- The Association, while expressing its sympathy for the principle underlying the Bill, points out that larger commercial establishments in U.P. invariably grant a weekly day of rest and that shop-keepers allow their employees extensive leave facilities on full pay to attend marriages, deaths, etc., and to visit their villages. In some cases, casual leave with pay for sickness is also allowed to employees. A statutory holiday per week in addition to the present leave facilities is, therefore, likely to be a heavy burden on shop-keepers. The number of petty shops employing one or two hands, generally members of the shop-keepers' family, is very large and the difficulties of enforcing the Act in the case of these petty shops will be considerable. Moreover, this type of shop is run on a very fine margin of profit and the extra expense would be a severe burden. It is, therefore, suggested that the proposed legislation should not apply to shops which employ less than four employees and to owners of shops and establishments. Finally, the Association suggests that a controversial Bill of the nature proposed should not be proceeded with under the present abnormal conditions.

(Circular letter No. 176(II) dated 9-9-1940 of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore.)

6

Industrial Health and Safety.

Tuberculosis among Jute Mill Workers:
Enquiry by All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health*.

Under the auspices of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, an enquiry financed by the Indian Research Fund Association, has been undertaken into the incidence of tuberculosis among industrial workers. Three doctors were engaged in the work in 1939 in the Angus Jute Mills, Calcutta. The work is being continued.

Results Obtained.- So far 3,008 workers from various provinces have been examined, of whom 89.3 per cent. have given a positive Mantoux reaction and 14.5 per cent. radiological evidence of active pulmonary tuberculosis. The frequency of infection has been found to be almost equally distributed over all age groups and about the same in both sexes. The highest percentage of disease was found in the age group - 40-45. The "Winding" department of the industry gave the highest percentage of strong reactors (51.7 per cent.) and the "Preparing" section the lowest (16.1 per cent.). Milder degrees of bronchitis were detected in 15.8 per cent., dermatitis in 9.4 per cent. and naso-pharyngeal catarrh in 2.4 per cent. of the cases examined. A survey among the contacts of known cases has given a positive reaction in all the contacts.

A survey is also being conducted into the dwellings and their surroundings, the social customs and habits of the workers, financial status, nutrition, general mortality, tuberculous morbidity and mortality.

Two doctors are investigating into the problems of tuberculosis in home contact children. Till the end of 1939, 917 children aged 15 years and under have been examined. The results so far obtained show 67.9 per cent. positive reactors, 11.6 per cent. with active tuberculous pulmonary lesions, 6 per cent. with arrested lesions and 29 per cent. with tracheo-bronchial adenopathy (by radiographic examination).

* Annual Report of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, 1939. Printed by Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta. 1940. pp.61.

7

Inspection

Appointment of Sub-divisional Officers for Factory
Inspection in Bihar.

Attention is directed to pages 929 to 933 of Part II of the Bihar Gazette dated 4-9-1940 where is published a Notification (No.808-IF-27/40-Com.R. dated 30-8-1940) appointing specified Sub-divisional Officers to be ex-officio Additional Factory Inspectors.

Deductions from wages for absence:

Interpretation by C.P. Government.

Recently a dispute had arisen in the Empress Mills, Nagpur, in regard to the rate at which the deduction of wages for absence from duty is to be made, the question being whether the payment of the monthly wages was on the basis of the number of working days in the month or on that of the number of days in the calendar month. Formerly, the mills used to count the month as one of 30 days, but recently they introduced a 26 days' month. The interpretation of the relevant section of the Wages Act was disputed by the workers and a reference was made to Government. ~~(XXXXXXXXXX)~~ The workers objected to this change.

In July 1940 the management of the Empress Mills gave an undertaking to the workers that it was prepared to leave the question to be settled by the C.P. Government in the light of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act. The Government has now given the following interpretation:

Government's Interpretation.- Government is advised that under the Payment of Wages Act: (1) It is not permissible to deduct wages on account of absence for three consecutive days where an employee is absent from work for one day succeeding a compulsory holiday; and (2) It is open to the management of the Mills to make an agreement with its employees that the monthly wages shall be for the working days in a month. If such an agreement is made the employer is entitled to deduct not more than 1/26th of the monthly wages for each day's absence in a month containing 26 working days.

Government considers that the fairest solution is to apply the system that was formerly prevailing to the extent that is consistent with the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act. Where the days of absence of a worker during a wage period do not include a Sunday or other compulsory holiday, no complication can arise and it is permissible to the management to make deduction for each day of absence at the rate of 1/26, 1/29, 1/30, or 1/31th of the monthly wage payable according to the number of days in the calendar month concerned. In cases in which the days of absence include a Sunday or other compulsory holiday which has been preceded and succeeded by days of absence, it is permissible to the management, if they so wish, to retain the old rate of deduction for the days of absence excluding a Sunday or compulsory holiday, or in the alternative to make a deduction for the whole period of absence (and to include holidays in the calculation) at the rate of 1/30, (or the appropriate fraction as indicated above) provided that the deduction shall not exceed the deduction that would be permissible for the total period of absence excluding compulsory holidays at the permissible rate of 1/26 or appropriate fraction for the month based on the number of working days in that period.

The latter alternative may be illustrated as follows. If a worker is absent for a total of four working days, with a Sunday intervening, under the old system in a 30-day month the deduction for absence would have been $5/30$ th of the monthly wage. Under the provisions of Section 9 (2) of the Act, the maximum deduction permissible is $4/26$ th of the monthly wage. As the latter fraction is less than the former, it is not permissible to the management in this case to make a deduction on the old system of calculation including the Sunday or compulsory holiday so as to exceed the maximum deduction allowed by Section 9 (2) of the Act. If the period of absence, however, had been seven working days with a Sunday intervening, the deduction made under the old practice would be $8/30$ th of the monthly wage. The maximum deduction permissible in respect of this absence under the Act is $7/26$ th of the monthly wage. As the latter fraction is greater than the former, the deduction of the former amount is permissible under the Act and it is, therefore, open to the management to make the deduction of the same amount as they were doing before.

Calendar Month Basis Preferred.- In the opinion of the Provincial Government it is not compulsory on the management of the Impress Mills to continue the new system of making deductions for absence, but it is open to it, and in view of the assurance given by the management, it would be well advised, to revert to the old system, subject to the modification regarding deductions made for absence on intervening holidays; where such holidays do intervene, deductions for absence on working days may be calculated according to the method explained in the two preceding paragraphs. Retrospective effect should now ~~xxx~~ be given to the arrangement mentioned above as agreed to by the management, and if any extra deductions have been made from the wages of workers for absence since the introduction of the new system, the amount involved should be refunded to the workers concerned at the wage payment in September 1940.

(The Hitavada, 21-8-1940.)

Monthly Minimum Wage of Rs.15 and Rs.10 for Male and Female
Employees: Grant of Dearness Allowance: Decision of
Madras Corporation.

A meeting of the Council of the Madras Municipal Corporation was held on 3-9-1940 to consider the recommendations of an ad hoc Committee, appointed by the Council, to go into the question of the wages of the Municipal servants and the need to grant a dearness allowance. As a result of discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

(1) That all men labourers employed in the Corporation on monthly or daily wages, who draw less than Rs.15 a month, be paid a minimum wage of Rs.15 a month. (The number of men who come under this is 152 on monthly wages and 708 on daily wages).

(2) That all women labourers on monthly or daily wages, who draw less than Rs.10 a month, be paid a minimum wage of Rs.10 a month. (The number of such women comes to 549 on monthly wages and 22 on daily wages).

(3) That leave salary for 15 days in the year be given to all labourers (except to casual labourers) of over three years' standing who are not already getting it.

(4) That maternity leave up to one month be granted to all women workers.

(5) That a dearness allowance at a flat rate of Rs.2 a month be granted up to 31st March, 1941, to all male adult workers drawing between Rs.15 and Rs.25, and to all female adult workers, drawing between Rs.10 and Rs.20; provided that no worker who gets an increase in the permanent wage under the provision for minimum wage will get the allowance except to the extent of the difference between the increase in the permanent wage and the dearness allowance.

(6) That the Finance Standing Committee and the Commissioner be requested to put up expeditiously a supplemental budget for the purpose of giving effect to these proposals.

(The Hindu, 4-9-1940)

Industrial Disputes.

Conditions of Work in Kolar Goldfields:

Mysore Government orders Inquiry.

