

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH  
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Industrial and Labour Developments in December, 1946.

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1.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

India and Principles of Coal Mineworkers' Charter:  
Question in Central Legislative Assembly.

In the Central Legislative Assembly, on 29-10-1946, Miss. Maniben Kara, member nominated to represent labour, drew the attention of the Government of India to the principles for incorporation into a Coal Mineworkers' Charter adopted by the Coal Mines Committee of the I.L.O. at its first session held in London in December 1945, and to the resolution adopted by the ~~Committee~~ Committee requesting Member Governments to ~~take~~ give immediate effect to the principles adopted. She asked what steps the Government of India had already taken or proposed to take to give effect to the resolution.

Government's Reply: National Industrial Committee on Coal Mining to be set up in India.— In reply, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, ~~the~~ Labour Member pointed out that Miss Kara was not quite accurate in saying that the Committee passed a resolution calling upon member Governments to give immediate effect to the principles. But it did pass a resolution expressing its wish, that while taking the situation in their respective countries into consideration, ~~the~~ governments should strive to give effect, as soon as possible, to the reforms recommended by it.

As for the steps ~~were~~ that were being taken in this connection, the Labour Member stated that the Government of India proposed to set up a National Industrial Committee on Coal on a tripartite basis to advise it as regards the administrative and legislative measures to be taken by Government or to promote collective agreements between employers and workers with a view to giving effect to the eight-point charter suggested by the International Industrial Committee on Coal Mining. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund had been instituted for financing schemes, designed for the social betterment of the mine workers and their families. The Government of India had recently decided to set up a Committee to enquire into and ~~make~~ re-commendations as to what would be reasonable wages for workers of different categories in the coal mines (vide page 12 of this report). Finally, the Government also proposed to examine, in consultation with the National Industrial Committee on coal mining, as soon as it was set up, questions relating to the provision of annual holidays with pay, reduction in hours of work, improvement of working conditions, the institution of a scheme of compulsory accident insurance and training courses for new entrants.

In reply to supplementary questions, the Labour Member stated <sup>that</sup> the Government of India hoped to ratify the decision of the I.L.O. "as far as possible".

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders)  
Central Rules, 1946, gazetted.

Reference was made at page 5 of the report of this Office for October, 1946, to the draft of certain rules the Government of India proposed to make under section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. The draft has now been approved and gazetted.

The Rules prescribe a set of model standing orders and the various forms in which ~~particulars~~ particulars of workmen, (total number—regular, temporary, substitutes, probationers, apprentices), trade unions, etc., are to be submitted. The Rules apply to all Chief Commissioners' Provinces and to industrial establishments under the control of the Central Government, Federal railways, major ports, mines and oilfields, throughout British India.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated  
28-12-1946, pages 1921-1924).

Certain Notifications under Essential Services  
(Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, cancelled.

Attention is invited to the Department of Labour notification No. LR.72(21), dated 13-12-1946, (Gazette of India Part I, dated 13-12-1946, pages 1887-1888) which, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3, sub-section (1) of Section 4, and sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, 1941, cancels ~~various~~ 32 earlier notifications of the Government of India.

The cancelled notifications were issued to meet war-time conditions; the earliest is dated 14-3-1942 and the latest 12-11-1945.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated  
13-12-1946, pages 1887-1888).

Amendments to Payment of Wages (Federal Railways)  
Rules, 1938: Contractors' Labour brought under  
Scope of Rules.

Attention is invited to Department of Labour Notification No. L-3070, dated 16-12-1946, (Gazette of India Part I, dated 13-12-1946, pages 1888-89) which, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, makes certain amendments to the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938.

By the amendment, labour for railway work employed "by a contractor employing, on an average, 20 or more persons daily in any one month in the preceding 12 months" is also included in (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938.

(Gazette of India, Part 1, dated 15-12-1946, pages 1888-1889 ).

Chief Commissioner's Provinces :

Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945:  
Scope to be extended to Additional Industries  
in British Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi.

The Governments of British Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi have gazetted this month certain draft amendments to their Census of Manufacturing Rules, 1945, which are proposed to be made in exercise of powers conferred under the Industrial Statistic Act, 1942.

Statistics in prescribed forms are to be collected for a number of new industries which have been added to the schedule appended to the Rules (vide page 2 of this report of this Office for November, 1945). The new industries added are similar to those which the Indian Provinces are bringing under the scope of their Census of Manufacturing Rules (vide page 5 of the report of this Office for November, 1946).

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 14-12-1946, pages 463, 464-465, 466-467, and 471 ).

Central Provinces and Berar:

Payment of Wages Act, 1936, extended to  
Coal Mine Labour.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of Section 1 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has extended the provisions of the said Act to the payment of wages of persons employed in coal mines in the Province.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated 20-12-1946, page 794 ).

Orissa :

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Rules under Factories Act, 1934: Exemptions  
From Provisions relating to Hours of work.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 43 of the Factories Act, 1934, the Government of Orissa has gazetted on 8-12-1946 certain Rules defining categories of persons deemed "to hold positions of supervision or management or to be employed in a confidential capacity". The Rules also prescribe the conditions under which exemptions from the provisions of the Factories Act relating to hours of work may be made in the case of certain employees (night watchmen, essential workers in rice mills and hemp factories, workers engaged in certain continuous processes, etc). The present Rules are issued in supersession of all previous rules on the subject dealt with.

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated  
15-12-1946, pages 264-268 ).

Sind:

Sind Industrial Relations Bill, 1946:  
Provision for settlement of Industrial  
Disputes by Conciliation and Adjudication.

The Sind Government recently published the text of the Industrial Relations Bill, 1946, which it proposes to enact. The Bill is intended, *inter alia*, to make provisions for the promotion of healthy industrial relations and for the settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation and adjudication and for certain other purposes.

The statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill points out that at present industrial disputes are dealt with under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. During the war, Defence of India Rule 81-A was promulgated. ~~this rule provides~~ for conciliation and adjudication. With the cessation of hostilities, the Defence of India Rules ceased to be operative from 1-10-1946.

The present bill has been prepared after ~~taking in~~ taking into consideration the existing legislation in the country and the experience gained in the working of the Defence of India Rules 81-A during the war and provides for (i) the establishment of a Conciliation Organisation consisting of Chief Industrial Relations Officer, Industrial Relations Officers and Assistant Industrial Relations Officers; (ii) the establishment of a Standing Industrial Court, consisting of three or more members with a Judge of the Chief Court of Sind as its President; (iii) the appointment of a Panel of assessors possessing special or technical knowledge of industry to assist the Industrial Court in an advisory capacity; (iv) distinction between scheduled and other industries; and (v) compulsory notice of strike or lock-out in the case of scheduled industries in view of their public importance.

Duties of Conciliation Organisation.— The Conciliation Organisation will be responsible for promoting the growth and development of healthy industrial relations and will be functioning all the time, even if there is no dispute. In cases of disputes, it is open to either party to submit

a report, in the prescribed form, to the Conciliation Organisation on a voluntary basis, but once a conciliation proceeding has commenced it will be obligatory upon the parties to participate in the proceeding. The Organisation, while seeking to settle ~~the~~ dispute, will respect any voluntary agreement that may exist between the parties for referring disputes to arbitration or negotiation. In the case of important disputes, however, the Government can refer them to the Conciliation Organisation even if the parties may not wish to do so. If the dispute is in respect of a scheduled industry, Government shall, upon receipt of a notice of strike, if the parties have not done so already, refer the dispute to the Conciliation Organisation. Any strike during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings has also been made illegal. In order that conciliation proceedings may be completed within reasonable time, a time-limit for the completion of such proceedings will be prescribed and provision is made for the publication of ~~such proceedings with~~ the report of the Conciliation Organisation. Provision has also been made for the Conciliation Organisation to receive copies of voluntary agreements and several other ancillary matters, including penalties. Rules will be framed to cover points of procedure.

Scheduled Industries: Arbitration and Adjudication.- It is proposed to place certain industries on the schedule in view of their importance to the life of the community. Provision is also made for ~~the~~ adding to or removing from the schedule any industry under certain circumstances.

In the case of scheduled industries, Government may at its discretion, refer a dispute to the Industrial Court for adjudication after conciliation has failed. The award of the Industrial Court is made binding upon the parties and final in all cases. In order that the Industrial Court may be able to have the necessary technical advice, provision has been made for the appointment of a panel of assessors who will be persons with specialized knowledge.

The Statement of Object and Reasons stresses that the burden of maintaining industrial ~~and~~ peace is <sup>mutual</sup> responsibility of employers and employees. The Government will provide the machinery for encouraging the healthy growth of industrial relations and conciliation if parties desire to seek its help. In the case of scheduled industries, however, <sup>the</sup> public and Government have a greater stake in industrial peace and have the right to insist that there shall be no strike or lock-out without notice. Compulsory conciliation has, therefore, been provided in these cases ~~if~~ but if conciliation fails there may be adjudication by the Industrial Court at the discretion of ~~the~~ Government.

(Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1946).

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Cochin State:

Cochin Trade Disputes Adjudication Proclamation:  
Provision for settlement of Trade Disputes .

In order to make temporary provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes by adjudication, the Cochin Trade Disputes Adjudication Proclamation was promulgated on 20-9-1946. It comes into force once and applies to the whole of Cochin State. With the coming into force of the ~~prova~~ proclamation, Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules as made applicable to Cochin ceases to apply.

According to this Proclamation, the Government may, by general or special order, applying generally or to any specified area make provision (a) for prohibiting a strike or lock-out in connection with any trade dispute; (b) for requiring employers, workmen or both to observe for a specified period certain terms and conditions of employment; (c) for referring any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided; (d) for enforcing all or any of the decisions of the adjudicator for such period as may be specified in the order. It has also been provided that no order shall require an employer to observe terms and conditions of employment less favourable to the workmen than those which were applicable to them at any time within three months preceding the date of such order. Where a trade dispute referred for adjudication has arisen only in a particular undertaking or group of undertakings, the Government may include any other undertaking in the adjudication proceedings irrespective of the fact whether a trade dispute exists at the time in those undertakings if the Government is satisfied that such undertakings are engaged in the same type of industry or business.

(Indian labour gazette, November, 1946).

7

SOCIAL POLICY.

Joint Labour Board to enquire into Labourers' Strikes: Burma Government's Decision.

In pursuance of its decision to appoint Joint Labour Boards to handle labour problems (vide page 9 of the report of this Office for November, 1946), the Government of Burma, on 9-12-1946, announced the appointment of ~~the~~ a joint Labour Board to enquire into the causes of the recent strikes of labourers and make recommendations to ~~the~~ Government on the basis of its findings.

The Hon'ble Sir Pa U will be the Chairman of the Board, which will include two representatives each of the Government, employers and employees as members. U Hla Pe, Labour Officer, will be the Secretary to the Board.

(Supplement to the Burma Gazette,  
dated 30-11-1946, page 495).

Tea Plantation Labour: Provincial Ministers to review Conditions.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India has convened in Delhi on 8 and 9-1-1947 a conference of provincial Ministers to review the working conditions of ~~the~~ tea plantation labour and discuss the desirability of promoting special legislation for ameliorating them.

Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Minister, Bengal, Mr. V.V. Giri, Labour Minister, Madras, Mr. B. Deuri, Minister, Assam, and a representative of the Government of Travancore are expected to attend the conference to which six representatives of employers and six representatives of plantation labour have also been invited.

(The Statesman, 30-12-1946).

Liberal Wage Standards and 48-Hour-Week: Demand of All India Manufacturers' Organisation.

A resolution stressing the need for a sound and progressive labour policy was adopted unanimously by the Central Committee of the All-India Manufacturers Organisation at its third quarterly meeting held at Bombay on 22-12-46 under the chairmanship of Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

The resolution further recommended the following measures: Adoption of progressively liberal wage standards; introduction of a working week of 48 hours; adoption of more efficient methods of work; granting of leave on full pay for at least two weeks in a year; provision of free and adequate medical service; introduction of cost-price food canteens for providing nutritive food during working hours; formation of worker's co-operative societies; introduction of provident fund and insurance schemes for the entire factory personnel with equal contribution from industries and the State; introduction of apprentice courses for the training of technical personnel; Training in citizenship through literacy classes, reading rooms, lectures, physical training and visual education.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 24-12-1946).



4

Conference of Employers' and Workers' Delegates,  
New Delhi, 6 and 7-12-1946.

A conference of employers' and workers' delegates for the purpose of discussing and deciding upon a 5-year programme of labour legislation and administration convened by the Government of India, was held at New Delhi on 6 and 7-12-1946, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India, presiding. The 5-year programme which aimed at bringing about an improvement in the working conditions, efficiency and standard of living of workers had already been generally accepted at two earlier conferences, one of provincial Labour Ministers and, the other, of States Labour Ministers, (vide pages 20-22 and 10-11 of the report of this Office for the October and November, 1946). The Conference was attended by representatives of the Indian Organisation of Industrial Employers and the Indian Federation of Employers and by representatives of the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour.

Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, in his presidential address, said that, the formulation of the 5-year programme, was intended to avoid, on the one hand, piecemeal legislation and, on the other, the charge of being half-hearted in ameliorating labour conditions. From a broad national point of view a progressive labour policy was in the employers' interest no less than in that of the workers; such a proposition was true even from a narrow point of view, because "a discontented labour force is the worst possible investment". The great problem at the moment was the necessity of increased production. India's potentialities were great, but discipline, equipment, and organisation were lacking. It was only when these defects were rectified and production organised on a ~~forward to a real improvement~~ vast scale that the people could look forward to a real improvement in the standard of living. Improvement in wages, however, was one of the major items in the programme and the Government would do its best to secure for the workers a living wage. In this connection, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram referred to the committee set up to examine the wages of coal miners and to the conference to be convened for considering the wages of plantation labour (vide pages 12 and 7 of this report). Increase in wages, however, was only a means to a better standard of living. Monetary wages would mean little if workers ~~ex~~ could not buy goods and services; so production had to be expanded on a truly stupendous scale. Concluding, the Labour Member stressed the paramount necessity of initiating a drive for higher production. There was still considerable industrial unrest in the country, and as a consequence, India was not producing as much as she could even with her limited capacity.

(The Statesman, 7-12-1946).

Conditions of Labour in Industries: U.P. Government  
appoints Committee of Inquiry.

The Government of the United Provinces has appointed a Committee of Inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr. R.R. Bhalé, a Bombay M.L.C. and a member of the Servants of India Society, to investigate into the conditions of industrial labour in the province and make recommendations.

The terms of reference are comprehensive and cover various aspects of the workers' lives. They include the conditions of work and service, existing labour welfare activities, house accommodation available at present, growth and working of trade unions, and existing labour laws with a view to their amendment or augmentation. Two important points the Committee is commissioned to report on are: the possibility and desirability of introducing in the province schemes of profit-sharing among employers and employed and the desirability or otherwise of associating labour with management in the responsibility of considering and solving problems of industry.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-12-1946;  
The Statesman, 25-12-1946 ).

Industrial Health and Safety.

"People's Mobile Hospitals": Bombay Scheme for  
Medical Aid in Labour Areas.

Two hospital vans, equipped with medical supplies and accompanied by doctors, nurses, compounders and volunteers, will tour round labour areas in Bombay on alternate days from 7-12-1946 onwards, rendering medical aid to the poor and needy. These "Peoples' Mobile Hospitals" have been got ready with donation from the public of Bombay.

Addressing a gathering at the opening ceremony of the hospitals on 6-12-1946, Mr. Furshottam Tricumdas, President of the Peoples' Mobile Hospitals Association, said that the vans were expected to relieve the congestion in the outpatient departments of city hospitals during emergencies, such as riots and lathi charges, and they would serve as a model for the Government to copy. He also appealed to the public of Bombay to contribute to the Association and help them to equip more vans for Greater Bombay and the province.

(The Times of India, 7-12-1946).

## Inspection.

### Working of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, in Madras Province during 1945-46.

Number of Boilers.- The number of boilers on the registers of the Madras Province, Coorg and Bangalore Civil and Military station at the close of 1945-46, was 3,194, 11 and 34, respectively. The figures for the preceding two years were 3,161, 11 and 36; and 3,147, 11 and 30, respectively.

Inspections and Renewals of Certificates.- During 1945-46, 1594 boilers were examined and 2882 were subjected to hydraulic and steam tests; 1532 renewal certificates were issued.

Accidents to Boilers.- The total number of accidents to boilers, during the year under report, was 50 as against 24 in the previous year, indicating the necessity for increase in the number of visits for the check inspection of boilers. There were no dangerous explosions resulting in the loss of life or property, but a few of the accidents were serious enough to come within this category. Bulges and fractures of flue rings, and bulges in shells (wastage and puncture in uptakes) of a few boilers were among the more serious of the accidents. The report points out that the development of defects could have been checked by ~~greater efforts~~ by making more inspections after the boilers are certified, and that at present this is not feasible ~~in~~ due to shortage of Inspectors.

Prosecutions.- There were no prosecutions under the provisions of the Indian ~~Boilers Act~~ Boilers Act ~~during the year~~ of 1923 or under the Indian Boilers Regulations.

