

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCH

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Report for January 1932.Contents

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References to the I.L.O.

The Hindu of 5-1-1932, the Leader of 7-1-1932 and the Hindustan Times of 8-1-1932 and all papers publish a press communiqué issued by the Government of India extending the last date for sending recommendations regarding the nomination of employers' and workers' delegation to the 16th Labour Conference, from 15-1-1932 to 29-1-1932.

... ..

The Times of India, the Leader and the Hindustan Times of 21-1-1932 and all papers publish a communiqué issued by the Government of India announcing the addition of the revision of the Convention concerning protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships as the fourth item on the agenda of the 16th Session of the Labour Conference, ~~in addition~~ to the other three items on the agenda announced in the press communiqué issued on 10-12-1931.

... ..

The Hindu of 15-1-1932 publishes a long summary of a lecture delivered by Dr. Lanka Sundaram before an audience composed of the economics students of the Loyola College, Madras, on 13-1-1932 on the position of India in the International Labour Organisation. In the course of the speech, the lecturer explained the work of the I.L.O., paid a tribute to the part played by Indian delegates in the various sessions of the Conference and put in a strong plea for holding an Asiatic Labour Conference at an early date to

consider the peculiar problems of Asiatic countries.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 13-1-1932 publishes a short summary of a lecture delivered by the Director of this Office on 10-1-1932 at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Delhi, on "The World Unemployment Problem". In the course of the lecture, extensive references were made to the efforts of the I.L.O. to combat unemployment and mitigate its ill-effects.

... ..

The Times of India of 7-1-1932 gives publicity in a small news paragraph to the efforts made by the I.L.O. to reduce the extent of unemployment and states that the Office has recently given special attention to the question of public works, both national and international, which may offer possibilities of technical development and economic value, the undertaking of which might appreciably diminish the number of unemployed.

... ..

According to the Report of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association held on 19-1-1932, the Committee of the Association considered a letter dated 13-1-32 which was addressed to it by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, regarding the nomination of the employers' delegation to the 16th Session of the I.L.Conference. The letter from the Bombay Millowners, after drawing the attention of the Mining Association to the communiqué issued by the Government of India inviting recon-

recommendations for the nomination of the employers' and workers' delegation to Geneva for the 1932 Conference, requested the Mining Association to support the candidature of Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty. The Committee of the Mining Association, however, decided to support the view taken by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that no delegation need be sent from India to the 1932 Session of the Conference "having regard to the existing financial stringency and the nature of the subjects coming up for discussion".

... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for December 1931 publishes the views of the Chamber on the Questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. on the Age of Admission of Children to employment in non-industrial occupations. The Chamber, while agreeing with the view of the Government of India that India is not sufficiently prepared to adopt any legislation on the subject, states that "night" may be defined as the period between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. instead of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

... ..

The Annual Report of the Indian Colliery Employees' Association, Jharia, for the year 1931, contains a reference to the Convention on Hours of Work in Coal Mines adopted by the 15th I.L. Conference. The report in recommending to the Government the ratification of the Convention, sets forth the views of the Indian mine workers on the question of hours of work in Indian mines. (The statement is <sup>given</sup> at pages 42-45 of this report under the section dealing with Conditions of Labour).

... ..

The Annual Report of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association, Karachi, for the year 1930 publishes the views expressed by the Chamber when the Chamber was consulted by the Government of India on the I.L.O.'s Grey Report on the Age of Admission of Children to employment in non-Industrial Occupations (page 49), and on the Questionnaire on Hours of Work in Coal Mines (page 61).

... ..

The January 1932 issue of the Indian Post (Vol. III, No. 1) publishes a long article under the caption "Protection of Child Workers: the I.L.O.'s Contribution" contributed by Mr. S. Keshoram, a member of the staff of this Office. The article briefly reviews the efforts the I.L.O. has so far made for the amelioration of the conditions of work of children and for ensuring their health.

... ..

The January 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette (Vol. XI, No. 5) publishes at page 432 extracts from the press communique issued by the Government of India announcing the items on the agenda of the 16th I.L. Conference and inviting ~~recommendations~~ <sup>suggestions</sup> for the nomination of the Employers' and Workers' delegations to the Conference.

... ..

The January 1932 issue of <sup>The</sup> Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. XI, No. 5) publishes at pages 438-442 the full text of the Questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. on the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in non-Industrial Occupations.

... ..

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, in its issue of January 1932 (Vol.XI, No.5) reproduces at pages 443-444 under the caption "World Unemployment", the Note on the meeting of the Unemployment Committee held from 7 to 9-12-1931 at Geneva, originally published in Industrial and Labour Information of 14-12-1931.

... ..

The first instalment of a long review of the recent publication of the I.L.O. - "Social Aspects of Rationalisation" is published in the January 1932 issue of Labour Gazette (Vol.XI, No.5), pages 483-491.

... ..

According to the printed Excerpts from the records of the meeting of the Managing Committee of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce held on 26-1-1932, published in the Mysore Chamber of Commerce - Market Report & Bulletin (Vol.XVI, No.37), the Committee considered a suggestion from the Gwalior Chamber of Commerce regarding Indian delegations to the Geneva Labour Conference. The Gwalior Chamber had sent a letter dated 8-1-1932 to the Government of India suggesting that as there were great differences in industrial conditions between the Indian States and British India, the Government of India should allow "special representation to Indian states on the International Labour Conference, Geneva". The Committee of the Mysore Chamber, after considering this suggestion, resolved to make representations to the Government of India endorsing the suggestion of the Gwalior Chamber.