An inquiry into the recent labour strike in the Kolar gold fields and into the conditions of employment in the gold mining industry has been ordered by the Mysore Government. Dewan Bahadur K. Matthan, retired First Member of the Mysore Executive Council, has been appointed to undertake the inquiry as soon as possible. The inquiry officer has been requested by Government to review the progress and the adequacy of the various measures already adopted by the mining companies as to the economic and social conditions of workers employed in the gold mining industry. The inquiry officer will also examine the practical effect, so far as the labour population on the Kolar gold field is concerned, of the several measures of labour legislation in force in the State and to make suggestions to Government calculated to promote the object with which they were enacted.

Labour Deputation waits on Dewan.- A Mysore Government order on the subject says that a deputation of workers in the gold mines recently waited upon the Dewan of Mysore to explain their grievances and made representations about the conditions of employment in the gold mining industry. It was ascertained that, on similar representations made to the mining committee, it has decided to sanction certain increases in the rates of wages, and it was expressed that any legitimate complaint, particularly those of individual nature, if brought to notice, would be dealt suitably.

Labour's Demands.- The representations made to the authorities by Labour, include the inauguration of a provident fund for all employees, licensing of the profession of moneylending, providing for the regulation of the rate of interest, effective exemption from attachment of wages of all unskilled labour, and of a minimum amount of the wages of skilled labour, weekly payment of wages, payment of attendance bonus to contract labour, as is now being paid to company labour, and measures to improve the social and economic position of the labourers in the mining area.

(The Times of India, 17-9-1940.)

Factory Administration in N. W. F. P. in 1939.*

Number of Factories and Workers.- During the year 1939 the total number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 31 to 37. 6 factories were registered during the year and none removed. Of the 37 factories, 36 worked during the year and one remained closed. Of the 36 working factories, 23 were perennial and 13 seasonal.

The total number of operatives employed in all factories during the year was 1,268 as compared with 1,191 in 1938. Of the total workers employed in factories, 1,196 were males and 72 females as compared with 1,161 and 30 respectively during the previous year. 6 children were employed in factories during the year under report as compared with 5 during the previous year.

Inspection.- Of the 36 factories which worked during the year, 18 were inspected once and 4 twice. Fourteen factories remained un-inspected as compared with 7 in the previous year.

Hours of Work.- The hours of work in all factories were well within the maximum level permitted by factory regulations. Perennial factories found a 48-hour week sufficient for their requirements. Seasonal factories worked up to the 60 hour week permitted by the Act for the period during which they were operated.

Prosecutions.- No prosecutions were instituted against occupiers, and managers of factories for infringement of factory regulations during the year under report.

Legislation to collect Industrial and Labour Statistics;

Views of Indian Mining Association.

Reference was made at pages 16-17 of our July 1940 report to the proposals of the Government of India to adopt legislation regarding the collection of industrial and labour statistics. The Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, has expressed the opinion that if it was intended that mines should be included in the scope of the proposed legislation, the Committee of the Association would like to suggest that, owing to the conditions of colliery labour and its movement from one colliery to another and the fact that the coalfields in Bengal and Bihar were

Government of the North-West Frontier Province. Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1939. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1940. Price Re.0-11-0.

at present in a state of ferment, it would be advisable for the time being to exclude mines from the purview of the Bill in order to avoid further disturbance of the labour force.

(Proceedings of the meeting of the
Committee of the Indian Mining Association,
Calcutta, held on 22-8-1940.)

Calcutta Scavengers' Strike:
Report of Corporation Committee.

A strike declared in the last week of August 1940 by 90 per cent. of the scavenging staff of the Calcutta Municipality, numbering about 20,000, was unconditionally called off on 6-9-1940. The main grievances of the strikers were: inadequacy of wages on account of the high price of commodities, pitiable condition of their quarters, scarcity of water, paucity of medical relief, absence of maternity benefit for women workers, payment of illegal gratification, necessity for warm clothes and waterproofs, absence of benefit of Provident Fund and abolition of double shifts.

During the course of the strike, the Special Committee appointed in April 1940 by the Corporation to report on the grievances of the scavengers and other labour staff of the Corporation submitted its report. The following are its main findings:

Housing.- The scavengers have been agitating for the redress of grievances for the last 16 years, and resorted to strikes no less than four times during the period 1924-1933. The Corporation had promised them redress several times, but these promises have been honoured more in the breach. Thus, though improved housing was promised and an annual grant of Rs.300,000 announced, out of 20,000 odd workers, only about 4,000 live in Corporation quarters, and the conditions in these tenements leave much to be desired. The report recommends that scavengers' quarters should be regularly inspected, and necessary repairs immediately effected; the Corporation should also, as decided in 1934, undertake a scheme of cheap housing in the outskirts of the city.

Medical Relief.- Arrangement should be made for giving first aid to all labourers of the Corporation in times of accident; hospitals which receive grants from the Corporation should be instructed to admit the labour staff in cases of serious illness.

Provident Fund and Leave with Pay.- In view of the Corporation's straitened finances, the Report does not recommend the grant at present of provident fund and leave with pay to the scavenging staff.

Security of Service.- Every employee of the labour staff should be given the right to continue in service so long as he is not guilty of any misconduct or insubordination and an officer not below the rank of the District Engineer should have the power of dismissal. In any case of dismissal an employee will have the right of appeal to the Chief Engineer, and then to the Chief Executive Officer, and finally to the Corporation.

Illegal Gratification.- The strikers have not been able to substantiate the charge of prevalence of bribery.

Winter Clothing.- The report does not recommend the free supply at present of waterproofs and winter clothing, but suggests that the Corporation should consider this demand as soon as its financial condition improves.

Maternity Facilities.- Women workers should be given all facilities of maternity homes without any charge whatsoever, and they should have the right to get back their respective posts as soon as they are found fit for work.

Hours of Work.- The strikers have not substantiated the charge of double work being exacted. They have to put in only seven hours of work, with an interval of five hours from 9-30 a.m. to 2-30 p.m. Attendance in the muster roll twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon is absolutely necessary to obtain full work.

Wages.- As there has been no ^{great} rise in prices, ^{there} is no justification for the scavengers' demand of a 25 per cent. increase in wages. Though there is no justification for the continuation of the interim grant of Re.1/- as dearness allowance sanctioned recently, it may be continued if necessary to avert a fresh strike. As to the scheme of opening or selecting stores in different parts of the city for the supply of foodstuffs to the labourers at pre-war prices, the Report is definitely against it, as it would entail too much expenditure.

Note of Dissent.- Four members, out of the total Committee of eight, in a note of dissent express the opinion that the dearness allowance is justified and should, therefore, be continued.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4 and 7-9-1940.)

Repairing India's Industrial Deficiency:

Several Schemes considered by Board of Scientific and Industrial Research

The Board of Scientific and Industrial Research which met in Bombay on 8 and 9-9-1940 under the presidentship of Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, Government of India, discussed several schemes designed to tackle the problem of India's industrial deficiency. Among those present were Sir H.P. Mody, President of the Employers' Federation of India, Lala Shri Ram, President of the All-India Industrial Employers, Dr. K.N. Law, President of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Dr. J.C. Ghosh, Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, representing the mining and metallurgical industry, Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Board, and Sir Alan Lloyd, Commerce Secretary.

Decisions Reached.- Among other decisions, the Board recommended the constitution of a special Metallurgical Research Committee, taking into consideration the increasing importance of the metallurgical industry. Mr. J.J. Ghandy, General Manager of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, will be its Chairman and the chief chemist of His Majesty's Mint will be on the board. The Board also considered the report of the exploratory sub-committee appointed at an earlier meeting to consider the question of utilizing vegetable oils, and adopted the schemes proposed by that committee. The Board expressed the opinion that the extraction of oils from oil seeds, like rape seed and groundnuts for ~~using them~~ as lubricants either independently or by mixing them with mineral oils should be further explored, and suggested that the Government should consider the question of persuading the railways to make use of them extensively. Investigation for preparing margarine in a suitable form for popular use in those countries where it is used at present as a substitute for butter was also recommended by the Board. New schemes for the manufacture of cheap radio sets were referred to ^{the} research sub-committees for their opinion. Suggestions for strengthening the personnel of the fuel research sub-committee and the glass and refractory sub-committee were also considered.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in Calcutta in January, 1941.

(The Times of India,
10- and 13-9-1940).