The report of the ~~Chief Inspector of Steam Boilers, Madras~~ <sup>Reviewing</sup> points out that no rules have yet been made under section 29 (d) of the Indian Boilers Act requiring persons in charge of boiler ~~xxxxxxx~~ to be in possession of certificates of competency, though only boiler attendants in charge of boilers belonging to Government, municipal and local bodies, are, by special orders of Government required to be in possession of certificates of competency. It has, however, been decided to frame rules under section 29(d) requiring boilers to be in charge of persons holding certificates of competency, and such rules are under preparation.

General.- ~~Referring~~ <sup>Reviewing</sup> the working of the Boilers Department generally, the report points out ~~says~~: though hostilities have ceased, conditions in regard to increased work of that existed during the war time still exist. New boilers are ~~being~~ imported but not in sufficient numbers and within stipulated periods to meet the existing demand. Old boilers have, ~~therefore~~ therefore, to be reconditioned to meet the existing needs for steam and power. Greater number of ~~exi~~ inspections are required for the prevention of accidents both minor and serious, as well as for a stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Regulations.

(Government of Madras G.O. No. 2084, dated 3-8-1946, Public Works Department, Indian Boilers Act, 1923—Report of the Chief Inspector of Steam Boilers for the year 1945-46: ~~xxxxxx~~ Received in this Office on 19-12-1946 ).

## Wages .

### Coal Mines Wages Enquiry Committee set up: Terms of Reference.

According to a press communiqué, issued on 9-12-1946, the Government of India, in pursuance of its decision to conduct an enquiry into the ~~WAGES~~ wage position in the coal-mining industry (vide page 50 of the report of this Office for March, 1946), has set up "The Coalmines Wages Enquiry Committee", with headquarters at Dhanbad for this purpose.

The Committee is constituted as follows: Chairman: Rai Bahadur B.P. Pandey, (Bihar). Members: Mr. F.W. Manley, and Mr. K. Basu (representing the producers), Mr. P.C. Bose, M.L.A. (Bihar), and Mr. Jatindra Nath Mitra of the Indian Federation of Labour (representing labour). Member-Secretary: Khan Bahadur M. Aslam, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Labour Department.

Terms of Reference.- The terms of reference of the committee are: (1) to inquire into the basic needs of coal-mining labour, as determined on social considerations, and to make recommendations on what should be considered reasonable wages for various categories, and (2) to inquire into the methods of ~~payments~~ payment of wages and deductions therefrom and to make recommendations for their regulation.

The Committee will assemble early in January, 1947, and will submit its report to Government by 31st March, 1947.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-12-1946).

### Interim Relief for Textile Workers in Madras: Government accepts Enquiry Officers' Award.

Rao Bahadur M. Venkatasamayya, who was appointed by the Government of Madras to examine the question of interim relief to textile workers of the province (vide page 14 of the report of this Office for November, 1946), has submitted his report on the interim relief that may be granted to them. The Government of Madras, a Government press note states, has accepted the recommendations of the Adjudicator.

The Award.- Different scales of relief are suggested for textile workers in different districts, <sup>as</sup> service conditions differ in different districts. No dearness allowance is admissible on the interim relief. As regards bonus, what has been declared by the several mills is adequate and no further relief ~~is~~ is necessary for this year. The interim relief recommended is not final and will have to be revised after the Court of Enquiry submits its report. The recommendations to apply only to mills employing ~~a~~ hundred workers or more and will have retrospective effect from 1-10-1946 for all workers, except workers in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, for whom the increase will be given with effect from 1-12-1946. Fifteen weaving mills which are small and depend on the supply of yarn from other places are exempted from the payment of interim relief as they are not in a position to bear any extra expenditure. In effect, the ~~recommendation~~ recommendations will raise the minimum wage of a worker to Rs. 40, inclusive of all allowances. (The Hindu, 14 and 21-12-1946).

Wages of Railway Employees: Annual Report on  
the Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936,  
in 1944-45.

According to the annual report for 1944-45, of the working of the Payment of Wages Act ~~for the year 1944-45~~ the total amount ~~of~~ of wages paid to ~~workers~~ <sup>Railway</sup> workers covered by the Act was Rs. 384,954,733.

Number of Workers and Delays in Payment.- The number of railwaymen protected by the Act, during the year under report, was 1,243,100, including a 100,000 workers employed by contractors, as compared to 969,174 in the previous year. During the year under review, there were 5,694 cases of delay in payment of wages, as against 6,005 during the previous year. Most of these delays related to the payment of increments, overtime allowance, leave salary, officiating allowance, etc.

Inspections.- During the year 6,158 Railway establishments, including 160 Contractors' establishments and Pay Masters Offices, were inspected. The Report points out that, although the registers of fines, deductions for damage or loss and of wages are now better maintained than was the case in the previous years, there is still room for improvement.

Fines Imposed and Refunded.- There were, during the year, 251 cases as compared to 185 in the previous year, in which one or other requirement of the law had been overlooked in imposing fines. On the advice of the Department, however, all such fines were refunded to the employees concerned. The number of cases of fines was 18,211 and the amount of fines Rs. 16,258-15 the corresponding figures for the previous year being 15,773 and ~~Rs~~ Rs. 15,075-1-2 respectively. There were, on Class I Railways, 29,198 cases of deductions for damage or loss amounting to Rs. 107,111. While the number of such cases showed a slight diminution as compared to the previous year, the amount deducted rose by nearly Rs. 17,345.

The report points out that a practice was noticed on one of the Railways according to which certain employees were marked absent and were deprived of their wages as a measure of punishment for days they were actually present on duty and the Railway concerned was asked to issue specific instructions to its subordinate officers to put a stop to it and refund such deductions as had been made. In regard to contract labour, the report comments that a number of irregularities came to light in which there were delays in the payment of wages. Most of these, however, were rectified by methods of persuasion.

(The Labour Gazette, November, 1946).

## Welfare.

### Labour Welfare Officers to be appointed on S.I. Railway: Personal Contacts with non-Gazetted Staff.

The question of appointing "welfare wardens" for educating workmen, promoting welfare work among them and bringing to the notice of the authorities their grievances has been under consideration for some time by the authorities of the South Indian Railway. At a Press Conference in Madras on 21-12-1946, Mr. J.F.C. Reynolds, General Manager of the Railway, announced that the Railway now proposes, as a first step, to appoint one welfare officer for each of the six traffic districts of the railway system.

Duties of Welfare Officers.— The primary duty of these officers, will be to maintain personal contact with non-gazetted staff such as gang-men, points-men, gate-keepers and sweepers, and furnish them up-to-date information relating to service conditions and welfare schemes and other amenities already provided and to be provided by the administration, while also reporting to the authorities grievances of the workers coming to their notice for early redressal.

Proposal to set up Central Staff Council.— The welfare officers will function as Secretaries of the District Staff Councils, which are now the only venue of personal contact between the district officers and their staff. Elections are now being held for these councils and the councils will start functioning from 1-1-1947. Preparations are also in progress to constitute a Central Staff Council comprising elected representatives of the headquarters staff and District Staff Councils, to function under rules recently promulgated by the Railway Board.

It is also proposed to supplement the activities of these welfare officers by issue of suitable leaflets and notices giving publicity to vital information and presenting facts in their correct perspective. The authorities expect also to publish in due course a railway magazine or bulletin.

(The Hindu, dated 22-12-1946 ).

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

### India's Sterling Balances: Preliminary Negotiations With British Delegation in January, 1947.

According to a press communiqué, issued by the Government of India on 23-12-1946, preliminary discussion on India's sterling balances will begin in Delhi about the middle of January, 1947, when a delegation from the United Kingdom will visit India for the purpose. It is considered, the communiqué adds, that negotiations for the settlement of the sterling balances would be facilitated and expedited if they are preceded by preliminary talks between officers of the British Treasury and the Bank of England on the one hand, and those of the Finance Department of the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India on the other. The delegation from the United Kingdom is arriving in Delhi with a view to studying issues and important technical problems inherent in the situation and exploring lines on which the views of the two Governments could best be harmonised. The British Delegation will be headed by Sir Wilfred Eady.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 25-12-1946).

### Protective Tariff to aid Chemical Industries: Government of India's Decision.

The Government of India announced in the third week of December, 1946, its decision to grant protection to four chemical industries, namely, calcium chloride, photo-chemicals, bichromates and phosphates, and phosphoric acid. It has, however, rejected the claim for protection made by a fifth industry, the better colour industry.

As regards calcium chloride, the present ad valorem duty on imports with preferential rates for imports from Burma and the United Kingdom is to be replaced by specific protective duties. The entire position will be reviewed during the year 1947. In the case of photo-chemicals also, Government has decided to replace the existing duties by specific protective duties, but the Government attaches great importance to the quality of photo-chemicals produced by the industry being comparable to that of similar products imported, from the United Kingdom and the United States of America and proposes to satisfy itself that the quality of the indigenous products is maintained at this level. On the bichromates industry, again, the Government has decided to replace the existing revenue duty of 30 per cent on sodium bichromates, potassium bichromates and all chrome compounds by a protective and ad valorem duty of 30 per cent for a period of a year in the first instance. The position will be reviewed during the course of 1947, by re-investigation of the costs of a firm which has actually produced 600 tons in a year, the output of an economic unit prescribed by the Tariff Board.

These decisions are based on the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board constituted in November 1945, with Sri Shanmukham Chetty as Chairman (vide pages 51-52 of the report of this Office for November, 1945).

(The Hindu, dated 23-12-1946).



## Scientific Consultative Committee reformed.

In order to secure greater co-ordination in the scientific research activities conducted under the auspices of the various Governments and scientific institutions in India, the Government of India has enlarged the Scientific Consultative Committee, which was constituted in December, 1944 (vide page 11 of the report of this Office for December, 1944), so as to include representatives of all important branches of scientific research. The Committee will be attached to the Department of Industries and Supplies. A Deputy Secretary of the Department will be Secretary to the Committee.

Functions.- The functions of the Committee will be as follows: (1) To advise the Government of India on all general questions of policy relating to research throughout India and on any special matters relating to research which may be specifically referred to it. (2) To co-ordinate scientific research which would include—(a) Compilation and publication of information regarding research facilities available in India and of the work being done in India by both official and non-official organisations, and This will not affect the publication of reports by scientific departments and associations which will continue as hitherto. (b) Suggesting ways and means by which the research work in various institutions can be better co-ordinated. (c) Considering, in particular, the progress of research work requiring collaboration of more than one department.

(The Gazette of India, dated 14-12-1946, Part I,  
page 1863 ).

## Oilseeds Prices Controlled: Bombay Government's Announcement.

The Government of Bombay has decided to institute control of the prices of groundnuts and groundnut oil throughout the Bombay Province with effect from the 1-1-1947. Announcing this, the Director of Publicity, Bombay, adds that the Government of India, on the recommendations of the All-India Oilseeds Conference (vide pages 28-29 of the report of this Office for September, 1946), had suggested to all the provincial and State Governments that the prices of all important edible oilseeds and oils should be controlled, in the interests of the consumer. The inter-provincial movement of oilseeds and oils is also taking place under movement plans formulated by the Government of India, in consultation with the surplus and the deficit Provinces and States concerned.

(The Times of India, 16-12-1946).

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State Acquisition of Key Minerals: Official  
Conference at New Delhi to decide Mineral  
Policy.

Acquisition of mineral rights by the State and plans for Central co-ordination and regulation of certain key minerals will be among the main subjects to be discussed at a conference of representatives of the Central, Provincial and States' Governments and other interests concerned, scheduled to meet in Delhi in two separate sections on 10-1-1947 and 13-1-47. The conference will be presided over by Mr. C.H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power in the Interim Government.

Agenda.- The main problem before the conference will be the formulation of a mineral policy for India and the Central legislation necessary for its execution. According to a tentative draft made by ~~the~~ a former Government and left over to the Interim Government, legislation of two sorts will be required to deal with the problem: (1) a general law authorising control of certain important scheduled minerals and (2) "ad hoc" legislation dealing specifically with problems relating to individual minerals such as coal, mica and petroleum. The conference will also deal with production, conservation and utilisation of minerals in the country. The first section, which will meet on January 10, comprise members of the Mineral Advisory Board and non-official representatives of trade, commerce, labour and other interests, and the second section, which will be <sup>met</sup> held on January 13, will be mainly confined to representatives of provincial Governments and Indian States.

Conditions in the Mineral and Oil Industry.- According to available figures, the total value of the annual mineral production in India is over Rs. 400 million, but it has been estimated that a proper utilisation of the resources would very much increase that figure. During the war, the Government of India took steps to control certain essential minerals, but these controls will lapse on March 25, 1947. It is now considered essential to take a decision on policy for proper ~~regulation~~ regulation and development under Federal control of mines and oilfields and mineral development to the extent to which it may be in the public interests.

The provincial Governments who control the bulk of the oil resources in India have been dealing with them somewhat on the lines of the Mining Concessions (Central) Rules, 1939, but no definite policy appears to have been followed and large areas have been given to a few oil companies which have a virtual monopoly in this field. In 1940, the Provincial Governments were asked to request all oil companies to suspend exploratory and prospecting work not likely to produce oil within three years. The moratorium thereby resulting will expire in February, 1947, and it is considered necessary to decide at once the policy governing oil concessions in future, if development is to proceed in national interests.

Central co-ordination and regulation of certain key minerals, for which legislation is suggested, is intended, among other things, to cover the following subjects: Consideration of the foreign trade policy in the national interest with a view to regulating tariffs, subsidies, and ensuring that the mineral resources of the country are not frittered ~~an~~ away by a cut-throat competition among producers and traders; Regulation and control of key minerals in the interests of defence; The establishment of a Bureau of Mines with connected organisations to execute the policy ~~and~~ embodied in such legislation; Organisation of training and research in India and abroad for utilising the mineral resources of the country to the fullest extent and discouraging the export of raw materials, which could be turned into manufactured articles within the country; Co-ordination of

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working at different producing centres and wise utilisation of the minerals resources for industrial development within the country. This covers the internal trade policy, railway rates, standardisation etc.

(The Times of India, 25 and 30-12-1946).

5-Year Plan for Sugar Industry: Control to continue.

Mr. N.T. Mone, I.C.S., Sugar Controller for India, in a broadcast on 30-12-1946 from Delhi on the sugar ~~position~~ position in India, stated that the Government of India has set up a Sugar Panel (vide page 51 of the report of this Office for November, 1946) to make recommendations on the immediate 5-year post-war development of the sugar industry in the country. He pointed out that the Sugar Panel has made valuable suggestions in regard to all aspects of post-war expansion of the sugar industry, utilisation of by-products and reduction of the cost of manufacture, as well as the future of sugar control. The Panel estimates the ~~xxx~~ probable demand for sugar in the country at 1.6 million tons. The Government of India has accepted this view and has placed the target for sugar production in the next five years at 1.85 million tons, which is to be covered by expansion of existing un-economic units, installation of new factories, development of sugarcane and other measures. It is proposed to set up 45 new factories in addition to the existing 170 or so.

Control to continue.— Mr. Mone indicated that the world production of sugar is at present much below the pre-war level, though during 1947 it is expected to be better than in 1946. The present shortage of sugar is, therefore, likely to continue for three or ~~xxxx~~ four years yet.

(The Statesman, 31-12-1946).

Austin Car Assembly Plant to be started in India.

A deputation of leading Indian motor car distributors from India has signed an agreement with the Austin Motor Export Corporation of Great Britain for production of Austin Cars in India within a year. The agreement provides for the erection of a plant at one of India's main ports with a minimum output of 5,000 vehicles a year. The Indian company will be financially independent and controlled by Indians and Austins will send out technical experts from Birmingham and adequate tools and machinery to facilitate an early start. Every model in the Austin range will be assembled and progressively manufactured in the Indian plant under the terms of the agreement. The quality of Austin products and the prices to the public in India ~~are~~ are fully safeguarded. Endeavours will be made to substitute the imported component parts by parts manufactured in India without impairing standards.

(The Statesman, 24-12-1946;  
"Dawn", dated 26-12-1946).

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Wool Survey Mission: 10-Week Tour of India.

A ten weeks' tour of India's wool-growing and manufacturing areas has been planned by the Wool Survey Mission deputed by the International Wool Secretariat. The Mission, consisting of Messrs. Arthur Staynes and A. Whalley, arrived in India in December, 1946. During their tour, the Mission will be accompanied by an officer of the Central Industries and Supplies department and will be assisted by the Directors of Industries of the various Provinces and States.

(The Times of India, 30-12-1946).

Australian Trade Delegation leaves India:

Reference was made at page 39 of the report of this Office for October 1946, to the arrival of <sup>the</sup> Australian Trade Delegation, headed by Mr. B. Meecham, in India. After a seven-week tour of India, the Delegation left Calcutta for Australia on 16-12-1946. In the course of their tour, the delegation visited all the Provinces of India except Assam and Orissa, and two Indian States, namely Hyderabad and Mysore.

Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Prime Minister of Bengal, said at a farewell dinner at Calcutta that he looked forward to better relationships and trade between Australia and Bengal, which was the nearest province to Australia. At present, there was disparity in prices because the cost of living in Australia had risen by 30 per cent, whereas in India it had risen by over 400 per cent. Australia had to pay higher prices for the jute they bought in Bengal; but in 1947 prices, would be stabilised and, if the costs of food products came to reasonable levels, they might be able to send jute at lower ~~xx~~ prices. Australia wanted textiles from India and Bengal, if able to produce enough, should supply textiles, as they were the natural distributors to the Far East, whereas Bombay should be distributing textiles in the Middle East. Australia can help India with technical advice for improving its livestock and fostering new ~~industries~~ industries. Australia should be able also to supply machinery at competitive rates.

(The Times of India, 16-12-1946).

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EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Recruitment of Technical Personnel: Recommendations of The  
Institution of Engineers (India).

To examine the question of recruitment of technical personnel at the present stage of India's industrial development, the Institution of Engineers (India), at their Silver Jubilee Session held in Calcutta in 1945, appointed a sub-committee of eight expert engineers. Its report was recently examined by the Institution's Council who are in general agreement with the Committee's suggestions.

Need for Pooling of Technical Talent.- The report states that post-war planning has brought to the forefront the problem of finding experts and technical personnel for the industrial development of India. The Institution feels that all technical recruitment should be preceded by the collection and examination of reliable and sufficient data relating to the existing number of technically trained men and their quality; ~~the extent and~~ their present conditions of employment; the total demand for technical personnel, its quantity and quality; the capacity of existing technical institutions to provide the necessary recruits and their terms of service; training of raw graduates or experienced Indians abroad and the employment of experts. The Institution recommends that the country's technical talent should be pooled and utilised for a comprehensive scheme of industrial development. This can only be possible, if, as between Central and Provincial Governments as also between the Governments and industry, there is readiness to agree to ~~examining the~~ use being made of available talent in the best interests of the country as a whole against local interests.

Terms of Service for Indian and Foreign Technical Experts.- It is also suggested that in the matter of employment, service prospects and other terms should be sufficiently attractive and no discrimination should be made between Indian and foreign personnel. In connection with the employment of foreign experts, the Institution is of opinion that, it will be necessary, at the present stage, to employ foreign experts, but their selection will have to be ~~done~~ done with great care. Apart from possessing extensive experience, these experts should also have worked as consultants in their own professions and, in addition, should have a genuine desire to make a success of the schemes they are taken on and also undertake to train suitable Indians for the posts which they will vacate at the end of their terms. Such experts, will have to keep in close touch with Indian technical institutions and advise on courses of theoretical and practical training.

In order to convey these recommendations to all employers, the Institution has addressed a circular letter to all members of the Central and Provincial Governments, industrialists, Indian States and public and semi-public bodies. The Institution is confident that the recommendations made by the sub-committee, if given effect to in a concerted manner, would go a long way in helping post-war plans for India's industrial development.

(The Times of India, 19-12-1946).

MIGRATION.

Conditions of Work in Ceylon: Report of the  
Commissioner of Labour for 1945\*.

Labour conditions in Ceylon during 1945 and the main developments during the year in the fields of labour legislation and administration are reviewed in the Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour for 1945. As usual the report falls into two parts, Part I, dealing with conditions of labour in general and Part II, with Indian Immigrant Labour in particular. The main developments during 1945 are noticed below.

Part I - General

Labour Legislation: (a) Industrial Disputes.- Proposals for a new Industrial Disputes Ordinance to replace the existing Ordinance, were placed before the Minister on 14-8-1945 and were approved by the Executive Committee on 20-9-1945. The Legal Secretary has been instructed to prepare the necessary draft legislation.

(b) Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.- Reference was made in the report for the year 1944 (vide page 28 of the report of this Office for November 1945) to certain steps that were being taken to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. But in view of the appointment of the ~~proposed~~ the Social Services Commission, whose terms of reference include the investigation of the working of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, it is proposed to await the recommendations of the Committee before introducing any amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.

(c) Trade Unions Ordinance.- Proposals for amending the Trade Unions Ordinance were still under consideration at the end of the year.

(d) Maternity Benefits Ordinance.- The first draft of the bill to amend the Maternity Benefits Ordinance (vide pages 28-29 of the report of this Office for November 1945) was submitted by the Legal Draftsman in July, 1945, and later revised on the suggestions of the Commissioner of Labour. It was under consideration by the Executive Committee at the end of the year.

(e) Regulations under Maternity Benefits Ordinance.- During the year, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services advised the Minister of Health that the minimum period of which the use of a maternity ward or a lying-in-room should be assured to a female labourer for her confinement under the alternative benefits provided for in section 5 of the Ordinance should be ten days. The matter was referred to the Minister of Labour,

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\* Ceylon: Part I. - Civil (O).: Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour for 1945: (A.E. Christoffelsz, Esq., C.C.S.); November, 1946. Printed on the Orders of Government. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo; Price Rs. 1.50. 1946. pp. 074.

Industry and Commerce and necessary provision in this behalf was made by the amendment of the rule 15(a) of the rules passed under the Ordinance. The amended rule was approved by the State Council on 14-8-1945.

(f) Legislation to obtain Powers to collect Statistics on Labour matters. - During the year it was finally decided to confer powers on the Labour Department for the collection of statistics on labour matters by amending the Wages Board Ordinance No. 27 of 1941, and the regulations framed thereunder. Certain other amendments to the Wages Boards Ordinance were also pending and a draft amending bill and a draft regulation to amend the Wages Boards Regulations were accordingly prepared by the Legal Draftsman, approved by the Executive Committee and finally passed by the State Council on 9-8-1945.

Ordinance No. 22 of 1945 gave effect to the proposal to alter the designation of the Head of the Department of Labour and the designation of his Deputies and Assistants.

Application of International Labour Conventions. - An annual report is furnished to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the application in Ceylon of the International Labour Conventions ratified by Great Britain. Draft legislation to give effect to convention No. 50 on "Regulation of Certain Special Systems of Recruiting Workers" was submitted by the Legal Secretary on 17-10-1945, but it was found that if the draft bill embodying the provisions ~~of~~ of the Convention was passed into law the Servants' Agencies in Ceylon would automatically have to go out of existence. The Commissioner of Labour was of opinion that necessary provision should be included in the bill to enable the Servants' Agencies to carry on their business under the control and supervision of the Labour Department. The Executive Committee agreed with the Commissioner of Labour and the Legal Secretary was instructed to make the necessary amendments to the bill. Legislation to give effect to the provisions of Convention No. 64 (re. Regulation of Written Contracts of Employment of Indigenous Workers) was in course of preparation.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics. - During the year 7,418 accidents were reported as against 7,255 in 1944. Of these 168 were fatal as against 140 in 1944. According to the returns furnished by employers the amount of claims paid during the year was Rs. 400,361.09 in respect of 5,565 cases, ~~the amount~~ as against Rs. 302,996.12 in respect of 5,925 cases in 1944. During the year 94 inquiries were held. Proceedings were taken in 296 cases and liability was admitted and compensation deposited in 95 cases, the amount of compensation deposited with the Commissioner being Rs. 301,963.54 as against Rs. 128,844.11 in 1944. During the year a total of 1014 agreements were registered, and of these 269 were in respect of permanent disablement, 744 in respect of temporary disablement and one in respect of commutation of half monthly payments due for the period of temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid in respect of the 269 cases of permanent disablement was Rs. 140,562. 64 licences to undertake insurance against liability by employers to workmen under the Ordinance were current during the year. No claim for compensation in respect of any industrial disease was received, during ~~the~~ 1945.

Trade Unions. - 40 unions applied for registration during 1945; of these 23 were registered. Of the 84 unions functioning at the end of 1944, the registration of 22 was cancelled and 2 were amalgamated. Annual returns for 1945 were, therefore, due from only 61 unions. A table appended to the report indicates that the largest among these were the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union, ~~that~~ the Ceylon Labour Union, the Ceylon Mercantile Union, the Ceylon Estate Staffs' Union and the Colombo Municipal Workers' Union with a membership of 42,275, 16,682, 3,956, 3,358 and 2,958 respectively, on 31-3-1945. The total membership of Unions affiliated to the various



federations of labour was 21,398 in the case of the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress, 13,380 in the case of the Ceylon Trade Union Federation and 2,196 in the case of the Ceylon Federation of Labour.

The report complains that unions still seem to pay scant attention to the requirements of the Ordinance in regard to annual returns and notification of change of officers or rules or even registered offices and warns that in the future action may have to be taken against the offending unions. Another unsatisfactory development was the intensification of inter-union rivalry. Flirtations with workers by rival unions was rampant, and cases known where a group of workers abandoned one union and joined another during the course of the same trade dispute. The report suggests that multiplicity of unions in the same trade or industry is undesirable and expresses the hope that rival unions will strive to establish a modus vivendi which will conserve their strength and at the same time teach the worker that membership in a Union involves not only privilege but discipline.

On their side the employers also have still to learn that they can assist in promoting harmony between management and labour and the report states that the importance of collective bargaining and the efficacy of conciliation in the settlement of disputes are still not sufficiently appreciated.

During the year the department's conciliation service had to meet repeated demands for assistance and the report emphasises that it has been the effort of the department to make both employer and labour rely on the process of negotiation rather than on the lockout or the strike as the healthiest method of settling differences.

Trade and Industrial Disputes and Strikes.- During the year under review 55 strikes in trade or industry outside estates were reported to the department as against 66 in the previous year. The total number of workers involved was 28,875 and the number of man-days lost 153,388½.

Grievances were of a varied nature. But the commonest cause of a strike was the dismissal or the disciplinary punishment of a recalcitrant worker. Most of these strikes took place in services declared essential under the Defence Regulations and the report adds that though strikes and lockouts in essential services were declared illegal, this fact scarcely operated as a deterrent. In most cases resort inquiry by departmental officers or arbitration under the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, had ultimately to be resorted to.

During the year the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order was amended, providing for compulsory arbitration in the case of a trade dispute regarding which neither employer nor workmen had sent a petition. An amendment to the Defence Regulations 43B was made in April 1945 to deal with the situation created by a strike of workers in Government undertakings. A new section 43BB was passed under which the Governor was given the power to issue directions to workers to perform and continue to perform their usual work and to prohibit persons so employed from absenting themselves from work without leave or reasonable cause. General instances of stoppages of work in essential services were attributed to indiscipline among workers or irresponsible leadership and the report declares that responsible leadership could have avoided a number of "wild-cat" stoppages of work, e.g., a strike involving about 8000 workers was called in Colombo, on 19-9-1945, as the Board of Ministers refused to go out and meet a procession of workers who were stopped by the police from marching to the State Council.

Industrial Labour: Substantial Increases in Basic Wages.- Decisions of several Wages Boards which came into force during the year after approval by Government gave substantial increases in basic wages to a



large section of industrial workers. The tendency among the workers in other trades for which no Wages Boards have been established has been to demand parity of wages with similar workers in the trades for which Wages Boards had been established. Later in the year the Government also decided to raise the wages of its employees to a level consistent with the decisions of Wages Boards. Employers, however, generally alleged that in spite of wage increases the output of labourers was below the pre-war ~~standards~~ standard.

The intervention of the department <sup>was</sup> ~~continued~~ to be freely sought by unions and employers for settling disputes. Where disputes could not be amicably settled, they were referred for adjudication to Special Tribunals under the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes & Lockouts) Order, 1942. During the year under review 23 petitions relating to the trade disputes were received under the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942. In all 19, cases were disposed of during the year and seven cases were pending at the end of the year. The report adds that slowing down of work continued to be resorted to in some places as a means of ventilating and obtaining redress of grievances.

Clerical Workers.— Towards the middle of 1945, the Government appointed a Salaries Committee to report ~~on~~ on the existing scales of wages, salaries, etc., of all Government employees. The Committee published an interim report on the wages of daily-paid employees and other matters in November 1945, and the recommendations contained therein were accepted by Government (vide pages 32-34 of the report of this Office for January 1946). The final report of the Committee has since been published. An adjudication award under the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942, ~~was granted to~~ ~~mercantile clerks and minor employees performing essential services~~ granted considerable improvements in the salary scales and other terms and conditions of employment to mercantile clerks and minor employees performing essential services.

Harbour labour.— The Chairman, Port Commission, continued to deal with all problems of labour in the harbour. As competent authority under the Defence Regulations he continued to deal with disputes relating to dismissals, wages, hours of work, etc. Complaints were made that the output of labourers was short of pre-war output.

Estate labour.— The year under review was the fifth one in which the Seven-Point Agreement was in operation. Conferences under the Seven-Point Agreement in plantation areas became matters of almost daily occurrence and labour officers had to devote a considerable amount of time towards arranging and guiding them. Employers nevertheless often complained that unions exploited the Seven-Point Agreement in asking for conferences thereunder on grounds that were patently flimsy or on occasions when their strength on estates was so weak that they did not deserve recognition. As regards trade unions in estates, the report draws attention to the steady ~~and~~ decline in membership of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union and the Ceylon Indian Workers' Federation from 95,609 and 37,360 respectively, in 1940-41, to 42,273 and 771 respectively in 1944-45, and infers that either the labourers are losing interest in the Union or the benefits provided by the unions are of little value. Another feature is the existence of rival unions and ~~parties~~ factions. Superintendents sometimes found two or three unions functioning on their estates and claiming to represent their labour and thus adding to the difficulties of conciliation.

During the year there were 28 strikes on estates involving 3,514 labourers; the ~~disrupt~~ number of working days lost was 2,285. Most of these were lightning strikes and were called off or settled on the advice of the department.

Safety of Workers in Mines and Factories.- Reports received from Revenue Officers (these are in charge of the administration of the Mines and Machinery Protection Ordinance) indicate that there were at the beginning of the year 1,391 factories in the Island. During the year 30 factories were registered and 10 were closed down, leaving at the end of the year 1,411 factories as duly licensed. 9 accidents were reported during 1945 as against 11 in 1944. As a result of these accidents 3 persons were killed and 6 persons injured. Mines were supervised by the Inspector of Mines. At the beginning of 1945 there were 78 registered mines. 37 ~~more~~ new mines were registered during the year and 60 mines were closed down. The mining industry, however, was in a very depressed state throughout the year, and the number of mines reported to be working at the end of the year was 60. The number working continuously was not more than 25. 4 accidents were reported in which 4 persons were injured.

Employment: Network of Employment Exchanges.- Towards the close of 1945, the demobilization of service personnel and a considerable reduction in the labour employed by the services created unemployment on a large scale and Government was faced with the problem of finding work for a large number of unemployed persons. By the end of 1945, 108,614 persons had been released either from the services or by military contractors. To deal with the problem of unemployment and other matters arising out of the cessation of hostilities a Sub-Committee of the Board of Ministers, consisting of the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce (Chairman), the Minister for Communications and Works, the Minister for Agriculture and Lands, the Financial Secretary, <sup>and</sup> a full-time Secretary, was appointed. The policy of this Sub-Committee regarding employment was as follows: (a) to place in immediate employment those discharged by the services, (b) to provide employment for all workers, and (c) to provide employment only on productive works. This policy was endorsed by the State Council.

As the first step in dealing with unemployment, a network of employment exchanges has been established throughout the Island. In addition to the Central Employment Exchange already set up in 1938, 6 sub-exchanges were opened during the year in the city of Colombo and 15 exchanges and 3 sub-exchanges in other parts of the Island. 29,667 workers registered for employment at the various employment exchanges during 1945. Of these 4,537 were placed in employment, and the balance unemployed as on 31-12-1945, was 21,366, ~~xxxx~~ excluding 3,764 lapsed registrations.

Employment was also found for workers on several development schemes relating to irrigation, generation of hydro-electric power and agriculture and at the end of the year a number of schemes were under consideration for skilled and clerical workers.

Among the main difficulties encountered by the department in finding work for the unemployed were the failure of several private employers and firms to recruit labour through employment exchanges, the expectation on the part of demobilized personnel and war-workers to get in civil life conditions of work and pay similar to or approximating those they had been accustomed to previously under the Services; and the tendency on the part of workers to register themselves as skilled labourers without sufficient skill for employment.

Rehabilitation of the Disabled.- The Inter-Departmental Committee set up to inaugurate the scheme of rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled members of the Forces and civilian war victims (vide page 32 of the report of this Office for November 1946) issued its report in June 1945. The Committee recommended: (i) the immediate adoption of a modified scheme of rehabilitation which provided for the conversion of the Decontamination Centre at the General Hospital, Colombo, to provide for an out-patient Department and clinic with no indoor beds, and (ii) the establishment as

soon as this could be done of a permanent rehabilitation centre on grounds of at least five acres in extent within 10 miles of Colombo. At the close of the year the matter was still under consideration.

Unemployment.- Apart from a small amount of unemployment caused in some districts by the closing down of military works, there was no unemployment worthy of mention in the various districts of the Island.

Employment of Indigenous Labour.- At the end of 1945 the number of non-Indian labourers employed on estates in Ceylon was 133,912 of which 49,400 were resident.

Wages Boards.- Wages Boards functioned during the year for the following ten trades: the Tea growing and Manufacturing Trade; the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade; the Coconut Trade; the Engineering Trade; the Printing Trade; the Plumbago Trade; the Rubber Export Trade; the Tea Export Trade; the Toddy Arrack and Vinegar Trade; and the Cigar Manufacturing Trade. After special investigations, conducted during the year, it was decided to apply Part II of the Wages Boards Ordinance to the the Cinnamon Trade; the Fertilizer Trade; the Match Manufacturing Trade; the Cocoa, Cardamom and Pepper Growing and Manufacturing Trades; and the Building Trade; the proposal to apply Part II of the Ordinance to the Cinnamon Trade and the Fertiliser Trade was dropped while the advisability of applying it to the Building Trade was under consideration.

Wages Boards' Decisions.- Decisions of the Boards in respect of such matters as the computation of the special allowance, the definition of a normal working day, minimum rates of wages including overtime rates for the Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade, the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade, the Coconut Trade, the Printing Trade, the Tea Export Trade and the Rubber Export Trade came into force on 1-8-1945. Similar decisions of the Boards for the Engineering and Plumbago Trades came into force on 13-8-1945 and 1-9-1945, respectively. Broadly speaking the Wages Boards have fixed different minimum rates for male, female and child workers (the age up to which a person is regarded as a child <sup>varies</sup> in different industries); the wage is to consist of a prescribed minimum basic rate, and a special allowance calculated on the basis of the cost of living index number for the previous month. For the Engineering, Printing, Tea and Rubber Export, Plumbago, Coconut and the Tea and Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trades overtime rates varying from 1/4 to 1/2 times the normal rate have also been fixed.

All boards have fixed the normal working day as 9 hours (inclusive of one hour for a meal). The Printing Trade, however, has a shorter normal working day on Saturday, i.e., 6 hours (inclusive of one hour for a meal). The Boards for the Engineering and Tea and Rubber Export Trades have made decisions to the effect that wages should be paid weekly and within four days of the end of the week.

During the year several Boards have published their tentative proposals in regard to weekly and annual holidays for the purpose of receiving objections. In most of the trades, Sunday was proposed as the weekly holiday, but without pay. All the Boards proposed annual holidays subject to a minimum qualifying period of work ranging from 218 days in the course of a year in the Tea and Rubber Export Trades to 238 days in the case of the Engineering Trade. Wages Boards for the Tea and Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trades and the Coconut Trade have proposed 12 annual holidays, the Engineering and Plumbago Trades 10 annual holidays and the Printing and Tea and Rubber Export Trades ~~at~~ 14 annual holidays. Towards the end of 1945, about 550 inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with the Wages Boards' decisions, and the report states that there has been in general a satisfactory standard of compliance.

Services Standing Board.- Consequent on the termination of the war and the abolition of the post of Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, the Services Standing Wages Board which was originally convened by him, was dissolved towards the end of 1945. It has, however, been re-constituted under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of Labour as the Services Advisory Wages Board. Its functions in the future will be the co-ordination of wage proposals made by the three services.

Shops Ordinance.- The Shops Ordinance has been in force in the three Municipalities of Colombo, Galle and Kandy since the year 1939. A Closing Order affecting the 38 Urban Council areas was brought into operation with effect from November, 1945. This was made possible as a result of the recruitment of several new inspectors. The report states that the enforcement of the Closing Order and of the provisions of the Ordinance particularly in urban areas has been a task of considerable difficulty. It has been noticed that employers as well as employees are illiterate and ignorant, and are resentful of interference by the State even though such interference is decidedly to the advantage of the employee. The absence of satisfactory organizations among employees of this class has been another serious handicap.

Maternity Benefits.- Inspections revealed that the law regarding Maternity Benefits was complied with in the majority of tea and rubber estates as far as resident women workers were concerned. With the extension of wage legislation through the Coconut Trade Wages Board, a number of coconut estates too were inspected during the year and it was found that an appreciable number of these estates did not comply with the requirements of the Maternity Benefits Ordinance. As most of these were being inspected for the first time, the employers were instructed regarding their legal obligations and advised to comply with the requirements of the law.

## Part II - Indian Immigrant Labour

Migration between India and Ceylon.- The flow of labour between Ceylon and India showed a considerable increase, and for the first time for many years the balance was not adverse to Ceylon. Those emigrating to Ceylon numbered 86,442, an excess of 34,465 over the figures shown in the previous year; and ~~return~~ similarly, the return movement to India was considerably greater, the approximate number being 85,428 in comparison with 59,683 during 1944.

The notification in terms of the Indian Emigration Act of 1922, prohibiting the departure by sea out of British India to Ceylon of all persons proceeding for the purpose of unskilled work continued to remain in force during the year. All labourers visiting India on or after 1-9-1942, ~~and~~ ~~are~~ are however, free to return to Ceylon provided they hold a credential bearing the Protector of Emigrant's endorsement certifying the date of ~~the~~ their arrival in India.

The report also gives in considerable detail information relating to the health, education, savings, etc., of the Indian labourers working on Ceylon's tea and rubber estates.

The Administration Report of the Commissioner of ~~the~~ Labour, Ceylon, for the year 1945 was summarised at pages 28 to 35 of the report of this Office for November 1945.

Indian Skilled Labour for Burma:  
Government of India's Special  
Conditions for Recruitment.

A Press note, issued in Rangoon on 29-11-1946, announced that special conditions for the recruitment of skilled labourers in India for service in Burma have been laid down by the Government of India.

Minimum Monthly Pay of Rs. 46 and Free Repatriation Stipulated.- Official instructions have been issued to the Protectors of Emigrants at Indian ports that permission may be granted only on the basis of a written contract, normally for a two-year period of service in Burma, and on the basis of a monthly pay of not less than Rs. 46 and such cost of living allowance as may be sanctioned by the Government of Burma. The Protectors of Emigrants will insist on a security deposit, except in special cases, and will further exercise the powers granted them under the Indian Emigration Act, in deciding whether or not a person is to be classified as a skilled worker. The agreement between employer and worker will allow for the termination of the contract by either party after reasonable notice, and for the free repatriation to India of the worker and his dependants. Finally, the worker will be protected against having deductions made from his salary, either directly or indirectly, of any fees or taxes in respect of emigration and return to India.

In Burma, the Representative of the Government of India has been assigned to give such aid to Indian workers as may be considered necessary.

(The Hindu, dated 1-12-1946).

Burma's Rice Export Trade: Indian Shippers  
allotted 29 per cent.

Reference was made at pages 23-24 of the report of this office for May 1946, to the charges of unfair discrimination made by Indian merchants engaged in the rice trade of Burma against the Government of Burma.

In the latter half of December 1946, it was announced by U Mya, the Burmese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Economy, that the Burma Government's policy was to encourage Burmese trading and industrial enterprises. In pursuance of this policy, the Government had decided to give Burmese business interests the largest export allocation of the country's surplus rice of the 1946-47 crop. Their share would be nearly 39 per cent (410,000 tons) of the total surplus estimated at a little over one million tons. The other allocations would be Indian shippers; 29 per cent (305,000 tons); British concerns 26 per cent (270,000 tons) and Chinese companies seven per cent (80,000 tons).

(The Hindu, dated 19-12-1946).

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Report of India Delegation to East Africa:  
Proposed Immigration Bills condemned.

The report of the India Delegation to East Africa headed by Sir Maharaj Singh (vide pages 29-50 of the report of this Office for August 1946) has now been published. The main purpose of the Delegation was to examine, in consultation with public opinion in East Africa, particularly Indian opinion, whether there was any necessity for legislation on the proposed lines and the extent to which such legislation would affect Indian interests. It was also asked to collect accurate information on the following matters that have a bearing on the proposed legislation: (a) the rate of growth and present extent of the Indian population in the territories; (b) the present position regarding unemployment in the territories and the extent to which immigration, particularly that of Indians, may be said to have contributed towards such unemployment; (c) the existing scope and facilities for the settlement of new Indian immigrants in these territories; (d) the attitude of the African ~~population~~ population towards this question; (e) whether the provisions of the Bills (vide pages 53 of the report of this Office for April 1946) will in practice be discriminatory against Indians; and (f) the extent to which Indians must play a part in the post-war development of the territories.

History of Indian Immigration to East Africa.- Until the outbreak of World War II, immigration into Kenya was regulated by the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance of 1906 and in Uganda by the Ordinance of 1913. The Post-War Employment Committee, appointed by the Government of Kenya, recommended in 1943, as a means of ensuring post-war employment, that steps should be taken to limit immigration to the absorptive capacity of the colony. In 1944, the Tanganyika Government, on account of extreme pressure of housing, and the Uganda and Kenya Governments, on grounds of acute shortage of housing and food, introduced Defence Regulations restricting the entry of non-natives into the territory. In promulgating these regulations, the three Governments gave an assurance to all concerned that these were non-discriminatory and ~~temporary~~ were purely emergency measures which would be withdrawn after the war along with other wartime measures.

Now, however, the Governments of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar have all introduced Bills, in their respective Legislatures, to impose permanent restrictions of a drastic nature on immigration into these territories. The Bills are ~~in~~ identical for all the territories except for one or two minor details, and, the report points out, they have been drafted and published after joint consultations and with the same objects, namely, "to regulate the flow of immigration to the absorptive capacity of these territories".

Need for Economic Survey and Accurate Immigration Statistics.- The report complains that "the present Bills, proceed on assumptions which are for the best part unverified". There is at present little data to indicate the absorptive capacity of these territories. No official census has been taken since 1931, and the Delegation considers that before any measures are taken for tightening up the pre-war immigration restrictions, an official census is essential. Along with the census there should be an economic survey by a Commission together with a survey of employment and undertakings, all immigrant races being adequately represented in the Commission. It ~~was~~ would not otherwise appear possible to secure the data on which any proposal for immigration restriction should be based.



Little Unemployment at Present in East Africa: Scope for Economic Development.- The report states that there is no unemployment at present amongst any class of people in East Africa. There is also no evidence of excessive or unregulated immigration in the past and the assumption that in the absence of drastic immigration restrictions such as are proposed in ~~the~~ the present Immigration Bills, there will be an influx of persons from Europe and Asia is not warranted by past experience or present indications. Nor is there evidence that immigration has been responsible in the past for unemployment; on the contrary it has been generally admitted that much of the prosperity and development of the East African territories has been due to the energy and enterprise of the immigrant races. In this connection the report points out that in Kenya the throwing open of the Highlands to non-European races will give land and occupation, such as they are accustomed to and ~~appreciate~~ appreciate, to thousands of Africans.

Except Zanzibar, all the territories of East Africa have vast spaces with sparse populations. All have large plans of development which are likely to increase in scope and variety. These will require increased manpower, enterprise, initiative and finance. The report shares the hope that these will provide Africans and other residents of East Africa with employment, in implementing such plans there is and will be further scope for immigration also. In this connection, the report claims that by recently subsidising the immigration of 500 British farmers into Kenya and by retaining over 2,000 refugees from Europe, the Government of Kenya has recognised the value of and need for further immigration of Europeans.

Conflict with African Interests.- As regards the conflict of interests between Africans and Indians, the report admits that there is some economic conflict between Africans and Indians, particularly in the sphere of petty trade in Kenya. At the same time there has been no marked ill-feeling between Africans and Indians as a whole and there have been numerous expressions of African goodwill for Indians, while politically the two races have worked in co-operation to fight against their common disabilities. In any case, the report adds, should further restrictions come into force, Africans would wish them to apply to Europeans and Asiatics alike without differentiation in law or practice.

Immigration Bills condemned.- The present Immigration Bills, although non-discriminatory and non-racial in form, according to the report, will in practice adversely affect Indian immigration much more than the immigration of Europeans. In fact they will almost close the door to the further entrance of Indians.

The Bills seem to have been introduced in a hurry, their provisions are extremely defective and several of the clauses are likely to be opposed by Indians and Europeans alike. The report, therefore, suggests that they should be withdrawn and if it is found necessary to impose certain restriction on immigration, the regulations already contained in the prewar legislation may be tightened up. But, the report warns, all immigrant races must be equally treated both in law and practice.

Finally, the report claims that Indians, by virtue of their past experience and the large part they have already taken in developing East Africa, are entitled to special treatment as regards immigrants.

Pages 31-38 # with Mr. O. Sanyal

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Staff Councils for Central Government Employees: Pay Commission examining Suggestion.

It is understood that the question of setting up staff councils for settling disputes between the Government of India and its employees is being examined by the Central Pay Commission. (For appointment and terms of reference of the Commission see pages 29-30 of this Office's ~~xxx~~ May, 1946, report).

The general aim of the staff councils is to help in promoting good relations and a spirit of co-operation between the Administration and all classes of non-gazetted staff.

If, established, these councils will consist of elected members, nominated members, ex-officio presidents and co-opted members. All permanent non-gazetted staff with more than three years' continuous service will be eligible for election to the staff council. Elected membership will not be on communal basis. All permanent non-gazetted staff including servants and apprentices will be eligible to vote. The privilege of voting will not be allowed to temporary employees, but workshop staff with more than three years' continuous service will be eligible to vote.

The meetings of the staff councils will not be held more than once in every two months. Attendance at meetings will be regarded as duty and travelling allowances and passes will be admissible to members. The chairman of the council will be a nominated member. Cases relating to discipline will not be discussed, nor representations from individuals, unless a question of principle of general application is involved.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-12-1946).

Pay Commission for Mysore State.

The Government of Mysore, following the example set by the Government of India, has appointed a committee to examine the adequacy of existing scales of pay of the subordinate establishments and to what extent the existing scales have to be upgraded. The official index of the cost of living in Mysore State shows a rise of 282 per cent by the end of 1946, but un-official estimates rate the actual rise ~~at~~ to be about 400 per cent.

(Mysore Commerce, December 15, 1946,  
page 126 ).



Central Pay Commission completes Hearing of  
Evidence: Report expected by March 1947.

The Central pay Commission (vide pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for May 1946) finished the first part of its work in the latter half of December, after having completed its hearing of the evidence of representatives of both the Government of India and its employees. It will meet again in January, when the members are expected to discuss among themselves the drafts of the recommendations they will submit to the Government of India. It is not expected that the report of the Commission will be submitted before March, 1947.

(The Statesman, 22-12-1946).

Bonus for Non-Gazetted Government Servants:  
Madras Cabinet Salaries Sub-Committee's  
Recommendation.

The Madras Cabinet Salaries Sub-Committee, (vide page 45 of the report of this Office for September 1946) has recommended, inter alia, that a bonus equal to whatever pay plus interim relief was drawn for the month of November 1946, subject to a minimum of Rs. 20 and a maximum of Rs. 150, should be paid before 24-12-1946, to all Provincial Government servants in the Subordinate Services, including the Inferior Services, who are in service on 16-12-1946, and have rendered not less than six months' total service on that date.

The Government of Madras has accepted this recommendation in advance of the other recommendations of the Committee which are still under consideration, and has sanctioned the payment of the bonus.

(The Hindu, dated 20-12-1946).

Conference of Madras Local Boards Employees:  
Better Service Conditions Demanded.

A number of resolutions relating to the status, emoluments, organisation, etc., of local board employees were adopted at a conference of employees of ~~Provincial~~ Municipal and Local Boards in Madras Province held at Rumbakonam on 28 and 29-12-1946.

The conference urged the Government to ~~not~~ throw open for qualified and experienced employees of local bodies posts in all departments, including those of Commissioners, Secretaries and District Panchayat Officers, and that for such posts panels of eligible employees of local bodies be drawn up every half-year. The conference also asked for the termination of direct recruitment from among services other than those of local bodies to these posts. Other resolutions demanded equal treatment with Government servants ~~at~~ the grant of arrears of dearness allowance, interim relief, bonus and revision of pay. The Government was urged to issue immediate orders for payment of bonus and interim relief.

It was also resolved to form a common federation of all employees of municipal councils and district and panchayat boards called "The Madras Provincial Municipal and Local Board Employees' Federation".

(The Hindu, dated 31-12-1946).

New Scale of Interim Relief for C.P.  
Government Servants.

Reference was made at page 41 of the report of this office for September 1946, to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry to investigate ~~the~~ what quantum of interim relief should be given to Government servants of the low-paid classes, pending examination of the general question of the adequacy of the existing scales of pay of Government servants. The report of the Committee has since been received and revised rates of compensatory cost of living allowance have ~~now~~ been sanctioned.

The rates are: (a) For Government servants drawing pay from Rs. 30 up to Rs. 150 per mensem, Rs. 28 per mensem or  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of pay whichever is greater; (b) an exception is made in the cases of Nagpur and Jubbulpore towns, where Government servants drawing pay from Rs. 50 up to Rs. 200 per mensem will be given Rs. 50 per mensem or  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of pay whichever is greater. Payment at the enhanced rates mentioned above will take effect retrospectively from 1-4-1946. For Government servants drawing pay below Rs. 30 per mensem, the existing rates of compensatory cost of living allowance, viz., Rs. 20 per mensem (at Nagpur and Jubbulpore) and Rs. 18 per mensem (at other places in the Province) will continue.

The Government has also sanctioned the payment, with effect from 1-11-1946, of a grain compensation allowance of Rs. 3-12-0 per mensem to all Government servants stationed at Nagpur drawing pay below Rs. 30.