Report of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee.*

Reference was made at page 28 of our April 1938 report to the appointment by the Bombay Government of a Committee, with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas as Chairman, to conduct an economic and industrial survey of the Bombay Province. The Report of the Committee has now been published; a brief summary of the main findings and recommendations is given below:

Economic Background.- The Province has a population of 18 millions, of whom 4.2 millions are in towns and 13.8 millions in rural areas. Literates among them number only 99 per thousand. The economic condition of the agriculturists of the Province compares favourably with that of agriculturists in other provinces. There are 4,037 co-operative societies, with a working capital of Rs.12.43 millions. The largest number of income-tax payers are to be found in the Province and, from the point of view of joint stock enterprise, postal savings and numbers of factory workers, Bombay takes a leading place in India. Bombay is also a leading commercial centre, the volume of its exports and imports totalling 555 millions and 787 millions of rupees respectively in 1937-38, which meant 30 per cent. of the total foreign trade of India. Though Bombay is thus a little better off than other provinces, taken by itself, its economic condition can hardly be termed satisfactory, when only one in 271 persons has an annual income exceeding Rs.2,000. It is true that the income-tax does not cover agricultural income, but even if it did, the number of those having an income of Rs.2,000 will not be increased by more than 30 or 40 per cent. The analysis of the occupational distribution of the people has also shown that Bombay is heavily dependent on agriculture and that industrialisation in the Province has not reached anything like the extent which it has in the other industrial countries of the world.

Industrial Activities of the Province.- Describing the industries of the Province, the report says that there has been a decline in the number of workers in cottage industries, but there has been a rise in the number of those engaged in registered factories, who totalled 479,000 in 1938. A sharp fall is also seen in the subsidiary occupations of agricultural classes. Such occupations lost by the cultivating classes include spinning, ginning of cotton by hand, paddy husking, flour grinding and handloom waving. This in turn has meant a fall in their average income. Out of 877,000 persons shown in the census of 1931 as industrial workers, only about 380,000 are supposed to be engaged in cottage and small-scale industries. The principal industries of the Province include textiles, dress and toilet, wood, bamboo and basket making, ceramics, brass, copperware and other metals, food, tobacco, chemicals, match industries, hides and skins, furniture, dairy, ~~soap~~ soap industries, fruit canning, aerated waters, gold and silver thread, sandalwood and ivory carving, glass works, fishing and fish curing and poultry farming.

* Report of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee,

Textiles feature as the most important industry, embracing the big spinning and weaving mills, where looms and spindles run into thousands; smaller power loom factories, where looms vary from 10 to 20 to a few hundreds; and the handloom weaving industry. The hand-loom industry does not seem to possess much more than 100,000 looms and produces 167 million yards of cloth, whereas the large-scale textiles possess 5,651,084 spindles and 130,562 looms and produce no less than 2,763 million yards of cloth.

Handicaps suffered by Cottage Industries:

1. Difficulty of obtaining Raw Material.- The main difficulties arise in connection with the obtaining of raw material, inefficiency of technique and implements, finance, marketing and taxation. The artisan finds difficulty in getting adequate supplies of raw materials and what he gets is what remains after the demands of the export dealer and the big manufacturers are satisfied; this means that the supplies left to the cottage worker are of poor quality. In addition, some middlemen practise fraud and material of inferior quality is passed off as of superior quality.

2. Declining Remuneration.- There has been a great decline in the earnings of the cottage worker who has been pathetically helpless to resist reduction in his remuneration. The artisan's implements and methods of manufacture remain old-fashioned. Not enough organised and State-aided effort has been made to tackle this problem, and even where improved implements have been devised, the difficulty of enabling the artisan to take them up has remained almost insuperable and the middleman is, to say the least, certainly not helpful. The problem of improved technique is thus seen to be intimately connected with the problems of marketing and finance. In the meanwhile, the products of the large-scale and machine-using industries show persistent improvement and reduction in cost, with consequential adverse results on the competitive position of cottage products and on the income of cottage workers.

3. Marketing Difficulties.- The selling of cottage products presents also a great deal of difficulty. This is so partly because consumers' tastes have changed and partly because the cottage worker's output lacks the finish and the modernity which machine-made products have and there is no certificate of guarantee of quality attaching to it. It is also due to the fact that the cost of production of cottage products is higher. There is no organisation and no application of method or science in the selling of cottage products, the middleman who is the principal seller being content to follow his father's ways rather than take any initiative.

Need for Urgent Action.- Though many of the difficulties of the cottage industries are common to small-scale industries as well, the problems facing cottage industries and small-scale industries are not always identical. A serious handicap in the expansion of small-scale industries is stated to be the absence of technical assistance and expert advice. Stressing the need for urgent action, the Committee states that the economic condition of cottage workers, as also that of the rural population, has become desperate. Unless steps are taken immediately on the lines indicated by it, the Committee feels that this position is bound to deteriorate further and that, if this process continues, no amount of money will stop the economic ruin of the rural population.

Possibilities of Industrial Development:

1. Aluminium and Potteries.- The possibilities for further industrial development are explained by the Committee who emphasises

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also the potentialities of semi-agricultural industries like poultry keeping, bee keeping and sericulture. There are possibilities for establishing the aluminium industry which have been disclosed by the discovery of bauxite deposits at Tungar Hill near Thana; clay suitable for high class potteries is stated to be available in the Khanapur taluka of the Belgaum district and in the Thana, West Khandesh, Dharwar, Satnagiri and Kanara district; these open out prospects for establishing a high class earthenware industry in the Province. Bakelite electrical goods, raw films, radio sets, bicycles and automobiles are other commodities which offer scope for domestic manufacture.

2. Textiles and Leather.- Referring, however, to the principal industries, the Committee observes that it should not be difficult for the Province to be entirely independent of imports of cotton textiles within a few years. As regards leather imports, the Province exported in the year 1937-38, Rs.5.22 million worth of raw hides and skins. With improvements in tanning, a good part of these exports could be converted ~~and~~ either into leather or leatherware and thus replace our present imports.

3. Machineries.- Regarding the imports of machinery of various kinds, it is stated that it is difficult to indicate the possibilities of their successful replacement. But it may be pointed out that there are some small concerns in the Province which manufacture parts of rice, flour and sugar mill machinery. Moreover, if industrialisation is to be speedily achieved in India, capital costs will have to be reduced and that can be accomplished by the building up of a heavy engineering industry in this Province. Bombay enjoys the advantages of several harbours, a large home market and a good supply of skilled labour. Under these circumstances, ^{an} attempt to start a machinery industry should be made, even if it means in the first instance only the assembling of parts.

4. Others.- The position is not also unhelpful in regard to drugs and medicines. Fruit canning and the manufacture of other fruit products have great possibilities. Fibre resources should be more economically utilised. A good deal of agricultural produce is being wasted at present which could give rise to new industries. Forest products offer enormous scope for building up new industries. The fisheries resources can also be exploited on a very profitable scale.

Constitutional Limitations on Provincial Government.- The Committee's recommendations cover a wide field. Members lay a general emphasis on the need for tackling general problems connected with transport facilities, health conditions and literacy which determine the limits of industrialisation. Unless these fundamental factors are adequately dealt with, the most ~~extensive~~ ^{expensive} industrial measures will not either achieve their purpose or at best fail to obtain the maximum results which otherwise will be there. The Committee stresses also the limitations imposed by the constitution on the capacity of the Provincial Government to undertake industrial development. "It must be borne in mind", says the report, "that the structure, the composition and the pace of industrial development are very greatly dependent upon tariffs, transport and currency, none of which vital determinants of economic development are under the control of the Provincial Government; and without controlling these, it is difficult to carry out any industrial policy meant to result in speedy industrial development. Moreover, even when considering the measures that are constitutionally within the purview of Provincial activity,

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we have to bear in mind the cardinal fact that in a country like ours the implications of Provincial action in the industrial sphere extend far beyond the Provincial boundaries and that, therefore, the reactions on the other Provinces and the Indian States have to be constantly taken into account. In fact questions pertaining to industries in India are more properly the subject for investigation by the Central Government rather than by the Provincial Government."

Recommendations.- Some of the ^{more} important recommendations besides industrial and other surveys and research and various forms of direct State aid are summarised below:

Adult Illiteracy.- There should be a definite time-table for the liquidation of adult illiteracy in the Province, especially of that of the cottage workers and, the Provincial Government should set up an authority that will carry out this programme in a vigorous manner.

Unemployment.- To relieve part-time unemployment among agricultural classes and for increasing the cultivator's incomes, Government should promote part-time occupations suitable for cultivators and agricultural labourers. In this connection, the Committee emphasises that hand-spinning is the ideal part-time cottage industry for the cultivator, as it involves very little capital, is not difficult to learn, can be taken on and left off at the cultivator's convenience and fits in with the century old traditions of the countryside. There are also other part-time cottage industries like mat-making, rope-making, dairying, sericulture, agriculture, etc. A special section should, therefore, be created in the Industries Department for the purpose of promoting part-time or subsidiary industries and inspectors appointed for each district.

Subsidiary Industries.- A conference of representatives of different Governments of the ^{different} Provinces and States and of the Government of India should be convened for purposes of discussing the place of subsidiary industries in the Indian economy and the ways and means to achieve the same. It is felt that only after such a conference has been held and agreed protective measures taken on an all-India scale, will it be possible for the proposed part-time cottage industries section of the Industries Department to function effectively.

Regulating Relations between Classes of Industries.- As regards the question of the relation of large-scale and cottage industries, the Committee feels that there is a large non-competing field between the two, as also scope for co-operation. But there is no doubt that competition also exists, particularly in the textile industry. The Committee, however, feels that regulation of the relation of these two types of industry cannot be undertaken by the unilateral action of a single Provincial Government. The Committee, therefore, suggests that the whole question, particularly that of regulating the relations between the large-scale and cottage sections of the textile industry should be discussed at a special conference of the representatives of the Provinces and the Government of India.

As regards the relation between small-scale and cottage industries, the Committee is of the opinion that no regulation is necessary except in the case of the textile industry where the growth of small power-loom factories needs to be restrained. Even here no action should be taken without obtaining the approval of the other Governments in India.

District Industrial Association.- The difficulties of the cottage industrial workers are primarily in the field of marketing. To meet this difficulty the Committee recommends that each district should have an Industrial Association in charge of a District Industrial Officer assisted by a local Advisory Committee.

The District Industrial Association should supply raw materials to artisans and sell their products, give them improved tools on the hire purchase system and organise demonstrations, etc. Membership of the Association should be open to all whole-time cottage workers resident in the district. The District Industrial Association could be co-ordinated by a Divisional Association under an Assistant Director of Industries in each Division of the Province. These Assistant Directors should be assisted by advisory committees and over them there should be a Deputy Director of Industries in charge of cottage industries. This Deputy Director will issue an annual report on the state of cottage industries in the Province. He will also be in charge of the Provincial Cottage Industries Research Institute and, in general, he will act as the spokesman of cottage industrial interests. The Deputy Director may also be assisted by an Advisory Board.

Financing Cottage Industries.- ~~For~~ ^{For} financing the cottage worker, a special organisation should be set up which should not deal direct with the cottage workers but only with the Industrial Associations. In the alternative, the Government may place Rs.2.5 million at the disposal of the cottage industries section of the Industries Department. For financing small-scale industries the Government should promote a Small Industries Bank with a capital of Rs.2.5 million.

Board of Economic Development.- For the formulation of a positive industrial policy, a Board of Economic Development should be created, and a time-table of industrialisation based on the details collected by an industrial census should be drawn up. The plan of industrial development should be so drawn up and executed as not to result either in unemployment or lowering of income of any class of the existing cottage workers.

Facilities for technical education should be increased and they should be equally distributed amongst different regions of the Province.

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during June 1940.

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during June 1940 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 June 1940 remained stationary at 111. The average for 1939 was 106 as compared with 105 for 1938.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during June 1940 rose by 3 points to 80. The average for 1939 was 73 as against 71 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1936) of the cost of living in Sholapur during June 1940 rose by 1 point to 76. The average for 1939 was 74 as compared with 72 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in June 1940 fell by 1 point to 70. The average for 1939 was 63 as against 61 for 1938.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in June 1940 advanced by 2 points to 67. The average for 1939 was 59 as against 57 for 1938.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during June 1940 remained stationary at 107. The average for 1939 was 100.

(Extracted from the June 1940 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India.)

Excess Profit Tax Rules, 1940.

Attention is directed to pages 1380 to 1405 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 26-9-1940 where is published the Excess Profits Tax Rules, 1940, made under the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940 (vide pages 55-56 of the January and page 40 of the April 1940 reports of this Office).

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1940.

On 6-9-1940 a Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly to regulate the settlement of fisheries and to define and protect the rights of fishermen.

The Bill has been introduced with a view to rationalise the settlement of fisheries on the basis of fair and equitable rent and stabilise the fish industry which forms a vital part of the economic structure of the province. If the Bill passes into law, it will benefit the proprietors as well as the catchers. The proprietors will receive regular and stable rents, while the catchers will be saved from illegal and unjust impositions. Besides ^{preventing} the destruction of fish, price will be greatly minimised on account of longer settlement. The abject poverty of fishermen due to various extortions and uncertainties of ^{the} profession will disappear on account of fixity of rent, settlement for longer number of years and reduction of interest on arrear rents. So far as Government fisheries are concerned, the fishermen will, after the expiry of ^{the} existing settlement, have the free right of ^{the} fishery, and it will be economically beneficial both to the catchers and the consumers. It will also encourage co-operative efforts among the fishermen and will go a long way to improve their lot. (See also page 15 of our December 1939 report for reference to two other Bengal Fisheries Bills). (The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV A, dated 26-9-1940 pages 274 to 276).

26-9-1940 pages 274 to 276

5th Session of National Planning Committee, Bombay,
30-8-1940 to 4-9-1940.

The 5th session of the National Planning Committee was held at Bombay from 30-8-1940 to 4-9-1940, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presiding (For a summary of the ^{proceedings of the} 4th session of the Committee see page 17 of the June 1940 report of this Office).

The Committee considered the reports of five sub-committees, including the report of the Land Policy Sub-Committee, the report of the sub-committee on Women's Role in a Planned Economy, and the report of the Public Health Sub-Committee, and discussed, among other matters, the general principles of the main report to be drawn up by the Committee.

Report of Public Health Sub-Committee.- The Sub-Committee made several recommendations in regard to the reorganisation of medical, preventive, curative and educational methods; and some of the recommendations were based on the nutrition standard as laid down by the League of Nations. Besides it emphasised the need for manufacture of drugs in India.

Resolutions: Nutrition Standards.- Resolutions affecting the public health, dietary standards, and practice and manufacture of medicine were passed at the meeting. It was resolved that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee for the fixing of dietary standards should be placed before the National Planning Commission. The recommendations were for the adoption of the dietary standards laid down by the Technical Commission of the Health Committee of the League of Nations, minus 8 per cent. They provide a basic diet of 2,400 calories for an average adult.

National Health Organisation.- Another resolution declared that India should have a form of health organisation, both curative and preventive, under State control. The preservation and maintenance of the people's health would become a State responsibility. This would involve the encouragement of research and the adoption of the scientific method at its widest. As a first step, the Committee recommended that a large number of health workers should be given immediate training to undertake community welfare work.

An Indian Pharmacopoeia.- The appointment of a Pharmacopoeia-Committee for the drawing up of an Indian Pharmacopoeia, the manufacture of drugs, medicines and surgical implements, the abolition of patent rights in vital medical preparations, and the banning of secret and unscientific remedies were the subject-matter of other resolutions. It was also resolved to absorb and where required give scientific training to indigenous medical practitioners.

Chairman's Note.- In the course of a Note circulated to members, Pandit Nehru, the Chairman, outlined broadly the aims of the Planning Committee.

The Note pointed out that the problems of poverty, unemployment and low standard of living are very serious in India. The hopes of the Indian industrialists and mercantile communities that the war may bring a temporary prosperity to Indian industry and agricultural producers, have not materialised and there is widespread disappointment.

As the work of the National Planning Committee has proceeded, it has become abundantly clear that any real planning requires coordination between all sectors of national life, which in itself requires the control of the community in all the various sectors. The committee have agreed to state ownership and control in regard to defence industries and state ownership or full control of key industries and public utilities. In regard to land, while the committee have not ruled out private enterprise in the shape of peasant proprietorship, they have decided that the objective should be the introduction of the co-operative principle to the largest possible extent. Their general objective is one of socialistic planned structure run by the community for the benefit of the community. The whole motive of the plan must be a social and co-operative one and not a competitive one based on private profit.

(The Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India 30-8-40 and 8-9-40)

War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme: Compulsory from 1-11-1940.

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme (referred to at page 34 of the report of this Office for August 1940), according to a notification issued by the Government of India, is to be brought into effect from 1-10-1940; such insurance is to be made compulsory throughout British India from 1-11-1940.

(The Times of India, 16-9-1940).

Proposed Burma Money Lenders Bill, 1940.

The Burma Government proposes introducing shortly in its Legislature a Money Lenders Bill. The Statement of Objects and Reasons points out that previous attempts to regulate money-lending by the Usurious Loans Act have been ineffective. This Act has been more or less a dead letter because it was necessary to prove to the satisfaction of the Courts not only that the rate of interest was excessive, but also that the transaction was unfair. The absence of any definition of the term "excessive rate of interest" made the Court reluctant to disallow high interest charges and in many cases judges were forced to find that although the interest was excessive the transaction was not unfair. Little use has been made of the Act and it has done little to curb the evils of unrestricted money-lending.