(Central Provinces And Berar Gazette,  
dated 13-12-1946, Part I, page 774 ).

NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Social Service Work among Adivasis of Bombay: Model Village  
and Training Centre set up.

Maswan Village, in Thana District in Bombay, is one of the centres for social service work among the Adivasis (an aboriginal tribe of Bombay Province) organised by the Adivasi Seva Mandal. In 1945 communist influence had strongly permeated among this aboriginal community and serious disturbances necessitating police intervention had occurred. With a view to further improve the conditions of life and work of the community and thus restore peace and quiet, the Adivasi Seva Mandal has recently launched a programme of ~~intensive~~ intensive up lift work among these aboriginals.

The managing committee of the Mandal has decided to start schools ~~for~~ for industrial, agricultural and adult education purposes. In addition to training workers for teaching the Adivasis useful vocations, the schools will also provide facilities for ~~learning~~ learning improved methods of agriculture, forestry, gardening and poultry farming. A group of select Adivasis will be asked to settle down at Maswan where every family will be allotted about 600 square yards of land for development. The settlers will also be trained in spinning, weaving, bee-keeping and other handicrafts. The Mandal also proposes to open a library in the assembly hall of the community.

(The Times of India, 31-12-1946 and 2-1-1947).

## CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

### Industrial Co-operative Association started in Bombay: Co-operative Effort to produce Consumers' Goods .

Co-operation in India has hitherto been mainly concerned with Co-operative credit activities. In recent years, there has been an attempt to shift the emphasis of co-operative activities from the credit aspect to other aspects of co-operative effort, like starting of co-operative industries, etc. In pursuance of this policy, on 2-12-1946, a Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association for Bombay Province, with headquarters in Bombay City, was inaugurated.

The object of the association is to work for organisation and development of small industries on a co-operative basis. Attempts are proposed to be made to organise 140 societies by the end of the next co-operative year in the province, which will cover, among other industries, oil-pressing, carpentry and wood-work, toy-making, tanning, potteries, coir and fibre making and a number of other small industries. It is expected that the new industrial co-operatives will go a long way to meet the needs of Bombay Province in respect of a large range of consumers' goods.

Mr. Morarji Desai, Revenue and Home Minister, inaugurating the Association, said that, while Government welcomed the starting of the Association, the responsibility for carrying on the work of the Association should be shouldered by the public; the new enterprise was and should be a non-official venture, and Government aid would be confined to the minimum of financial assistance and advice needed.

(The Times of India, 3-12-1946).

### 4th Meeting of All India Handloom Board, Bombay, 16-12-1946.

At the 4th meeting of the All-India Handloom Board, was held at Bombay on 16-12-1946, Mr. Dharma Vira, Textile Commissioner to the Government of ~~and~~ India, presiding, a number of important questions relating to <sup>the</sup> handloom industry, including reorganisation, rationalisation of products, and research came up for discussion. Among other problems that came up for consideration were: adoption of a xx tariff policy for the handloom industry independent of and separate from the mill industry; removal of restrictions on import of cotton, woollen, silk and art silk yarn; encouragement of indigenous production of loom accessories and dyes and chemicals required for the industry; and the setting up of an experimental workshop to ~~devise~~ improved implements for the industry.

Textile Commissioner's Address.- Mr. Dharma Vira, addressing the Board, commended to the serious consideration of the Provincial and State Governments the desirability of encouraging hand spinning on a wide and organised basis.

The Government of India had under their active consideration the question of remodelling the Board on an organisational basis, and hoped that the question of placing the Board on a stable footing could also be considered. The question of placing funds at the disposal of the Board for financing approved schemes was already under the consideration of the Government.

As regards <sup>the</sup> Central Marketing Organisation, which was recommended by the Board, in its previous sittings, a start had been made with the ~~Board~~ appointment of three officers for the collection of data necessary for the formulation of a scheme for the inter-provincial movement of handloom cloth. It had not been possible to accept, at least for the present, the recommendation of the Board for the appointment of marketing officers in foreign countries, mainly because only a small quantity of cloth could be permitted to be exported out of India at present and no useful purpose could be served by pushing up the sales of the country's handloom products in foreign countries till such time as the supply position improved.

The yarn position was rather gloomy, but the position is likely to be relieved to some extent by ~~the~~ increasing imports of yarn, particularly art silk, ~~all~~ of which can now be imported under open general licence from the United Kingdom and under special licence from the United States of America. Endeavours were also being made to encourage imports of cotton yarn but the quantities likely to be available would be very small, at least for some time to come.

With a view to improve the yarn position and increase cloth supplies, Provincial Governments have been requested to accord exemption from eight-hour shifts to such units as asked for it. Generally speaking, however, labour was unwilling to accede to such modifications. The alternative ~~method~~ method of stepping up production by increasing the number of shifts was also not feasible owing to the reported paucity of skilled labour, shortage of coal, short supply of millstores and the desirability of maintaining in good working order the machinery which had been subjected to considerable strain during the past six years. This was all the more necessary because, very likely, it would take a number of years before any appreciable portion of the machinery sanctioned under the post-war development plan was likely to be supplied.

Recommendations.— The Board in one of its recommendations to the Government, urged the removal of all restrictions on the import of cotton, woollen, silk and ~~yarn~~ rayon yarn and the ~~continuance~~ continuance of effective control over the distribution of cotton yarn. The Board approved of the proposal ~~for~~ for the setting up of a central retailing organization for handloom products and for drawing up a scheme and administering it from the funds to be placed at its disposal from time to time. The Board also approved of the recommendation of the Marketing and Research Committee in regard to the organization of the handloom industry, rationalization of its products and ~~undertaking~~ research.

(The Times of India, 17-12-1946;  
The Bombay Chronicle, 19-12-1946).

Plan for developing Co-operative Movement in India:  
Report of Co-operative Planning Committee.

The report of the Co-operative Planning Committee, set up by the Government of India in January 1945 (vide page 36 of the report of this office for February 1945), published early in December maintains that a co-operative society has an important role to play in India as the most suitable medium for the democratisation of economic planning; and appears to be the only machinery that reconciles the conception of large-scale economic planning to individual enterprise and initiative. The report deals *inter alia* with co-operation and planning, agricultural production, animal husbandry and fisheries, agricultural marketing, credit, small and subsidiary industries, consumers' co-operation, urban credit, and health and better living, co-operative insurance and education and research.

The Committee is of opinion that the successful working of a plan of co-operative development depends upon certain pre-requisites, such as, the existence of a responsible, democratic Government, and of the policy of *laissez-faire* and State action in matters like support of agricultural prices, and rapid educational development within the country. Another point stressed by the Committee is that even though the voluntary principle governing admission to the membership of a co-operative society should be respected and no one should be compelled to join a society, in certain kinds of co-operative activities, e.g., consolidation of holdings, crop protection or irrigation, compulsion is necessary. Otherwise, what is generally admitted as an object essential for economic progress will not be attained. In such cases, according to the Committee, a resolution passed by the members of a co-operative society who form two-thirds of the community affected should be made binding by law on non-members also. The Committee has recommended a number of schemes to be implemented in the next ten years with financial aid from the State amounting to nearly Rs. 500 million. The following table shows the distribution of this expenditure as between the Central and the Provincial Governments under the main heads :-

	Central Government.	Provincial Governments.	Total
(In million of Rupees)			
Direct subsidies in ten years.	10.00	178.60	188.60
Increased Departmental expenditure in ten years.....	3.68	182.88	186.56
Capital expenditure.....	..	102.20	102.20
Loans.....	..	17.09	17.09
<b>Grand Total.</b>	<b>13.68</b>	<b>480.77</b>	<b>494.45</b>

The extent of financial assistance proposed, according to the Committee, cannot be considered excessive in the perspective of the country as a whole. Also, as co-operation enters into almost every department of economic activity, expenditure by the State on it should be considered as a contribution to the expansion of national economy as a whole.

The main recommendations of the report are summarised below:-

Co-operative Planning.- (1) Co-operative planning should receive direction and guidance from the State. The State should educate public opinion as to the most suitable lines of co-operative development. (2) The machinery of consultation and administration should be so designed as to permit constant interchange of views and opinions between the non-official co-operators and the ~~officials~~ officials. (3) Any plan of post-war development should take into account the problem of the resettlement of ex-service personnel and also of the utilisation of their training and experience in the Army. Any special assistance given to ex-soldiers ~~should~~ should, however, according to the Committee, as far as possible, be given not individually but collectively, preference being to a co-operative form of organisation.

Agricultural Production: 50 Per cent of India's villages to be served by Co-operative societies in 10 Years.- In the field of agricultural production the Committee's main recommendations are as follows:- (1) ~~50%~~ A systematic survey should be made by provincial Governments to find out how much of the existing culturable waste land is capable of making a contribution to agricultural production. (2) Works of irrigation should continue to remain the primary responsibility of the State as it alone has sufficient resources to undertake such works. (3) Primary co-operative societies should be extended so as to cover the whole aspect of the life of the cultivator. A primary credit society should be reformed and reorganised so as to serve as a centre for the general economic development of its members. (4) An attempt should be made to bring 50 per cent of the villages and 30 per cent of the rural population within the ambit of the reorganised primary societies within a period of 10 years, in two 5-year periods. (5) Among the forms of large-scale cultivation, co-operative farming which does not interfere with the proprietary rights of cultivators, has a fair prospect of success and should be introduced in every province. (6) The production of fruits and vegetables should be increased on a large scale. (7) Forest preservation, protection and management should be the special responsibility of the State.

Animal Husbandry.- As regards cattle improvement in India and other forms of animal husbandry, the report makes the following suggestions. (1) The Veterinary Department should extend its surveys so as to reach as near as possible to every cattle owner. (2) Co-operative societies of milk ~~producers~~ producers should be formed in the villages situated within a radius of about 30 miles from towns with a population of 30,000 or more. (3) In order to make an effective contribution to the organisation of milk supply to towns about 300 milk units will have to be started within a period of five years. The State should bear their capital costs to the full extent and recurring costs to the extent of 50 per cent. (4) Every province should have a model poultry farm at convenient centres, the cost of which should be borne entirely by the Provincial Government.

Co-operative Marketing of Agricultural Produce: Target for Development Programme.- On the question of co-operative marketing, the report ~~recommends~~ recommends that: (1) An attempt should be made to market within 10 years 25 per cent of the total annual marketable surplus of agricultural produce through co-operative organisations. (2) An all-India marketing association should be set up to co-ordinate the activities of the provincial marketing societies, to establish contact with marketing organisations abroad, and to act as a clearing house of information on all aspects of agricultural marketing.

Regional Promotional Agencies to foster small-scale Industries.- To transfer the substantial surplus population now in rural areas ~~from~~ from farming to non-farming pursuits, the report recommends that regional organisations to be called "Regional Promotional Agencies" should be set up in each

province and State to foster the growth of small-scale and cottage industries. The functions of the Agency will be to ascertain what small-scale and cottage industries exist in its jurisdiction and what facilities exist for marketing their products, to determine which of them should be maintained and encouraged and what new avenues of selling their products should be explored, to devise means to place those, which are to be encouraged, in such a position as will give a fair return to the workers, and to ensure that the products of these selected industries find an assured and remunerative market, etc.

Labour Co-operatives to be organised in Rural Areas for Construction Work.— Another important suggestion made by the Committee is that the Regional and Area Promotional Agencies referred to above should undertake the organisation of labour co-operative societies for rural labour and secure employment by engaging them on village works during those parts of the year when agricultural employment is slack. In organising labour co-operatives for ordinary labourers, the model of those set up in Italy or New Zealand should be adopted. Labour co-operatives should be generally composed of a small number of men. The Government and local bodies should ~~given~~ give preference for contracts to labour co-operative societies. It is also suggested <sup>that</sup> the labour co-operatives are firmly established losses incurred by them must be financed by Government.

Miscellaneous Recommendations.— The report also makes a number of suggestions for improved facilities for rural credit and for advanced studies and research on problems relating to the co-operative movement. These are: (1) An expansion of the co-operative movement will provide the best solution of the problem of rural credit in the country. (2) Urban banks should be organised in all towns. (3) The Co-operative department in each province should employ at least one woman special officer to encourage women to join the co-operative movement and to organise and supervise women's societies. (4) The Government of India should establish an all-India Co-operative Institute of Advanced Studies and Research which will serve two purposes, viz., provide facilities for advanced studies and organise research.

In conclusion, the report observes: "inadequate and uneven progress made by the Co-operative movement in India is largely due among other things, to the lack of general education among those whom it seeks to serve. If the Co-operative movement is to develop on a sound basis and to expand in diverse directions, it is necessary not only to spread general education but also to make members of societies conversant with the principles and practice of Co-operation".

(The Hindu, dated 5-12-1946;  
Report of the Co-operative Planning  
Committee, 1946 ).



## LIVING CONDITIONS.

### Nutrition.

#### Mixture of Calcium with Wheat Flour: Bombay Government's Measure.

Since April 1946, to remedy calcium deficiency in the population, the Government of Bombay has taken steps to supply calcium carbonate to all flour mills in Bombay province, for mixing with wheat flour in the proportion of 1 lb. of calcium carbonate powder to every 640 lbs of flour. Persons who do not eat bread are supplied with calcium carbonate powder free of charge along with their wheat ration, and printed instructions for its use.

(Nutrition Bulletin No.23, November 1946,  
Issued by the Department of Food, Govern-  
ment of India ).

#### Five-Year Milk Plan for Bombay.

At a press conference held in Bombay on 17-12-1946, Mr. Dinkerrao Desai, Minister for Civil Supplies, Government of Bombay, outlined a five-year milk plan for Bombay, estimated to cost Rs. 50 million, under which production and distribution will be supervised by the Government of Bombay. The objective of the Government's new milk policy is to provide an adequate supply of pure and wholesome milk at a reasonable price. The target will be a daily supply of about 1,700,000 lbs. of milk on the basis of the present population of Bombay City and suburbs. A milk board is proposed to be constituted for regulating and controlling the production, supply and distribution of milk. The board will control both quality and price. Producers will be licensed by the board, and distribution will be made either by the board or by its licensed agents.

Dairy colonies will be established within convenient distances from Bombay City, from which the bulk of Bombay's milk supply will be obtained. Lands required for these colonies will be acquired by Government, and dairy farms will be constructed by Government at their own cost. Provision will be made in these colonies for roads, water supply, veterinary hospitals, etc. Each unit of dairy farm will be rented to an individual cattle-owner or an association of cattle-owners who undertake to maintain cattle of approved quality according to the conditions prescribed by Government.

In view of the new enterprise, the subsidised milk distribution scheme (vide page 19 of the report of this Office for June, 1944), will be discontinued from March 1, 1947, though the supplies and distribution through Government centres to registered consumers would be maintained. Milk would be sold at these centres at reasonable rates. The Government's decision to abandon the subsidised milk scheme is due to the fact that under it only the inhabitants of Bombay City and suburbs and not the entire

population of the province will benefit. The possibility of supplying toned and blended milk or whole milk powder on a restricted basis after the subsidised milk distribution scheme is discontinued is also being examined by Government.

(The Times of India, 18-12-1946).

24-point Plan to increase India's Milk Supply:  
Recommendations of Milk Sub-Committee.

A 24-point programme for increasing the over-all milk supply in the country has been recommended by the Milk Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, presided over by Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (vide page 61 of the report of this Office for September, 1944). The Sub-Committee has pointed out that India loses enormous quantities of valuable food energy ~~due~~ due to the ignorance of producers and traders and the unscientific methods employed by them in handling milk. The Sub-Committee, which has dealt with the technical aspects of procurement, processing, transport and sale of milk, has also recommended creation of a Milk-Control Board in each town or city to control the price of milk.

Recommendations.- The measures recommended include not only those which would help in increasing the milk supply of towns or particular areas with immediate effect, but also others which would help in the increased production of milk in the country. Among the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee are the establishment of milk-collecting and processing centres or "creameries" in milk producing areas; use of separated milk; restricting the use of milk for purposes other than for fluid consumption; transfer of milk stock from non-essential to essential areas for milk production; toning or standardization of ~~and~~ milk; utilising goshalas (cattle-farms); supply of adequate quantity of cattle feed; cold storage and railway transport facilities; and adequate supply of dairy plant and equipment for the trade.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee are under the consideration of the Central and provincial Governments as far as they concern them respectively. The provincial Governments will pay special attention to such matters as the provision of adequate staff for developing the dairy industry, the establishment of "creameries" in suitable areas, where all the milk offered could be purchased at a fair price, setting up dairy farms, which apart from ~~producing~~ producing milk could also breed pedigree bulls for distribution to villages, reorganisation and rehabilitation of goshalas and prevention of slaughter of prime animals.

(The Statesman, 20-12-1946).

Housing.

A Master Plan for Greater Bombay: Work entrusted to Special Engineer.

At a meeting of the Bombay City and Suburbs Post-War Development Committee, held at Bombay on 18-12-1946, it was decided that the preparation of a master plan for the realisation and development, on well defined lines, of Greater Bombay should be entrusted to Mr. H.V. Modak, Special Engineer with the Bombay Municipal Corporation. He has been asked to make a detailed survey of the conditions now prevailing in the area proposed to be brought under the scheme.