The Bill proposes to make compulsory the registration of persons who carry on money-lending as a business and requires them to maintain proper accounts which shall be liable to inspection by Government agency. The maximum rates of interest that may be decreed by a Court on suits arising out of loans are fixed and the Courts are empowered to reopen transactions and disallow excessive interest gains. Among other provisions of the Bill are the disallowance of compound interest on loans, clauses laying down that the maximum amount that may be decreed on account of arrears of interest shall not exceed the principal of the original loan and a prohibition of the molestation of borrowers for the recovery of loans. These provisions apply not only to loans made by registered money-lenders but also to all "loans" as defined in the Bill.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 31-8-1940,
pages 121 to 125.)

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Reorganisation of Agricultural Research in India:
Decisions of the Governing Body of the I.C.A.R.

A step of far-reaching significance in the development of agricultural and animal husbandry in India was decided upon by the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at its annual meeting held at Simla in the last week of August 1940. It has long been urged upon those in charge of the country's scientific research services that much of their labours will have little value until steps are taken to carry the fruits of research to the fields of the cultivators in such a manner as will be readily understood by the peasant farmer. Even in official quarters it is admitted that Indian scientists have hitherto concentrated primarily on research and that an urgent need has arisen to develop more direct service to the small cultivator which will give him in a simple yet effective way the full value of field and laboratory experiments on new and improved methods of farming.

Economic Committee set up.- The Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has therefore decided to establish (1) a chain of committees to link up research with practical requirements, and (2) as a measure of further co-ordination, a central agricultural and livestock economic committee. This central committee's function will be to endeavour to strike a balance between the needs of research and the needs of development, having full regard to the desirability of applying promptly and economically the results of research to agricultural practice. This central agricultural and livestock economic committee will have eight members and, apart from its preliminary survey of India's agricultural industry as a whole, it will be kept in constant touch with the needs of the industry and with all proposals for its development.

(The Statesman, 31-8-1940.)

C.P. Moneylenders' (Amendment) Act, 1940.

The Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar has enacted an amendment to the C.P. Moneylenders Act, 1934, so as to control more effectively moneylending in the Province. The amending Act requires all moneylenders to get themselves registered and to obtain a certificate of registration in which the district in which they can operate will be specified; the Certificate will not be valid in other districts. Carrying on the business of moneylending without getting the registration certificate is penalised. No suit for the recovery of a loan advanced by a moneylender is to be entertained in a Civil Court, unless the moneylender holds a valid certificate.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 23-9-1940, pages 394 to 396.)

Provision of Licensed Warehouses for Agricultural Produce:

Possibility investigated by the Board of Economic Inquiry, Bengal.

The Board of Economic Enquiry set up by the Government of Behgal is, it is learnt, now engaged in investigating the feasibility of establishing Licensed warehouses for agricultural produce in this province.

In order to collect all the necessary statistics in this connection, a questionnaire, consisting of about 34 queries, has been circulated among the representative commercial and industrial bodies in the province.

The present facilities for the storage of agricultural produce, period for which agricultural goods are usually stored, cost of storage per maund or bale in kutchha and pucca godowns, adequacy of the existing facilities for storage, nature of State control for private warehouses, necessity of Government license for starting such private warehouses, and conditions of issuing such licenses, are some of the subjects dealt with in the questionnaire.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-9-1940)

Scheme of State Farms in Sind:
Facilities for training in Agriculture.

According to a message from the Karachi Correspondent of the Associated Press of India, a scheme for starting a number of large state-owned agricultural farms in the direction of progressive nationalisation of lands has been undertaken by the Sind Government. As a first step, the Government has decided to experiment with a piece of land measuring 4,000 acres in Shahabunder, Karachi district, wherein it would use the latest agricultural mechanical implements. On the farm, which will be run on business lines, will be constructed a number of model houses from rural reconstruction funds. The Minister for Revenue, who has conceived this scheme, says that deserving youths will be given all the encouragement necessary for settling on agricultural land and after they complete their training on the above farm, the Government would grant them separate land at concessional price, the payment of which is to be spread over a number of years.

(The Leader, 4-9-1940.)

The Burma Land Purchase Bill, 1939:
House of Representatives adopts Measure.

Reference was made at page 26 of our September 1939 report to the Burma Land Purchase Bill, 1939, which the Burma Government proposed to introduce in the Legislature. It is now understood that the Bill was adopted by the House of Representatives on 24-9-1940. The Bill will now go to the Senate.

Mr. R.G. Aiyangar, opposing the motion for the third reading, declared that the Bill would meet with disastrous consequences, like the Tenancy Act. He characterized the Bill as most inopportune, as they were in the midst of war and needed money for defence purposes. He expressed the opinion that the Bill would benefit neither the landlord nor the tenant, and criticised the deletion from the Bill of the provision, of 5 per cent. compensation to landlords in addition to the market value of the land acquired.

The motion for the third reading was pressed to a division and passed by 65 votes to 40, Indian members dissenting.

(The Statesman, 26-9-1940.)

Compulsory Sickness Insurance:
Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.

In reply to the enquiry of the Government of India as to the willingness of employers and workers to contribute to a compulsory sickness insurance fund (vide page 19 of our June 1940 report), the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, points out that the question of instituting a scheme of sickness insurance had been considered by the Committee on various occasions. Evidence on the matter was also tendered by the Association early in 1939 before the Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee, whose report is still awaited. The attitude adopted by the Association on all these occasions had consistently been that the basis of social legislation in the country should be dictated by the industry's capacity to pay; it was also emphasized that a scheme of sickness insurance, if and when it was initiated, should be on an all-India scale and on a contributory basis by the State, the employers and the employees. The Committee stated that they still adhered to these views. The present time, they pointed out, was full of difficulties for Indian industries and all those who were associated or dependant thereon and was not, therefore, suitable for the consideration of any proposals which would impose a financial burden on Industry.

☞ Closely allied with the question of sickness insurance was that of holidays with pay which, it was understood, had been under consideration in various provinces. It was felt that this and other questions of a like nature should be handled together so that the interests concerned might be in a position to assess adequately the cumulative effect of all the various burdens which were sought to be imposed upon them in the way of social legislation. Another point which was urged by the Committee was the utmost importance of legislative measures of this character having all-India application, for, if British Indian industries were singled out for the introduction of social ameliorative measures, the disparity in working conditions which already existed between the industries situated in British India and in most Indian States would be further widened to the serious detriment of the former.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during July 1940).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Burma, 1939*

Statistics of Returns.- Altogether 1679 returns were received of which 52 were blank from establishments which did not work in 1939 and 39 were from establishments which were not required to submit returns; thus there were 1588 returns from establishments required to report. Of these, 2 belonged to railways, 1,020 to factories, 411 to mines, 2 to tramways, 1 to Port Commission, 2 to fire brigades, 28 to oil-winning establishments, 31 to rubber estates, 64 to establishments (other than factories) for generation, etc., of electricity and 27 to establishments for producing, etc., of cinematograph pictures. Only 157 of the 1588 returns showed any payment of compensation.

Statistics of Compensation.- Compensation paid in 1939 amounted to ²Rs.134,082, the corresponding amount for 1938 being Rs.121,206. The number of casualties was 3,199 made up of 52 deaths, 191 cases of permanent disablement and 2,956 cases of temporary disablement; for the previous year the corresponding figures were 2,380, 53, 152 and 2,175, respectively. Rs.49,693 was paid in respect of 52 deaths, Rs.51,225 in respect of 191 cases of permanent disablements and Rs.33,164 in respect of 2,956 cases of temporary disablements. No accidents for which compensation is payable arose in respect of workers below 15 years of age, and no compensation was paid in respect of occupational diseases.

The average cost of compensation per workman employed rose from Re.0.04 to Re.0.07 and the cost of compensation per person killed or injured fell from Rs.51 to Rs.42. The total number of casualties for which compensation was paid rose from 2,380 to 3,199 and the total number of workmen increased from 145 to 154 thousands; casualties were at the rate of one per 48 workmen instead of one per 61 in the previous year.

Insurance of Establishments.- Excluding railways, reports were received from 1,347 establishments of which 1,147 reported that they were not insured. Seventy-seven establishments which had reported about insurance for 1938 failed to do so for 1939. The insured establishments are larger on an average than those not insured, so that although only 13 per cent. of the establishments reported that they were insured, these included 38 per cent. of the workmen. The establishments reporting that they were not insured made up of 72 per cent. of the whole and had 53 per cent. of the workmen. For the remaining 16 per cent. of establishments and 9 per cent. of workmen no report was made for 1939.

* Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1939. Rangoon: Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1940. Price Re.1=1s.6d. pp. 20.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in C.P. and Berar, 1939.*

Accidents and Compensation.- There were 30 deaths, 59 cases of permanent disablement and 891 cases of temporary disablement in respect of which compensation was paid. The amounts paid in respect of the above accidents were Rs.12,390; Rs.7,451-15-0; and Rs.7,349-6-0^{respectively}. No cases of payment of compensation to occupational diseases arose during the year under review. No unions were involved in accidents in respect of which compensation was payable.

Control of Insurance Activities of Trade Unions:
Opinions canvassed by Government of India.

The opinion of Provincial Governments on the desirability of applying the Insurance Act, 1938, with necessary modifications to insurance business carried on by trade unions is being sought by the Central Government. Opinions of Provincial Governments, as well as of selected individuals, are to be submitted by the end of October, 1940.

The letter issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India points out that in the Insurance Act of 1928, a trade union is allowed to carry on any form of insurance activity without being under obligation to secure professional advice as to the actuarial soundness of such business. The most common example of unscientific schemes, carried on in the past and prohibited by the 1938 Act, the letter states, is what is known as insurance business on the 'dividing' principle. There is nothing at present to prevent trade unions from carrying on insurance business on the 'dividing' principle and some trade unions appear to be actually doing so. It offers large scope for fraud. "It is, therefore, necessary", adds the letter, "to consider the question of controlling the insurance activities of trade unions. Objections may be anticipated, on the grounds that any such control will curtail the privileges of trade unions, but the supervision of the business by qualified persons is actually not a curtailment of the privileges of a trade unionist, but a benefit conferred on him."

(The Hindustan Times, 25-9-1940.)

* Report on the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1939. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1940. Price Re.0-5-0. pp.9.

Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training

Statistics of Employed and Unemployed in Punjab:
Government Proposals for Collection through 1941 Census.

Information about unemployment, seasonal occupation, organised or industrial employment and division of labour in families and marketing and housing conditions in villages will be collected in the course of the Census operations of 1941.

The house list will embody more information than hitherto. It will show in respect of each dwelling house details of walls and roofs in order that a study may be made of housing conditions in both towns and rural areas, and also interesting village details, such as, market days, typical manufactures or activities, date of any festival, approximate number of visitors to it, etc. The All-India standard questionnaire includes some questions designed to produce information on the subjects of unemployment, seasonal occupations, organised or industrial employment and division of labour in a family. To bring the results of these special features of the census questionnaire into their proper perspective, it is intended to undertake ⁱⁿ the Punjab and Delhi Provinces sample inquiries into the economic life of whole villages.

(The Hindu, 29-8-1940).

Enquiry into Middle-Class Unemployment in Bengal:
Committee set up by Board of Economic Enquiry.

The Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, has, it is understood, with the approval of the Provincial Government, set up a Committee to conduct an enquiry into the subject of middle class unemployment in the province.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6-9-1940).

Migration

Indians in Burma in 1939:

Report of Agent of Government of India in Burma.*

The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for 1939, recently published, gives details of the main events in Burma affecting Indians in that country. The report is briefly summarised below:

Riot Enquiry Committee's Report.- The Interim and Final Reports of the Riot Enquiry Committee were generally accepted as able and just exposition of the causes and incidents of the riots, except by a section of Burman opinion. In view of the findings, the Indian community felt, and still feel, that they had a strong claim to compensation but their representations have not, so far, met with any response. Those recommendations of the Riot Enquiry Committee which related to the future prevention and suppression of riots were, at the close of the year, still, for the most part, under the consideration of the Government of Burma.

Legislative Measures.- A series of measures were introduced, and in some cases passed, which impinge with peculiar force upon the interests of Indians. Of this series an important group affected the Indian landowning and moneylending communities, especially the Chettians, namely: (1) the Land Alienation Act, passed but not in force, (2) the Land Purchase Bill which was before a Select Committee at the close of the year, and (3) the Tenancy Act which was passed and brought into force. ^{These} ~~These measures have as their avowed object to arrest the process~~ ^{are} by which land passes from the hands of cultivating owners to absentee landlords; to acquire compulsorily land in the possession of landowners in order that it may be distributed to landless cultivators; and to give tenants an improved security of tenure on rents which they can undoubtedly afford to pay. There has been, however, a great deal of criticism of the methods, though not of the principles, proposed, and in the case of the Tenancy Act adopted to carry these purposes into effect. The Tenancy Act was intended by the original framers to be applied experimentally to limited areas. At a later stage, the clauses restricting its application were removed, and the Act was eventually introduced so late in the year, and in such large areas, that the executive were unable both to comply with the law in making enquiries and to pass the requisite number of orders fixing a fair rent before the harvest season. As a result, methods were adopted which had the effect of a wholesale reduction of rents, in some cases to the level of the land revenue demand, and of depressing still further the value of agricultural land. The landlords estimated the consequent losses of rent at more than Rs. 25 million and protested that the manner in which the new rents had been fixed was neither equitable nor legal. These methods were subsequently declared by the Rangoon High Court to be

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for the year ending 31st December 1939. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. Price Annas 5 or 6d. pp.9.

ultra vires and to have borne no relation to the relevant provisions of the Act and the decisions reached were held to constitute a grave ~~in~~ injustice. A very difficult situation was in consequence created which at the time ~~of~~ writing the report had not been resolved.

Indian Immigration Enquiry Committee.- A Commission of Enquiry with the Hon. Mr. J. Baxter as Commissioner and U Tin Tut and Mr. Ratilal Desai as assessors was set up to enquire into and to report on the following matters:- (1) the volume of Indian immigration; (2) to what extent it is seasonal and temporary and to what extent permanent; (3) in what occupation Indians are mainly employed and the extent to which they are unemployed or under-employed; (4) whether in such employment Indians either have displaced Burmans or could be replaced by Burmans, due regard being paid to both the previous history of such occupations and their economic requirements; and (5) whether in the light of the statistics obtained and other relevant factors any system of equating the supply of Indian unskilled labour to Burman requirements is needed.

The Commission began its work; ^{during the year} progress was practically confined to a preliminary study of available figures and the consideration of the manner and extent of enquiries to secure more up-to-date statistics.

Co-operationThe Madras State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1940.

The Madras Government intends amending the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that under the Act every application for state aid has to be dealt with in accordance with an elaborate procedure, irrespective of whether the aid is sought for a major industry or for a small cottage industry. The application is required to be made in the first instance to the Director of Industries and Commerce who, after scrutinizing the application and calling for supplementary information, if necessary, places it before the Board of Industries constituted under the Act, for advice. The Board interviews the applicant personally where necessary, and recommends the acceptance or rejection of the application to the Government, and the Government passes final orders on the matter. The time thus taken, and the expense and formalities involved, are excessive in the case of a cottage industry which requires help in the shape of a small loan or other concession. The Government considers that the best way of bringing help to the door of the cottage worker will be to delegate to the Board of Revenue ~~of~~ the Government's power to grant aid to cottage industries up to a maximum of Rs. 500 in each case, while at the same time making the procedure described above inapplicable. The intention is that a self-contained set of rules applicable to these cases should be drawn up.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 10-9-1940, pages 71 to 73.)

Nutrition

Steps to Improve Indian Diets:

Activities of Indian Research Fund Association in 1939.

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During the year 1939, nutrition research organised by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Indian Research Fund Association has proceeded on the lines of surveys of the state of nutrition and the dietary habits of the people in various parts of the country, the analyses of the common foodstuffs of India in order to ascertain their nutritional value, research into various nutritional problems, including that of discovering cheap substitutes, in order to meet recognised deficiencies in Indian diets, the training of health personnel in nutrition and educational work in order to encourage the application of the fruits of research for improving the diet of the people.

Researches on Rice.- Rice, as the staple diet in many parts of India, received special attention during the year. A memoir entitled "The Rice Problem in India", which deals with different aspects of the subject, has been recently published by the Indian Research Fund Association (vide page 37 of our July 1940 report).

Diet Surveys.- The results of over 50 diet surveys in different parts of the country have been embodied in a special publication by the Association and this should prove to be of value to provincial Departments of Agriculture in shaping agricultural policy in order to meet existing diet deficiencies.

Training of Personnel.- The training of health personnel in nutrition work which was started in 1937, continued in 1939 and seventeen workers from various provinces and Indian States attended a three-months' course.

Health Bulletin.- A new edition of Health Bulletin No. 23, entitled "The Nutritive Value of Indian foods and the Planning of Satisfactory Diets" was issued during the year and a nutrition museum was established at the Nutrition Research Laboratories at Coonoor, which is maintained by the Indian Research Fund Association.