The objective of the master plan is to secure the correct use of every acre of land to balance the everyday requirements of the population in regard to places of work, home and recreation. This would involve the selection of suitable sites for the location of industries, houses for those employed therein, facilities for recreation, transport and communication, and other amenities such as schools, shopping centres and medical institutions.

(The Times of India, 19-12-1946).

Residential Accommodation for Employees: Bombay Government to give lead to Employers.

The Government of Bombay proposes to issue instructions to managements of industrial establishments in the City and urban areas in the province, to help to relieve the acute shortage of housing accommodation by providing residential accommodation to their employees. Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Government of Bombay, has also discussed the housing problem with mill-owners in Ahmedabad.

Government's Proposals.- The Government might itself take a lead in the matter of providing its employees with quarters. The preliminaries in this direction which commenced with the appointment of a Housing Board (vide page 54 of the report of this Office for October, 1946), are being speeded up and the Government is now collecting statistical data to assess the requirements of its staff in Bombay. While it is not possible, for the Government to take up building of houses to accommodate the homeless as a whole, the Government, it is understood, is considering certain workable schemes to meet the immediate situation. It is proposed to encourage and subsidise all private house-building enterprises, preference being given, however, to those <sup>which</sup> intend to construct tenements for the working class. About one hundred applications for the construction of working class tenements have already been entertained by the Government, and the necessary building material is being released for the purpose. Also a number of wartime hutments are being released by the military authorities, and ~~alterations~~ alterations are being made to suit the convenience of family life.

(The Bombay Chronicle 25 and 30-12-1946).

Housing Problem in Hyderabad:  
Progress of Rs. 20 Million  
Scheme.

The Hyderabad Government is pushing through a Rs. 20 million scheme of constructing dwelling quarters in the city. The target figure is 10,000 houses for the near future. Four thousand houses have already been constructed and 162 houses are under construction.

An indication of the acute scarcity of houses in the city is given by the fact that about 4,500 applications are pending with the City Improvement Trust Board for the houses under construction.

(The Hindu, dated 17-12-1946).

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

14th Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of India, Calcutta, 17-12-1946: Sir Homi Mody's Presidential Address.

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 17-12-1946. In the absence of Sir Homi Mody, his presidential address was read by the Deputy President, Sir John Burder. Among the subjects dealt with in the address were nationalisation of industries, trade unionism, introduction of the 48-hour week in factories and the forthcoming Asiatic Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation.

Control of Industries.- Sir Homi Mody said that the protagonists of free enterprise did not ask for a continuance any more of the conditions which undoubtedly breed inequalities of income and periodic unemployment. They were prepared for a measure of regulation which would ensure a more equitable distribution of the products of industry amongst the various elements constituting society. Economic individualism in its extreme form had outlived its day.

Healthy Trade Unionism.- Referring to the general labour unrest and the wave of strikes which had spread over the country during the year, he said that even Government departments and essential services had been affected, and the wage bill in every activity, public or private, had risen enormously. To the extent that the wage earner, other than the factory worker, was hitherto somewhat neglected, a measure of adjustment was not only inevitable but right, and the employers' attitude must be one of sympathy and accommodation.

What industry needed was a healthy trade union and it was the employers' duty to encourage ~~its~~ growth by a readiness to meet just demands and to ensure that the conditions they provided made for contentment and efficiency.

48-hour Week: Need for agreement between employers' and employees.- Referring to legislation dealing with the 48-hour week, Sir Homi said that employers, while according support to the principle underlying such legislation, had urged that some time be given to industries to adjust themselves, and that, in the case of the textile industry in particular, it was essential in view of the world shortage of cloth, that reduction of hours should not come into effect immediately. Their views, however, were ignored; he hoped it was only a passing phase, and that in time it would be realised that in the matter of industrial relations those changes had the best chance of permanence which were brought about by agreement between both parties.

The Asiatic Regional Conference.- Welcoming the decision of the governing body of the International Labour Conference that a preparatory Asiatic Regional Conference, be held in India in 1947, Sir Homi Mody, said, "Indian employers and had been stressing for years that sufficient importance was not being paid to the economic conditions prevailing in Eastern countries and that it was futile to expect the wholesale application to a country like India of the standards laid down in the West. He, however, warned that it would be necessary of the conference was not defeated by the association of countries like Australia and New Zealand, which have very little in common with Asia on the questions at issue."

Sir Homi Mody was re-elected President of the Federation for 1947. (The Times of India, 18-12-1946).

Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce,  
Calcutta, 16-12-1946.

The 1946 annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce was held at Calcutta on 16-12-1946, with the president of the Chambers, Mr. H. D. Townend, in the chair.

A tradition of 25 years' standing was broken this year when, instead of the Viceroy as head of the State, as has been customary, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the annual general meeting. This was also the first time that an Indian has addressed this body which was founded in 1920 to be the supreme spokesman of British commercial interests in India. Except in 1925 and 1929, when the meetings were held elsewhere, the Viceroy has addressed the Chambers in Calcutta, utilising the occasion as a public forum in which to make important pronouncements on current political and financial matters.

Presidential Address. - Mr. H. D. Townend in his presidential address welcomed the ~~new~~ new convention of the Vice President of the Interim Government taking the place of the Viceroy and delivering the inaugural address. Discussing the attitude of the interests represented by the Chambers to the new Government, he said that the business community will continue, as in the past, to give its support to any good Government that is in control of affairs, and asserted that there can be no doubt that in the field of commerce and industry they could make substantial contributions to India's prosperity.

He was grateful to the Interim Government for its efforts to pacify industrial unrest and discourage strikes, but expressed apprehension of further incursions by Government into industrial and commercial affairs. He quoted the power now sought to be given to the Reserve Bank to control the movement of foreign exchange and wanted an assurance that the powers so conferred would be used with discretion. Regarding controls, he said that they did not object to controls for suitable purposes, but such a brake did not impose on commerce and industry that, in the interests of the country, they should be got rid of at the earliest practicable moment. ~~With~~ With unduly ~~restrictive~~ restrictive controls he bracketted unwise tariff barriers. Tariffs, he said, might be suitably employed to protect nascent industries, but to bolster up by that means the production of poor quality goods would not in the end be in the country's best interests.

Deploping the increasing intervention of provincial barriers to the free movement of commodities, he said that a less attractive sign of the times was ~~the~~ provincialism which was going to be one of India's gravest handicaps in the future commercial field. The country, however, it might be divided for political purposes was commercially one, and it could not be right for one province to play off economic factors against another ~~at~~ even under the excuse of scarcity.

Pt. Nehru's Address. - Pt. Nehru, in his inaugural address, dealt with a number of important problems relating to the commercial and industrial policy of the country. The main points in the address are given below.

Relations between Britain and India. - Dealing with the question of relations in the future between the British and Indians, he said that in the past there had been a gulf between them. Very often they were on "different sides of the barricades" and therefore it was all the more necessary that they should meet and understand each other. Although they did not agree on all points, there were some points on which they could agree. India today was passing through a tremendous period of transition.

A new age was coming in. In particular, India was suddenly faced with a vast accumulation of problems, not only political, but more specially economic. When-ever there is much long contact between two countries and two peoples, there is bound to be good and bad results. While it was not necessary ~~that the British should go~~ to go into the past, it was necessary that the British should realise that the Indian viewpoint in regard to these matters was obviously very different from the English point of view. It was clear that in future matters pertaining to India will be decided in India and by Indians. There ~~was no other way out of it.~~

Safeguards for British Industries must go.- The relations between India and England, apart from political relations, had been those of an industrial country with a colonial country. India had been a classic example of what could be termed "colonial economy". That colonial economy had undergone some changes, but plenty still remained. British industry grew in India under the protection of that colonial economy. Even now there were various safeguards. Although they were differently worded, there was discrimination. There has been a great deal of objection in India to that. No Indian Government can possibly approve of putting up with any form of safeguards or form of protection for anybody.

British still have a place in India.- He made it clear that the new policy does not mean the British have no place in the commerce and industry of the India of the future. The new Indian Government <sup>problems from the point of view of</sup> will view its national-als; but viewing the problem in that way, there will be much room left ~~and~~ ~~and~~ over for private enterprise for Britishers and others. While India will require capital goods from abroad, Indian policy in future will be to make India as little dependent as possible on external agencies in the economic sphere and also to raise the standard of the people as rapidly as possible. At the same time, there was no intention to make India aggressive in either the political or economic sphere. Emphasising India's essentially pacific policy, he said: "I dislike Imperialism, political or economic. I do not want India to indulge in economic aggression because that leads to conflict and war".

Over-Representation of British Interests.- Dealing with the existing over-representation of British commercial interests in Bengal and Assam, he pointed out that, while in other countries a non-nationals have not even a vote, in India they have been given heavy over-representation, and that this factor had influenced the politics of Bengal to a very great extent in the formation and non-formation of Governments. Giving another example of the over-lapping ~~sphere~~ of British influence into other spheres, he referred to the progress of Christianity in India. In Southern India, it was a very old institution and was there even before the British, but in Northern India, its spread was co-extensive with the spread of British power. Christianity had thus come to be a symbol of British domination.

Equitable Distribution of National Wealth.- During the war and after the war, vast fortunes had accumulated in the hands of a few and, on the other hand, vast numbers could not make both ends meet. It was a mystery how, in spite of the war-time income tax and excess profits tax about which such loud outcries ~~were~~ were being made, these accumulations of wealth could have been made and it might be even necessary to institute an inquiry into the subject. At any rate, in future the 'profit motive' should cease to dominate and give place to planned distribution.

Industrial unrest: Need for Trade Unions.- It was Government's desire that there should be no industrial turmoil, but there was a tremendous gap between the cost of living and wages. Even in the United States, there were strikes and ~~was~~ the strong measures taken by Government did not solve them. It was <sup>not in</sup> the interests of the employers to encourage "pet unions". Employers should encourage trade unions of the right type.



otherwise, it would lead to State interference, as the Government could not tolerate industrial strikes.

Industrial Research.- He made a ~~very~~ special appeal to employers to take up industrial research. The Government of India had appointed a Temporary Planning Board to suggest machinery for planning for the future and to decide priorities, and on the recommendations of the Board a more satisfactory planning machinery will be devised.

Resolutions.- The more important resolutions adopted at the session are given below:

Transfer of Power to Indian National Government.- The resolution on the subject conveyed sympathy to all who innocently suffered in the recent disturbances in various parts of the country and expressed the hope that "the final stage in the transfer to India of her governance and destiny will be accomplished in an atmosphere of peace, resting on goodwill, tolerance and mutual understanding".

Trade Unions.- The Association, while welcoming the declaration by the Government of its programme of labour measures for the next five years, considered that greater emphasis should be placed on securing from labour of a much higher standard of productivity and responsibility without which the ambitious schemes now proposed would merely mean a disproportionate increase in industrial costs with consequent adverse effect upon consumers in India and the country's export ~~to~~ trade. "Therefore," the resolution urged, "Government should use their influence to improve the standard of trade unions and the efforts of Government Labour Departments and conciliation officers should not be directed, as they so often were at present to inducing employers to accept labour's demands without considering whether the demands were reasonable.

Protection to Indian Industries.- The Association drew the attention of the Government of India to their present policy, whereby protection is granted to certain indigenous industries by limiting licences granted by the Controller of Imports, and recommended that assistance to indigenous industries should only be given after an inquiry has been held by the Tariff Board and such assistance found to be justified and in the interests of the country.

Price control.- While recognising the magnitude of the problem and the difficulties and the obstacles that stand in the way, the Association recommended to Government the adoption of immediate and effective steps to stabilise, and so far as is possible, gradually to reduce the price of necessities in the country and to check further rise in the cost of ~~the~~ living.

Industrial Expansion.- The Association drew the attention of the Government of India to the dangers inherent in (i) the present policy on the part of Provincial Governments of imposing restrictions on certain forms of industrial expansion; (ii) the failure of the Central and Provincial Governments to evolve a common policy in commercial and ~~industrial~~ industrial matters; and (iii) the hasty and unwarranted use of powers under war-time controls.

Uniform Sales Tax.- The Association stressed the desirability of the unification of Sales Tax legislation throughout British India and the Indian States wherever such taxes are in existence.

Coal Production.- The Association noted with considerable concern the growing unsatisfactory labour position in the coalfields, due generally to irresponsible ~~and unorganised~~ labour agitation; considered that the responsibility for dealing with the situation was essentially that of the Government of India and urged that the recommendation contained in the recently published report of the Indian Coalfields Committee that a Central



Department of Fuel and Power be established and that it be made the only Department responsible for all matters, should be implemented, as early as possible.

Double Income Tax.- In view of the present unsatisfactory methods of taxation of non-residents under Sections 4 and 42 of the Indian Income-Tax Act, and the complications and delays involved in the settlement of double income-tax relief under section 49, the Association recommended that the Government of India ~~should~~ should at the earliest possible date negotiate with <sup>the</sup> United Kingdom and the other countries a Convention for avoidance of double taxation on the general lines of the Convention concluded in April 1945 between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America.

(The Statesman, 17-12-1946;  
The Hindu, dated 17-12-1946).

Workers' Organisations.

21st Session of All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference,  
Akola, 24-26-12-1946.

The 21st Session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference was held at Akola from 24 to 26-12-1946, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President, All-India Trade Union Congress.

Referring to the Central Pay Commission, Mr. Bose said that he considered that the main task of the Commission was to introduce order where chaos and anarchy prevailed by rationalisation and simplification of pay terms and to set up an adequate conciliation machinery for the settlement of disputes between the Government and its employees. In particular, he stressed the need for fixing new scales of pay for postal employees.

(The Times of India, 28-12-1946;  
The Hindustan Times, 27-12-1946).

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

### Hyderabad Government prohibits Opium Smoking.

The Government of Hyderabad had prohibited opium smoking in the State, exemption will, however, be granted to addicts on medical advice.

A Press note announcing the Government's decision adds that the question of total prohibition of opium eating in the State is also under consideration. The note further points out that preparations of opium for smoking purposes were banned in the State as early as 1915 and the manufacture of such preparations was prohibited in 1938.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-12-1946).

### Opium Smoking prohibited in Patiala State.

The Government of Patiala has prohibited the smoking of opium throughout the State with immediate effect in pursuance of the State's policy of gradual prohibition and in sympathetic response to the measures adopted by the Government of India in fulfilment of their international obligations. Exception will be made in favour of existing addicts, subject to their producing a medical certificate in this behalf.

(The National Call, 1-12-1946).

### Two Border Districts of Mysore to go Dry from 1-1-1947.

Reference was made at page 50 of the report of this office for October 1946, to the Mysore Government's proposal to appoint a committee to examine the question of the introduction of total prohibition in the State. A committee for this purpose of 16 members, of whom 4 are officials, has now been appointed. The committee, among other matters will examine how far the experiment of partial prohibition ~~will~~ now in force has been successful and suggest ways and means of making up the loss in revenue which the introduction of total prohibition would involve.

The Government has further decided to extend total prohibition immediately to two taluks on the border of Madras Province in addition to the two taluks where prohibition is now in force.

(The Hindu, dated 3-12-1946; and  
The Times of India, 5-12-1946).

Total Prohibition in Bombay in Four Years :  
New Scheme to be introduced from 1-4-1947.

A meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Government of Bombay, on 31-12-1946, approved of a scheme for total prohibition simultaneously throughout Bombay province to be completed within four years beginning from April 1947.

The main features of the new plan are: (1) The Government will give a chance to the addicts to change their habits and enough time to improve their way of living. (2) The dealers in intoxicants will not be taken by surprise, but will get enough time to switch over from their present trade to other undertakings, which are more beneficial and healthier from the point of view of society. (3) The Government will get enough time gradually to make arrangements to meet the situation as it arises out of the unfolding of the plan from year to year.

It is intended to complete the prohibition programme by two methods; firstly, by reducing the yearly consumption of all types of intoxicants by 25 per cent and, secondly, by closing the shops for progressively longer periods every year.

The programme will begin from the financial year 1947-48, and end in 1950-51. For the first 3 years, it will be a sort of temperance arrangement which will evolve itself into complete prohibition in the fourth year.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-12-1946;  
The Times of India, 1-1-1947).

All-India Child Welfare Conference, Bombay,  
30-12-1946: New Charter of Children's Rights.

A Charter enumerating some of the elementary and inalienable rights of Indian children was adopted unanimously at the Child Welfare Conference convened under the auspices of the "Palkan-Ji-Bari" (a children's welfare organisation) in Bombay on 30-12-1946. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Morarji Desai, Home Minister, and Dr. J.M. Kumarappa presided.

The charter demands inter alia, the following rights:-

Every child to live in a free land, in a free atmosphere and environs, free from ~~in atmosphere~~ fear and superstition and limitations of caste, creed, social conventions and economic class distinctions. Every child to have the right to be well-fed, protected and sheltered and be provided with a family setting, as far as possible. Recognizing the right of every child 'to the greatest happiness' at home and outside, the charter asks that children be 'treated with love, respect and understanding, without undue chastisement or punishment'.