Researches into different nutritional problems involved investigations in many centres, including medical colleges in Lucknow and Bombay, the Department of Chemistry in ^{Madras} Madras and Calcutta Universities, the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, and the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

("Indian Information", New Delhi,
dated 15-9-1940.)

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Employers' Organisations

Conference of Industrial Employers, Bombay, 8-9-1940:
Recommendations of First Labour Ministers' Conference of January 1940
Examined.

social and labour questions affecting industrialists were discussed at a conference of industrial employers held in Bombay on 8-9-1940 under the joint auspices of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers and the Employers' Federation of India. Lala Shri Ram presided at the conference which was convened by Sir H.P. Mody, President of the Employers' Federation.

The conference was attended by representatives of about 50 organisations of employers and commercial bodies from almost all important industrial centres in India. The meeting discussed the recommendations made by the first conference of provincial Labour Ministers held in January 1940 and passed a number of resolutions covering their views on various labour problems. The following is the text of the more important resolutions passed at the Conference:

Need for All-India Basis for Labour Legislation.- (a) This Conference, while according its support to the principle of social and labour legislation for the improvement of the conditions of the working classes, is of opinion that the Government of India should use its utmost endeavours to ensure that

- (i) any measures undertaken for the purpose should be on a strictly All-India basis, including Indian States and should also include Government undertakings, Central and Provincial;
- (ii) the burden imposed should not be such as adversely to affect the position of Industry;
- (iii) due consideration should be given to the special difficulties confronting industries in India and to the burdens already imposed upon them or under contemplation by governmental measures, both Central and Provincial.

(b) This Conference is of opinion that, in order to secure uniformity of treatment throughout India, when labour legislation of an All-India character is under contemplation or consideration by the Government of India, Provincial Governments should be urged not to undertake legislation on the same or allied subjects.

Factories Act Amendment: Weekly Holiday.- This Conference is in general agreement with the proposition enunciated at the Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers held at Delhi in January last, that pay in lieu of holidays should be given to such industrial employees as are prevented from getting a weekly holiday by an exemption under Section 43 (2) and 44 (2) of the Factories Act and have not been granted a substitute holiday within a reasonable period.

Sickness Insurance.- This Conference generally approves principle of sickness insurance, provided that

- (a) the State, Employers and Labour contribute to the cost;
- (b) legislation is on an All-India basis;
- (c) legislation is made applicable to all important industries and government undertakings, both Central and Provincial; and
- (d) similar legislation is concurrently enacted in all Indian States.

Prevention and Settlement of Industrial Disputes.- This Conference recommends that the Central Government should, in consultation with organisations representative of Employers and Labour, consider the desirability of amending the Trade Disputes Act of 1929 in the light of the experience gained during the last ten years and that, pending such amendment, Provincial Governments should defer the enactment of legislation similar to the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act of 1938 until further experience of that Act has been gained.

Collection of Labour and Industrial Statistics.- (a) This Conference realising the need for more complete statistics relating to (1) the industrial and agricultural production of the country; (2) cost of living index number for industrial and agricultural workers; and (3) wholesale and retail prices, would welcome the introduction of Central Legislation having for its object the compilation of specified statistics bearing on these heads as might hereafter be agreed upon between Government and organisations representing the interests concerned.

(b) This Conference is further of opinion that if the work of collection of statistics is to devolve on the Provinces, then the expenses in connection with the collection of such statistics should be met from the general revenues of the Provinces.

Other Subjects Discussed: Holidays with Pay; Recognitions of Unions.- A general discussion took place on the subject of leave and/or holidays with pay; but no recommendations were adopted, since it was considered that the solution of the problem of sickness insurance should take precedence over holidays with pay. The subject of Recognition of Trade Unions was discussed at some length, but a decision was held over; and it was agreed that, in the meantime, individual concerns and organisations might formulate their views regarding the obligations to be fulfilled by trade unions before recognition could be accorded by employers or employers' organisations as the case might be.

Standing Advisory Council for Labour Questions.- After the items on the agenda were gone through, Sir Jwalaprasad Srivastava moved the following resolution:- "This Conference strongly recommends to the Government of India that a standing Advisory Council representative of all Provincial Governments, Indian States, employers of labour, and Labour, should be set up at the Centre to which all proposed legislation should be referred for criticism and expression of opinion, and a convention should be established whereby the recommendations of this Council would be ordinarily followed by all governments and States." It was pointed out that the subject matter of the resolution had ~~ix~~ already been brought to the notice of the Central Government on several occasions by various organisations, including the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Employers'

Federation of India. It was decided, for want of time, that the resolution should be taken up for discussion at the next Conference.

(Summarised from report of the Conference supplied by the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers; and the Times of India dated 10-9-1940.)

Workers' organisations.

3rd Annual Conference of Indian Sugar Industry Employees, Cawnpore, 15-4-44

The 3rd Annual Conference of employees in the sugar industry convened under the auspices of the Indian Sugar Industry Employees' Association was held at Cawnpore, Dr. K.N. Katju, ex-Development and Industries Minister, U.P., presiding.

Interests of Workers Paramount ; Millowners' criticised.- In his presidential address, Dr. Katju pointed out that the sugar industry had become the premier industry of the United Provinces and Bihar and that it occupied a unique position inasmuch as it affected closely the life and welfare of millions of cane-growers and thousands of workers, both skilled and unskilled. It was true that a large amount of capital was invested in the industry, but that was a subordinate consideration. The prosperity of the grower and worker should be their first concern.

Capitalists speculated with their eyes open and the result was either enormous profit or great loss. But growers who worked in the fields and men who earned their living by the sweat of their brow could not afford any juggling with the small sums earned as wages.

Dealing with the skilled labour employed in the industry, technicians, supervisors, etc., he condemned the present practice of employing such workers during the crushing season only, and pointed out that it was wrong that the sugar industrialists should put out of employment young and competent men for six months in the year and at the beginning of every crushing season exploit the needs of these men by offering them lower and lower salaries.

(The Statesman, 17-9-1940.)

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Social Conditions

Control of Dowry Payment in Bengal:

Bill in Legislative Assembly.

Two non-official Bills were introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 6-9-1940 to tackle the problem of dowry payments. The first by Mr. Idris Ahmed Mia prohibits the payment of any dowry (which does not include marriage gifts like ornaments to brides). The second Bill, introduced by Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, restricts dowry to a maximum of Rs.51/-.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IVA,
dated 19-9-1940, pages 260-261 and
267-268.)

Education

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Encouragement of Adult Education in Bombay: Views of Bombay Millowners' Association.

In July 1940 the Government of Bombay invited the views of the Millowners' Association on a scheme framed by the Bombay Adult Education Committee with a view to securing the co-operation of millowners and other big employers of labour in the matter of adult education in the City of Bombay.

Details of the scheme.- Briefly stated, it was suggested that the literacy problem might be approached by individual mill managements on the following lines:

- (1) A list of literate men and women workers, with their mother-tongue and place of residence, should be prepared and furnished to the Adult Education Committee;
- (2) the management should make it known to their respective workers directly or through the mucadams (foremen) that they desired to see that all of them were made literate within a specified period, say, six months or a year or so;
- (3) they should also make it known that, while employing new workers, preference would be given to those who were able to sign their names and read their cards;
- (4) those mills which had their own chawls to accommodate their workers should open as many literacy classes for them as the space in the chawls or in the compound allowed, or alternatively, they should keep as much space as possible at the disposal of the Adult Education Committee and supply the necessary lights to enable them to open such classes and the necessary funds to run them;
- (5) all the managements might open literacy classes within their mill premises and relieve as large a number of workers as they could, about three-fourths of an hour before the closing time and compel them to attend such classes for a period of about three or four months for each batch;
- (6) the Adult Education Committee might open such classes, if the managements did not want to take the responsibility, provided the latter were prepared to supply the funds, together with other facilities and to allow the workers to attend them in batches as in (5) above.

Views of the Association: Employers unwilling to shoulder Financial Burden.- On a careful examination of the scheme, the Committee of the Association, was unable to accept the financial responsibility for making the workers literate. The position of employers in matters like education appeared to have been stated in the dissenting minutes to the Adult Education Committee's Report, appended by Mr. B. S. Babke, and others, and nothing has happened to justify the assumption that conditions had changed. On the question of the desirability of removing mass illiteracy, the Committee was at one with Government, but the financial responsibilities involved

could not be passed on to employers. Some members of the Association had already been doing very good work in this direction, and there seemed to be no point in forcing the pace under the existing conditions. In the opinion of the Committee, voluntary schemes, where they existed, might, if necessary, be improved and extended with the co-operation of the employers concerned, but any large scale attempt to foist the Adult Education Committee's scheme on employers would be unwarranted. The Association had already expressed its willingness to assist Government in their literacy campaign as far as mill workers were concerned, and had recommended mills in Bombay City to give facilities to the Adult Education Committee to establish satisfactory arrangements in the mill area. This decision had been communicated to the Special Literacy Officer, and the Committee felt that, as far as the cotton mill industry of the Province was concerned, no further action was called for until times improved.