Prospective mothers to have free and regular medical supervision and advice during the prenatal and post-natal periods to ensure the right environs at birth and thereafter. Every child to receive periodical health examination during the pre-school and school periods free of cost. ~~Preven-~~  
<sup>Safety</sup> from infectious diseases at home, or outside, proper sleeping rooms, diet and play. Schools to be provided with proper accommodation, light, ventilation and sanitation and the curricula to be so prepared as to discover and develop the special abilities of each child.

Protection against child labour which stunts normal growth, physical and mental. Blind, deaf, and crippled children to have special facilities of education. The charter to extend to the villages equally with the cities. (The Bombay Chronicle, 1-1-1947; The Statesman, 15-12-1946).

Removal of Social Disabilities of Harijans:  
U.P. Government preparing New Bill.

According to the special representative of 'The Statesman', social disadvantages at present suffered by the harijans (depressed classes) of the United Provinces are to be removed by legal authority under an official Bill, which is now being prepared for the next session of the Provincial Assembly.

The Bill declares as an offence any attempt to prevent a member of the Scheduled Castes, merely by virtue of his belonging to that community, from using a public well or other sources of water; any public conveyance, road or street; places of public amusement and entertainment, educational institutions, hospitals or dispensaries; and ~~the use of~~ public temples for purposes of normal worship.

It will also be an offence under the Bill to refuse to the Harijans any service normally received by the public from members of a profession or trade or to compel any member of ~~any kind~~ that community to undergo labour of any kind against his will. Members of Scheduled Castes will have the option to refuse a job, the wages for which in their opinion are inadequate or lower than those given to other communities.

The object of the proposed Bill is to ensure for the Harijans a level of social treatment as an integral part of the Hindu community. The existing customs and usages, which impose social disabilities on the Scheduled Castes will cease to have any force under ~~the~~ law. The Bill also provides for recognition of all offences included in the field covered by the legislation as cognizable.

The United Provinces Bill follows closely the lines of a similar legislation passed earlier this year by the Bombay Assembly but on some points is more comprehensive in its effect. Other provinces have attempted a piecemeal legislation directed mainly at throwing open to the Harijans public wells, temples and other places of worship.

(The Statesman, 21-12-1946).

Bikaner Government prohibits Opium Smoking.

Smoking of opium has been prohibited in Bikaner State. Exception will, however, be made in the case of the existing addicts subject to their producing medical certificates in terms to be prescribed shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-12-1946).

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

### Health Inquiry Committee set up in U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces has appointed a committee of 19 ~~persons~~ to inquire into and report on matters relating to the Medical and Public Health Departments of the province. Dr. A.N. Das, Assistant Director of Public Health, will be the secretary of the committee. The committee has been asked to submit its report within three months.

Terms of Reference.— The committee will consider (1) how to improve the existing hospitals and dispensaries; (2) the question of controlling unqualified medical practitioners or debarring them from practice; (3) appointment of honorary teachers in medical institutions, and of honorary physicians, surgeons, and consultants in hospitals, and what should be the ~~the~~ conditions of such appointment; (4) the feasibility of abolishing the right of private practice now enjoyed by members of the Government medical services and those working as teachers in medical colleges; (5) the question of the training of pharmacists, nurses, compounders, dentists, etc; (6) the problem of nutrition, with special reference to children; and (7) generally the recommendations of the Bhow Committee, (vide pages 50-60 of the report of this Office for March, 1946), with particular reference to such item as can be implemented immediately for the benefit of the country-side.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-12-1946).

### Health Services in Burma: Enquiry Committee set up to investigate inadequacy.

The Government of Burma has decided to appoint a committee, consisting of 12 members, including Dr. Ba Yin, M.B.Ch.B. (Chairman), and U Kyi Tin (Secretary), to enquire into the adequacy of the health services in the country and to submit recommendations thereon.

Terms of Reference.— The terms of reference to the Committee are as follows:— To consider— (1) the adequacy of the Health Services in Burma and make recommendations for their improvement; (2) the provision of a system of medical service directed towards the achievement of positive health and the prevention and cure of disease; (3) a plan to make available to every individual all the necessary medical services, general and specialist, domiciliary and institutional; (4) in particular the following matters and report with recommendations thereon:— (a) the administration of Medical and Public Health Departments and particularly of the standard of medical officers in the services; (b) the training of technical staff of hospitals such as nurses and compounders; (c) hospital accommodation; (d) the provision of greater facilities for the treatment of special diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, mental ailments, venereal diseases; (e) the provision of a better system of medical relief in outlying areas; and (f) the general advancement of preventive measures from the point of view of nutrition and the control of the sale of foodstuffs, drugs, etc.

(Supplement to the Burma Gazette, dated 30-11-1946,

Maternity and Child Welfare Work in Madras:  
Government's New Scheme outlined.

The present position and problems connected with maternity and child welfare work in the Madras Province were discussed at the first conference of Women Medical Officers in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare work in the province, held in Madras on 16 and 17-12-1946. The conference, was attended, among others, by Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmi pathi, (presiding), Minister for Public Health, Dr. R.M. Mathew, Director of Public Health, and Dr. Mrs. L.N. Chinnappa, Assistant Director of Public Health. Addressing the Conference, Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmi pathi pointed out that there was need for a national scheme and programme of work to combat the problems of maternity and infant mortality.

Present Position.- Dr. R.M. Mathew, Director of Public Health, in his address, declared that in India maternity and infant mortality was very high compared to conditions in countries like England and Wales. Every year, Madras province lost some 15,000 mothers on an average, and some 170,000 children under one year, due to preventible causes mostly. What was required was a well organised and effective social health service. There should be one midwife for at least every 5,000 people, one health visitor for every 10,000 and one women medical officer for every 50,000. This would mean that there should be at least 1,00 women medical officers, 5,000 health visitors and 10,000 midwives for the whole province.

Dr. Mrs. L.N. Chinnappa, giving an account of the work done in the province, said that 22 district boards and 83 municipalities had undertaken maternity and child welfare services.

Dr. Mrs. H.V. Kamalamma, giving an account of the work of the Child Welfare Scheme of the Madras Corporation, said that the high infantile and maternity mortality in the city was due to poverty, ignorance, lack of skilled medical aid, and absence of clean midwifery service at confinement, especially among the middle and poor class people. It was, she said, a matter for gratification that "deaths among the cases dealt with by the Child Welfare Scheme are so few". More intensive propaganda was essential to fight ignorance and superstition among women. A large staff of health visitors was required, if every infant born should be taken up for regular visit and supervised as it grew up until it reached the school-going age.

Government's New Scheme.- In her presidential address, Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmi pathi, Minister for Public Health, stated that it was a recognised fact, that the wellbeing of the mother and child was essentially the concern of the State as well as of society at large and of individual citizens. She pointed out that the Government had under contemplation a scheme for training 100 health visitors and 200 midwives every year. The programme of work now being carried on provided for ante-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care for the infant and the mother, besides establishment of ancillary institutions such as maternity homes, creches, nursery schools and mothers' classes. Work was primarily educative and conducted through women medical officers, health visitors and midwives. In the budget for 1946-47, provision was made for Rs. 10 million for providing a one-fourth grant to local bodies, in addition to the provision for a half-grant towards cost of constructing buildings for housing these centres. The question of ~~increasing the maintenance grant~~ increasing the maintenance grant from one-fourth to one-half was now under consideration of the Government. Figures showed clearly that the personnel and the number of centres were woefully inadequate for a population of 52.5 million of which one half were women. Under the post-war plan and the firka scheme, there would be provision for primary and taluk centres, where curative and preventive

help would be available. The centres would be manned by medical and public health personnel and there would be a health visitor and midwives attached to each primary centre, working under the supervision of women medical officers at Taluk Headquarter Centres and the District Health Office at the District Headquarters. Proposals were now ready for starting midwifery schools shortly. Regarding the scales of pay of women medical officers, the Government was actively considering the question of improving their ~~xxx~~ scales of pay as well as a proposal for provincialising the service.

Resolutions.— The Conference adopted a number of resolutions touching the organisation, administration and scope of activities of the Child Welfare Scheme and the training required for health visitors. The urgent need for more Health Visitors for work among pre-school children was emphasised in another set of resolutions which also asked that the pay of health visitors should be raised to Rs. 100, and that candidates for training as health visitors should have midwifery qualification, should be at least 25 years of age and that practical experience in midwifery in <sup>an</sup> approved child welfare centre should also be considered desirable for them.

Resolutions were also adopted urging the need for establishing a Child Welfare Centre for every 50,000 of the population and to staff the centres, each with a woman medical officer, three health visitors and ten midwives and asking that the Government grant for the Child Welfare Scheme be raised from the present rate of 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the cost of working them.

(The Hindu, dated 17-12-1946).

23rd Session of All-India Medical Conference, Madura,  
27, 28 and 29-12-1946.

The 23rd session of the All-India Medical Conference was held at Madura on 27, 28 and 29-12-1946; Captain P.B. Mukerjee presided.

Tribute to Bhore Committee Capt. Mukerjee's Presidential Address:— Captain Mukherjee, in his presidential address to the conference, said that he had no hesitation in saying that the Bhore Committee (vide pages 50-60 of the report of this office for March 1946) completed their task with remarkable zeal and attention to practical details and had produced a report characterised by boldness and vision. While expressing agreement with most of its proposals, he made a critical examination of some of the recommendations which appeared to him to be of a controversial nature. Criticising the Committee's recommendation that for <sup>that</sup> the present medical service should be free to all, Capt. Mukherjee said (his fundamental objection to making medical service free to all without any payment whatsoever lay in his desire to spare the people the humiliation of being recipients of charity. While he agreed to the institution of a whole-time salaried service for developing an adequate health service for rural areas, in the present condition of the country he was afraid the creation of a service of this kind might lead directly or indirectly to the profession as a whole becoming in course of time a full-time salaried servant of the State or local authorities. Capt. Mukherjee did not also agree with the recommendation that the whole-time salaried doctors should be ~~the right of~~ prohibited from private practice. The right of engaging in private practice was one of the fundamental rights of the profession and the profession and the art and science of medicine would stand to lose in efficiency and progress if this right was taken away by statutory control. He also expressed himself against amalgamation of the Medical and the Public Health Departments. He said that what was needed for the harmonious development of



the many excellent public health schemes which had been recommended by the Bhore Committee was a proper and well planned co-ordination between the two departments and not amalgamation. He also expressed disappointment at the recommendations of the Bhore Committee with regard to the place which the indigenous systems of medical treatment should occupy in any planned organisation of medical relief and public health in the country. He said the Committee should have gone fully into the question and made suitable recommendations regarding their future.

Resolutions.— The conference welcomed the broad principles recently laid down by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, in regard to the health policy outlined at the recent Provincial Health Ministers' Conference, held at Delhi (vide pages 60-61 of the report of this Office for October, 1946). It reiterated its previous resolution on the need of establishing at least one college of pharmacy in every province at an early date, and ~~the Central and provincial governments that,~~ in making appointments to the teaching staff of medical colleges, ~~governments,~~ should ~~accept~~ the recommendations of the Bhore Committee and debar whole-time teachers of such colleges from engaging in private practice. It also resolved to request the Government of India to amend the Indian Medical Degrees Act of 1916, so as to make it unlawful for unqualified persons to use any combination of words or letters as prefix or suffix to their names which make the public believe that they represented genuine medical degrees and diplomas, ~~included in the schedule of the Act.~~

(The Hindu, 28-12-1946;  
The Hindustan Times, 31-12-1946).

Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine:  
Committee appointed by Government of India.

According to a press note, issued on 19-12-1946 by the Department of Health, Government of India, in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the Health Ministers' Conference (vide pages 60-61 of the report of this Office for October, 1946), the Government of India has decided to appoint a committee to consider and recommend the steps that should be taken to improve facilities for research and training in indigenous systems of medicine and generally to increase their usefulness to the public. The committee, now to be appointed, will consist of representatives practitioners of Indian systems of medicine together with representatives of the allopathic system. The personnel of the Committee will be announced shortly. It is hoped that the Committee's recommendations will be of assistance to provincial Governments in implementing the policy agreed upon at the recent Health Ministers' Conference.

Functions of Committee.— The functions of the committee will be to make recommendations in regard to the following matters: (1) the provision that should be made for research in and the application of scientific methods for the investigation of the indigenous systems of medicine, such as Ayur-veda and Unani Tibbi with reference to maintenance of health and the prevention and cure of disease; (2) the measures to be taken to improve facilities for training in Indian systems of medicine; (3) the desirability of State control of the practice of those systems of medicine; and (4) the other measures to be taken to increase the usefulness of the systems to the public as part of a comprehensive plan.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-12-1946).

## EDUCATION.

### 22nd Session of All-India Educational Conference, Trivandrum.

The 22nd session of the All-India Educational Conference was inaugurated at Trivandrum, Travancore, by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on 28-12-1946; the Conference ended on 31-12-1946. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, presided.

Aims and Ideals of Education: Sir A. Lakshmanaswami's Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar pointed out that claims of nationalism and internationalism are not conflicting and men of education and culture should prove to be worthy citizens of the world. Citizenship, being in harmony with the noblest of patriotic impulses, should form the central theme, through which all education should be imparted from the nursery school to the highest stages of university education. "The true purpose of education should be creative and it should free a man from the thralldom of forced views and should lead to independent thinking." The present trend to place too much stress on the utilitarian aspect of education was inimical to true progress.

Resolutions: Teachers' Salaries & A Teacher's Charter.- In view of the admittedly low salaries paid to teachers, the conference, by means of a resolution, demanded adequate and uniform scales of salaries for different grades of teachers, primary, secondary and collegiate. It also stressed the need for the institution of a provident fund scheme in every school, immediate relief by way of allowances to meet the high cost of living to be paid to teachers at government rates, and full fee concessions to the children of the teachers of elementary and secondary schools, so long as such children continued to make progress.

By another resolution, the conference recommended to the Governments of India and Provinces and States that a declaration of rights of the teaching profession should be made by the enactment of a Teacher's Charter in consultation with organised teaching opinion.

Children's Charter.- In the Childhood and Home Education Section, the Conference urged on the Government of India the adoption of an All-India nursery school education policy and programme, opening of child guidance clinics and organization of a psychological service for schools. It also urged the adoption of a "Children's Charter" for India.

Physical Education.- The Conference urged the Central and provincial Governments, to establish a Department of Physical Education and Recreation to cater to the physical and recreational needs of students and the public.

Fine Arts.- In the Secondary Education Section, the Conference was of the opinion that greater attention should be paid to boys at the adolescent stage and that, as a first step towards proper canalizing of their creative energies, fine arts should be given a prominent place in schools.

Psychological Tests.- In the Vocational Education Section, the Conference was of opinion that full use should be made of modern psychological tests adapted to Indian conditions for organized vocational education.

Military Training.- The Conference recommended that boys and girls should be given military training and formed into union cadet corps, and as a first measure practice in archery, fencing and jiu-jitsu should be taught to both boys and girls in high schools.

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National Association of Physical Education.- The Conference ~~accorded~~ accorded full support to the decision taken by the Amraoti Conference of the All-India Physical Education Association in October 1946 on the formation of a body known as the National Association of Physical Education of India and of a National Council to prepare the constitution and programme of the said association. It welcomed the decision of the Central Government to start a National War Academy at Poona.

(The Hindu, dated 29-12-1946;  
The Hindu, dated 1-1-1947;  
The Hindustan Times, 4-1-1947).

Textile Industry.

Stepping up Cloth Production: Proposals of Textile Control Board.

The causes of the present shortage of cloth in India and the methods by which production can be stepped up were discussed, on 20 and 21-12-1946, at a meeting in New Delhi of the Industries Committee of the Textile Control Board.

Textile Machinery to be Manufactured in India.- The Committee discussed the question of bringing into existence a cotton textile machinery manufacturing company, which it is proposed to start with an initial capital of Rs. 15 million in co-operation with the British combine, the Textile Machinery Manufacturing Co. It is understood that the Government of India has promised active support in this venture as it is realised that it will contribute to the establishment of heavy industry in India. Three experts are coming out to India in January 1947, in connection with this project.

Three-shift System: Raw Material Position: Labour Troubles.- The ~~position~~ possibility of adopting three shifts in centres where such working might be practicable was discussed in detail by the committee. Other means of increasing production were also considered at length. Among the difficulties are the supplies of raw materials, namely, raw-cotton, mill stores and coal. One important aspect is the effect of reduced hours of labour on output and the frequency of labour disturbances, absenteeism and slackness. It was emphasised that the labour factor was one of the most important aspects bearing on production. The difficulties in certain areas in the matter of supplies of short staple cotton at reasonable prices were brought forward by some members of the Committee and the question of relieving these difficulties was also discussed. It is learnt that other ways of increasing production that were suggested were that such units as are now working on one shift should try and adopt two shifts and that all factories should try and rationalise the quality of cloth ~~produced~~ produced, in order to increase the total yardage.

It is understood that the whole question will now be examined by the Government in the light of the discussion afforded by this meeting.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-12-1946).

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Cloth Shortage in India: Sir Shri Ram's Plea  
For Price Rationalisation.

Sir Shri Ram, a member of the Industries Committee of the Textile Control Board, in a press statement, on 26-12-1946, analysed the causes of the present cloth shortage in India. The following is a summary of his views.

The ~~chief~~ <sup>main</sup> reason for the present cloth shortage in India is the tendency of textile mills to produce finer varieties of cloth at the expense of coarser varieties which are in greater demand with the bulk of the people. Reduction in the yardage of cloth is in direct proportion to the degree by which the coarser varieties of cloth or yarn are replaced by the finer varieties. Although both the Government and the industry are aware of this fact, only reduction in hours of work, communal disturbances and industrial disputes generally are mentioned as being responsible for the present fall in production of cloth.

The principal reason for the ~~shortage~~ <sup>shortage</sup> tendency to increased production of fine cloth is the disparity in the margin of profits not only between the broad groups of production, namely, coarse, medium and fine, but also between the different counts in the same group. A second reason is the supply and price of cotton, the responsibility regarding which rests entirely on the various Departments of the Government of India. In order to have a bigger supply of food grains, every effort was made by the Government to restrict the growing of short and medium stapled cotton. The Government did not realize what the effect of this would be, not only on the cotton textile industry but also on milk supply and cattle foods. The Government also did not go seriously into the question to what extent the reduction in the areas under cotton, in fact, helped in the growth of food grains. Further, the Government, not only reduced the area under the medium and short staple varieties, but also allowed the export of cotton; the Government is still persisting in it. The result is that during the course of about 15 months, the prices of short and medium staple cotton have ~~short~~ shot up from Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 per candy and from Rs. 360 to Rs. 500 per candy, respectively. This means an increase of 4.082 annas per lb. in the case of those manufactured from medium staple cotton.

What is required is complete rationalisation of prices over the entire range of production from count to count in order to remove the incentive to change over from the count to another with a weightage in favour of the coarser counts to increase production. So far, no effort has been made to reconstruct the price structure of different varieties of cloth, so as to check the drift towards the manufacture of finer varieties nor has the Government seen its way either to stop the sale and purchase of cotton above their own declared ceiling prices, or to provide cotton at these prices to the mills or to restrict the export of these varieties of cotton, or to let the farmer grow as much short and medium staple cotton, as ~~the~~ he would like to grow, and thus meet the needs of the industry as well as of the cattle which produce milk for the people. The position will be still more difficult when the production of coarser and medium varieties of cloth increases.

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Training for Demobilised Service Women.

A number of demobilised service-women have begun their training in different occupations, under the vocational training scheme for ex-service-women initiated by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment (vide page 72 of the report of this Office for March, 1946). Arrangements for their training have been made in Delhi, Lucknow, Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Ranchi and similar arrangements will be made shortly in Lahore and Madras. The subjects which are being taught at present include cutting and tailoring, typing, stenography, commercial and clerical work, commercial art and welfare work. Arrangements for providing training in many other vocations, including telegraphy, cooking and confectionery, hairdressing and beauty culture, are under way. The average period of training is one year, but it may vary according to the nature of the trade or occupation in which training is undertaken.

Trainees staying in hostels attached to the training centres will be given free board and lodge; those staying outside are given Rs. 45 per month in lieu of free board and lodge.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-12-1946).

Punjab Government's Grant for Attock ~~XXXXXX~~  
EX-SERVICEMEN.

The Punjab Government has allotted a sum of Rs. 1.7 million for the benefit of the ex-servicemen of Attock district. Various schemes for the betterment of the conditions of the discharged personnel are being scrutinized by the authorities. The money will be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner of Attock, and will be utilized for grant of scholarships to the children of ex-servicemen, for the purchase of motor vehicles to be under the management of ex-servicemen, for the erection of a big rest house at Campbellpur, and the grant of subsidies to such persons who desired to enter a trade or industry.

(The Hindustan Times, Evening News, 5-12-1946).

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Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen: Review of  
Work accomplished.

The following information about the work done and results obtained up till November 1946, in connection with resettlement of ex-servicemen, is taken from a press conference given by Major R.W. Parry of the Southern Command at Poona on 29-11-1946.

Reviewing the general policy behind resettlement schemes, Major Parry said that, in contrast to the resettlement plans made after the 1914-18 war, this time it was the agreed policy of the provincial Governments not to give free grants of land to ex-servicemen. Instead, they were trying to form "land colonies" for selected groups of men which would be run on a co-operative basis.

Land Settlement Schemes.— Madras Province had drawn up 15 schemes, two of which were already working. Each colony would take about 60 settlers. In Bombay, owing to lack of available land, there was only one such scheme—the Indoor Village Scheme—where the Bombay Government proposed to set up a colony, on about ten acres of land. Initially, the colony would take about 100 settlers, but it was hoped to extend it later. Altogether, some 34000 ex-servicemen are to be absorbed in the co-operative land colonisation schemes of the different Provincial Governments in India.

Co-operative Societies.— Ex-servicemen were also being encouraged to start their own co-operative societies. Army surplus for disposal was sold to such societies at concession rates to run them. In Madras Province, the Government was starting a number of co-operatives, such as engineering workshops, timber mills, rice milling shops, etc. In the Punjab, a co-operative transport service of ex-servicemen, to whom the army had lent ten motor lorries, was also running.

Placing: Employment Exchanges.— Through the efforts of exchanges all over India no less than 172,000 persons were known to have secured jobs. This represented about eleven per cent of the total released personnel till July 1946. 7000 reserved vacancies in the Central Government for war service candidates still remained to be filled. The programme of absorption of candidates for these posts would be spread over a period so that those who were released towards the end of demobilisation programme would get equal opportunity with those released earlier.

Post-War Reconstruction Fund.— The total assets of the "Post-war Reconstruction Fund" built by the Central Government for the benefit of ex-servicemen and their resettlement, and at the end of the 1944-45 financial year were RS. 986,039,000.

(The Hindu, dated 2-12-1946).

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1,187,816 Demobilised from Services, upto 30-11-1946.

Total releases from all the three Armed Services in India upto 30-11-1946 came up to 1,187,816. During the November this year, 332 were released from the Royal Indian Navy, 72,793 from the Indian Army and 618 from the Royal Indian Air Force. The total decrease in the strength of the Navy since demobilisation began and upto 30-11-1946, amounts to 1,703 officers, 16,500 ratings, 668 members of the WRINS and 205 civilians. Since V-J Day and upto the end of November, 1946, the net reduction in the strength of the Indian Army amounted to 1,151,986 men and women. Of these 20,946 were British and Indian officers, 8,564 were officers and auxiliaries of the W.A.C.(I), 28,167 were BORS serving with the Indian Army and 1,074,697 were Indian Ranks, including 32,259 civilians attached to the Indian Army. The Royal Indian Air Force released 10 officers, 213 airmen, 382 enrolled followers and 13 technical non-combatants in November 1946. Total releases from the RIAF amount to 218 officers, 8,717 airmen, 8,552 enrolled ~~off~~ followers and 83 non-combatant technicians.

(The Statesman, 31-12-1946).

Technical Training Scheme for Ex-Servicemen:  
Provinces to Co-operate.

It is learnt that all provincial Governments have accepted in principle the technical training scheme for ex-servicemen instituted by the Labour Department of the Government of India (vide page 57 of the report of this Office for November, 1945), and have agreed to participate in the scheme. The scheme provides training in 45 building and engineering trades.

16,175 Ex-Servicemen under Training.- Upto 30-11-1946, about 16,175 ex-servicemen had been selected and posted for training as turners, machinists, black-smiths, electricians, tin and copper-smiths, etc., in the 91 technical training centres, organised by the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Government of India. Most of the training centres which were established under the war-time technical training schemes have been switched over to the training of ex-servicemen for peace-time occupations.

(The Times of India, 24-12-1946).



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Post-War Reconstruction.

Expansion Programme for Indian Railways: Standing Finance Committee sanctions Schemes for Rs. 500 Million.

The Railway Standing Finance Committee at ~~xxx~~ a three-day session held in December, 1946, at Delhi, under the chairmanship of Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport, Government of India, approved a programme of capital, betterment fund and depreciation fund expenditure for 1947-48 of Rs. 500 million, of which Rs. 290 million was for open line works, Rs. 140 million for rolling stock, Rs. 25 million for new construction, restoration and purchases of branch lines, Rs. 15 million for ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ investment in road services and the balance for machinery, etc.

Indian-made Locomotives by 1950.— The most important work approved by the Committee is the construction of a locomotive ~~sh~~ workshop at Kanshrapara at a cost of Rs. 115 million, designed to manufacture 120 complete locomotives and fifty boilers each year. The work is so programmed that the first locomotive should be completed by December, 1950. The outlay on this project in 1947-48, is expected to be about Rs. 55 million.

("Dawn", dated 24-12-1946).

Import of Capital Goods: Government's Scheme for Registration of Orders abolished.

The capital goods registration scheme, which was introduced in December, 1944 (vide page 62 of the report of this Office for December, 1944) has been abolished. This change has been made with the object of ~~expedit~~ expediting the disposal of applications. In future, therefore, it will not be necessary for intending importers of capital goods to apply for prior registration of their requirements. They may now apply straightaway for licences.

(The Times of India, 20-12-1946).

Sind Government's Rs. 50 Million Hydro-Electric Schemes.

The Sind Government proposes shortly to make a quick start with three hydro-electric schemes, costing about Rs. 50 million, which are designed to electrify most of the rural areas in the province and provide power for industrial development. Two hydro-electric generating plants are to be installed on the Rohri Canal, one near Sukkur and the other near Bandhi Railway station, and the third plant is to be installed on the Eastern Nara Canal.

(The Statesman, 29-12-1946).

GENERAL.

54th Session of Indian National Congress, Meerut  
21 to 24-11-1946: Independent Sovereign Republic

Goal Government of India.

The 54th session of the Indian National Congress was held, (during the war years no session was held; the last session of the Congress was the one held at Ramgarh, Bihar, in April 1941), at Meerut in the last week of November 1946, Acharya Kriplani presiding.

The Subjects Committee of the Congress met on 21st and 22-11-1946 to discuss the resolutions to be submitted to the open session of the Congress. Among the more important resolutions adopted were: a resolution confirming and ratifying the decisions of the Working Committee and A.I.C.C., including the formation of the Interim Government (the Congress Socialists, led by Mr. Achyut Patwardhan, ~~the~~ opposed acceptance by the Congress of seats in the Interim Government, while making it clear that this did not mean want of confidence in the Congress Ministers); a resolution, moved by Pandit Nehru, declaring that the Congress stands for "an independent Sovereign Republic, wherein all powers and authority are derived from the people, and for a Constitution wherein social objectives are laid down to promote freedom, progress, and equal opportunity for all the people of India, so that this ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full contribution to the promotion of world peace and the progress and welfare of mankind, and directs all Congress-men to work to this end," (this was the first time that the Congress formulated the goal for India as an "independent Sovereign Republic"); and resolutions reviewing Indian political developments during the last six and a half years, reaffirming the attitude of the Congress to the communal situation and the Indian States, and giving a general directive with regard to the revision of the Constitution of the Congress.

The open session of the Congress was held on 23 and 24-11-1946. Acharya Kripalani, in his presidential address, put forth an impassioned plea for acceptance of the Gandhian conception of Swaraj and stoutly opposed the Muslim demand for Pakistan. While stressing that political democracy was of no good without social democracy, he considered State capitalism an evil; rejecting the Russian pattern he declared that the right to own property was essential for the full development of human personality. Dealing with Indian States, he pleaded for constitutional reform and warned the Princes of the fate that befell Louis XVI and the last Czar of Russia. On the communal situation and the demand of the Muslims for a separate State, he said: "to avoid immediate trouble, we may accept principles that cut at the root of nationality and democracy. If we do so, we shall not only be betraying the nation, but ultimately the Muslim and the other communities".

The Congress then formally adopted the resolutions recommended by the Subjects Committee.

New Congress Working Committee for 1947.- The members of the new Congress Working Committee, are: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Mr. Shankar Rao Deo, Mrs. Kamala Devi, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan, Sardar Pratap Singh, and Mr. Jugal Kishore.

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Mr. Shankar Rao Deo and Acharya Jugal Kishore will be General Secretaries, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will continue as Treasurer.

(The Hindustan Times, 22 to 25-11-1946;  
The Indian Review, December, 1946 ).

Nationalisation of Armed Forces: Advisory  
Committee appointed.

The Government of India has appointed a committee, with Sir. N. Gopaldaswami Iyengar as Chairman, to advise it as to the ways and means of nationalisation of the armed forces. The Secretary of the Committee is Lt.-Col. B.M. Kaul.

Terms of reference.- The terms of reference are as follows: In order to nationalise the armed forces of India, namely, the Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian ~~Army~~ Air Force and all auxiliary services, both officers and men, within the shortest possible time, with due regard to Indian national interests and reasonable efficiency, to enquire and report within six months on: (a) Ways and means within the minimum possible period of replacement of non-Indian personnel by Indians in each branch or service. (b) The target date or dates for complete nationalisation for all or each category in the different services, if possible. (c) Ways and means of retaining, if necessary, non-Indian personnel, as advisers or experts in nationalised categories. (d) The enumeration of those departments, categories or personnel where non-Indian personnel can be ~~replaced~~ replaced by Indians immediately.

(The National Call, 1-12-1946;  
The Indian Review, December 1946,  
page 686 ).

National Labour Legislation.-

- 1) Rules under Section 43 of the Factories Act, 1113, Cochin State. 2-2-1946.
- 2) The Cochin Factories (Amendment) Act (ACT VIII of 1121). 18-4-1946.

Conditions of Work.-

Reports on enquiries into Conditions of Labour in the

- 1) Cotton Mill Industry in India;
- 2) Jute Mill Industry in India;
- 3) Match Industry in India;
- 4) The Engineering and Minerals and Metal Industries in India;
- 5) Tanneries and Leather Goods Factories;
- 6) Printing Presses;
- 7) Sugar Factories;
- 8) Cotton Ginning and Baling Industry;
- 9) Trams and Bus Services;
- 10) Ports;
- 11) Non-Gazetted Railway Services;
- 12) Principal Municipalities in India;
- 13) Central Public Works Department;
- 14) Manganese Mining Industry in India;
- 15) Mica Mining and Mica Manufacturing Industry; and
- 16) Coal Mining Industry in India.

Labour Investigation Committee, Government of India. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1946.

Migration.-

Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour for 1945 (Ceylon), November, 1946. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo.

Agriculture.-

- 1) Annual Report of the Agricultural Department, N.-W.F.P., for the year ending 30th June 1945. Printed and published by the Manager, Government Printing and Stationery, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1946. Price Re.1-5-0.
- 2) Food Control and Cattle Relief in Mysore, by Dr. R.G. Khade and K.L.N. Rao; Press Statements on the Food Crisis in the Drought Affected Areas of Mysore, by the Hon'ble Dr. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru; and Sri A.V. Thakkar; and A Review of Food Policy, by K.G. Sivaswamy. Servants of India Society, Royapettah, Madras. August 1946. Price Rs.2/=.
- 3) Farm Tenancy under Ryotwari Holdings in Madras: History and Principles of Legislation, by K.G. Sivaswamy. The South Indian Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions, 8, Westcott Road, Madras 14. October 1946. Price Re.1/=.

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Navigation.-

The Administration Report and Annual Accounts of the Port of Calcutta for the year 1945-46. Printed by the Photographic Stores, Calcutta.

Co-operation.-

Report of the Co-operative Planning Committee, appointed by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Fourteenth Registrars' Conference. Bombay 1946: Printed at the Times of India Press, Bombay, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Re.1-8-0 or 2s.3d.

Living Conditions.-

Food Control and Nutrition Surveys, Malabar and S. Kanara, by K.G. Sivaswamy, the late Mr. V.R. Nayanar, Dr. K.G. Khade, and L.M. Rao; and Diety and Disease Surveys, by eleven Doctors. Servindia Kerala Relief Centre, Royapettah, Madras. Madras 1946. Price Rs.4/=.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- 1) Annual Report of the Government of India Forms Press Workers' Union, Aligarh, for 1945-46. 30-8-1946.
- 2) Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1945. Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 20-3-1946. Bombay: Printed by G. Claridge & Co., Ltd. 1940.

Public Health.-

- 1) Inadequate Diets, Deaths and Diseases, and a Food Plan for Madras, by K.G. Sivaswamy; Nutritional Diseases by Dr. M.P. Chacko; Food Hints by Dr. S. Gurubatham. Servants of India Society, Royapettah, Madras. May 1946. Price Rs.2/=.
- 2) Food, Famine and Nutritional Diseases in Travancore (1943-44): Surveys by Sri K.G. Sivaswamy and others. Servindia Kerala Relief Centre, Coimbatore, South India. July 1945. Rs.5/=.

The Transition from War to Peace.-

Famine, Rationing and Food Policy in Cochin, by K.G. Sivaswamy, and Medical surveys by Lt. Col. T.S. Shastry, and Dr. J.A. Bhat. Servindia Kerala Relief Centre, Royapettah, Madras. February 1946. Price Rs.3/=.