(~~Exer~~ Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for August 1940.)

EducationIntroduction of Compulsory Primary Education in Assam:
Government's Proposal.

The Government of Assam has in a recent press note announced its decision to introduce compulsory primary education in three big towns and one small town in the province, and has provided Rs.25,000 in the budget for 1940-41 for the purpose. The preliminary arrangements and the construction of additional buildings, it is understood, will take some time and the actual introduction of compulsion is not expected to come into force before the 1st January, 1941.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-9-1940)

The Bengal Adult Education Bill, 1940.

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 6-9-1940 to promote adult education. The statement of objects and reasons points out that 95 to 99 per cent. of the population of Bengal is illiterate. The Bill makes it compulsory for illiterate males between 12 and 50 years of age to learn reading and writing in any local language or in English. Local authorities are to make necessary arrangements for free teaching.

A motion to circulate the Bill for eliciting of public opinion was carried the same day.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IVA, dated 19-9-1940, page 259).

Social Policy in War Time

Wages

Payment of Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-Paid Government Employees
Sind Government's Decision.

The Government of Sind, after due consideration of the question of the effect of the increase in the prices of food-grains as a consequence of the war on the cost of living of low paid Government employees, has decided that whenever the prices of the common staple food-grains rise by more than 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, all whole-time Government servants throughout the Province whose pay is Rs.30 per mensem or less shall be granted grain compensation allowance as prescribed in certain rules made for that purpose. The scale of allowance for employees whose salaries are between Rs.16 and Rs.30 will be Rs.2 a month for rises of the price index from 150 to 175, and Rs.3 for rises above 175. The corresponding allowances for employees receiving a less than Rs.16 per month as salary are Re.1/- and Rs.2/- respectively.

(Notification No.906-A dated 16-9-1940;
The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 19-9-1940, pages 1654 to 1656.)

Extension of Industries on War Basis:

New Hyderabad Scheme.

According to a recent communiqué issued by the Hyderabad Government, H.E.H. the Nizam has sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of factories in his Dominions in order to place the more important industrial concerns on a war basis. The imperative necessity of Hyderabad taking an active part in the supply of war materials and pursuing a policy of immediate industrial expansion has also led to the creation of a special organisation for the period. Lt.- Col. F.A. Slaughter, General Manager of the Nizam's State Railway, has been appointed as Adviser to the Commerce and Industries Member, and a small advisory committee of supply has been set up to explore avenues of further expansion of existing and the creation of new industries. The new body has been entrusted with the task of devising ways and means to encourage private enterprise in industries. In order to cope with the expanded work, the staff of the Commerce and Industries Department has been strengthened. The Secretaries of the various Government departments have been called upon to devote special attention to examination of all possible schemes of further industrial development of the State.

(The Times of India, 24-9-1940.)

Employment

National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance, 1940.

Reference was made at pages 33-34 of this Office's June 1940 report to the promulgation of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940. The Governor General has now promulgated an amendment to the Ordinance (Ordinance XI of 1940, published at pages 537-540 of the Gazette of ~~xxx~~ India, Extraordinary dated 5-9-1940). The main changes made in the amending Ordinance are as follows:-

Technical personnel, according to the amendment, will be liable to be called up to undertake employment not only in notified factories doing work of national importance, but also in training establishments and technical posts under the Crown. Provisions for testing the technical skill of technical personnel, both employed and unemployed, by persons belonging to managerial and supervisory grades authorised by the Tribunal in that behalf, have been made. It is obligatory on an industrial undertaking to afford facilities for such tests if and when required by the Tribunal. It is now compulsory for a notified factory to accept technical personnel offered by the Tribunal once it makes an application for the same, and also to take personnel into its employment if ordered by the Tribunal even if it had not made an application for the purpose. The Tribunal is also authorised to control the engagement of technical personnel by industrial undertakings (including notified factories) in such manner as it thinks fit.

Consequential amendments have also been made in the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940 (vide pages 541-544 of the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 5-9-1940).

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary dated 5-9-1940, pages 537-544.)

War Production.

War Problems of India:

Ministry of Supply Mission (Roger Mission) to India.

The Ministry of Supply (Great Britain) announced on 27-8-1940 the appointment of a Mission to India headed by Sir Alexander Roger, ~~to enable India not only~~ The mission consists of six members and thirteen technical advisers, and its general object is to enable India not only to meet her own needs for home defence, but to make an even greater contribution than she does today to the general war effort of the Empire, and in particular to equip and supply the Forces in the Middle East and East of Suez.

The Mission arrived in India on 20-9-1940 and is now touring India inspecting industrial centres. It will examine existing factory capacity and see how far it can be made available for the production of war supplies. It will also consider the possibility of expansion in relation to the existing and potential output of the other Empire countries in

the Eastern hemisphere. It will also participate in the Eastern Group Conference to be held at New Delhi in October 1940.

("Indian Information", New Delhi,
15-9-1940.)

War Risk

Workmen and War Injuries:
Amendment of Workmen's Compensation Act:
Owners to be absolved of Liability.

According to the Times of India, the Government of India has decided to bring forward emergency legislation with a view to relieve employers of the liability to pay compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in respect of injuries that may be caused to operatives by the acts of any enemy or by acts done in repelling an enemy.

Owners absolved of liability for war injuries.- The legislation will be on the lines of the United Kingdom Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, involving the corresponding amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Such legislation is considered necessary in view of the extension of the war sphere. Since the outbreak of war, employers and their organisations have been repeatedly urging upon the Central Government to undertake legislation ~~and~~ exonerating employers from the liability for injuries which their workers may receive as the result of war. Until ~~necessary~~ recently, however, Government was of the view that such legislation was not necessary as the probability of enemy action in India was rather remote. The Employers' Federation of India recently requested the Government of India at least to assure employers that in the event of such injuries, employers would not be held liable for damages under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Federation also informed Government that the trend of legal opinion obtained by it indicated that employers were liable under the Workmen's Compensation Act for such injuries.

(The Times of India, 27-9-1940.)

List of More Important Publications received in this Office during
September 1940.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1939. New Delhi: Manager, Government of India Press, 1940.
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the Province of Orissa for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. 1940. Price Re.0-4-0.
- (3) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1939. Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P., Peshawar. 1940. Price Re.0-11-0.

Economic Conditions.-

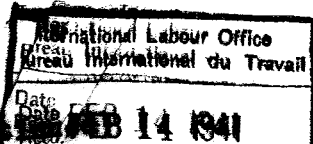
- (1) Spinning and Weaving Supplement to the Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay for the year 1939. Reprinted from the Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills (March 1940). Compiled by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.
- (2) Report of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee, 1938-1940. Volume I. Printed at the Government Central Press, Bombay. Price Annas 8 or 10s. 1940.
- (3) Recent Trends in Commercial Policies with special reference to India's Foreign Trade, PART II. by N.G. Abhyankar, M.Sc. (London). Reprinted from the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, September, 1940.
- (4) Development Department (Industries), Orissa: Bulletin No.1 of 1939 - Distillation of Sal-Resin for the Manufacture of Chuna Oil; Bulletin No. 2 of 1939 - Lacquering of Wood; Bulletin No.3 of 1939 - Manufacture of Gatchu (Khair); Bulletin No.4 of 1939 - Indigenous Drinking Straws; Bulletin No.5 of 1939 - Jelly Making to prevent Wastage of Blackberry Fruits in Villages; Bulletin No. 6 of 1939 - Compounding of Mahua, Polang and Karanja oils in the Manufacture of Washing Soaps; Bulletin No.1 of 1940 - Simple Soap Making in the Village Homes. By K.O. Sen, M.Sc. (Industrial Surveyor, All-India Village Industries Association, Orissa). Published by Press Officer, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. Price Annas 2 each.
- (5) Report on the Maritime Trade of Orissa for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Press, Orissa, Cuttack. 1940. Price Re.0-12-6.

Social Insurance.-

- (1) Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1939. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma; 1940. Price Re.1 or 1s.6d.
- (2) Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1939. Government Printing, C.P. and Berar, Nagpur. 1940. Price Re.0-5-0.

Agriculture.-

- (1) Annual Report on the Department of Agriculture of the North-West Frontier Province for the year ending 30-6-1939. Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1940. Price Rs.17-7-0 or £.1-6-3.



Agriculture. - (cont.)

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