At the same meeting of the Committee, a resolution was passed to the effect that " as the claims of the Mysore Chamber of

Commerce for independent representation had been overlooked and that as no member of this (Mysore) Chamber has had any chance of being nominated either as delegate or as adviser, the Committee should request the Government of India to include Mr. S.G.Sastry, B.A.,M.Sc.,F.C.S., Industrial Chemist and Chemical Engineer, Government Soap Factory, Mysore, as an adviser to the forthcoming 16th session of the Conference.



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National Labour Legislation.

Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Repealing Bill, 1932.

( L. A. Bill No.2 of 1932 )

The following Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 28th January, 1932:-

L. A. Bill No. 2 of 1932.

A Bill to repeal the Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act, 1860.

of 1860  
Whereas it is expedient to repeal the Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act, 1860. It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Short title. Repealing Act, 1932.

2. The Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act, 1860, is hereby Repeal of Act IX of 1860. repealed.

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act was passed in 1860 to provide for the speedy determination of disputes relating to wages in the case of certain workers. It is applicable to the construction of railways, canals and other public works and provides for the summary disposal of disputes by magistrates. The Royal Commission on Labour, which invited opinions regarding the utility of this Act, has reported that "the Act has everywhere ceased to be used and this is perhaps fortunate, as it also embodies the principle of criminal breach of contract. We recommend its entire repeal". (vide page 337 of the Whitley Commission Report). This Bill is intended to give effect to that recommendation.

(Extracted from the Gazette of India, dated 30-1-1932. - Part V - page 15).

Bombay Maternity Benefits Act, 1929:

Proposed Amendment:

The Government of Bombay has circulated the following note embodying suggestions for the amendment of the Bombay Maternity Benefits Act, 1929, with the object of eliciting public opinion on the suggested changes:-

Rate of Benefit. - The rate of maternity benefit prescribed in Section 5 of the Act is eight annas a day. The rate is uniform throughout the Presidency. The wages of woman workers vary from place to place and in the mofussil the average earning of a woman is less than eight annas a day. The rate of eight annas a day appears appropriate only to Bombay city and Ahmedabad. It has therefore been suggested that section 5 of the Bombay Act should be amended on the lines of section 4 and rule 8 of the Central Provinces Act which allow payment of maternity benefit at the rate of eight annas a day or at the rate of average daily earning whichever is less.

Period of Payment of Benefit. - According to the Bombay Act the maximum period for which a woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit is seven weeks. The Royal Commission on labour have recommended that the maximum period should be eight weeks. It has been urged that the recommendation of the Commission should be given effect to.

Eligibility for Benefit. - The qualifying period for being eligible for maternity benefit prescribed in section 5 of the Bombay Act is six months employment. It has been suggested that the period should be raised to nine months in accordance with the

recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Calculation of Average Daily Earnings. - It has been suggested that in calculating the average daily earnings, the money value of the grain concession where it is allowed should be taken into consideration in calculating wages and that the daily rate should be worked out to the nearest quarter of an anna.

According to section 4 of the Central Provinces Act the rate of average daily earnings of a woman is calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding the day of her confinement. It has been urged that the earnings of a woman worker decline especially in the days of her advanced pregnancy. It has therefore been suggested that the date on which a woman worker gives notice under the Act should be the end of the period over which wages are calculated.

Mode of Payment of Benefit. - Section 6(3) of the Bombay Act contemplates payment of maternity benefit in instalments. There would be no objection to this if the women workers remained in their place of employment to draw the benefits. Many women however go to some remote part of the mofussil for their confinement and it has been represented that under certain conditions some women are prevented from adopting the procedure contemplated in Section 6(3). It has accordingly been suggested that the alternative of a lump sum payment should be legalised.

Maintenance of Muster Roll. - The preparation and maintenance of the muster roll under section 14(2)(a) of the Act has been resented by some factory owners. The factories have to maintain muster rolls under the provisions of the Factories Act and these

are sufficient to check employment. It is alleged that the maintenance of a second muster roll under the Maternity Benefit Act involves unnecessary duplication of record keeping. It is suggested that the Act should require the maintenance of a register and also permit the use of a combined muster roll and register on the analogy of section 35 of the Factories Act.

Exhibition of Act and Rules. - Section 15 of the Act requires that a copy of the provisions of the Act and the rules thereunder in the local vernacular shall be exhibited in a conspicuous place by the employer in every factory in which women are employed. It is found that sufficient publicity is not ensured by this method. It has therefore been suggested that this section may be amended to require all factories employing women to post an 'Abstract of the Act and Rules' in all parts of the factories where women are employed.

(Extracted from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during December 1931).

Better Fencing of Machinery:

Amendment of C.P. & Berar Factory Rules.

The following amendment to the Central Provinces Factory Rules has been published in the Central Provinces Gazette dated 30-1-1932:-

No.287-193-XIII, dated the 27th January 1932 - In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 37 of the Indian Factories

Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), the Governor in Council is pleased, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, to make the following amendment to rule 42 of the Central Provinces Factories (Amendment) Rules, 1924, published with the Commerce and Industry Department Notification No. 2477-1134-XIII, dated the 28th November 1923, as amended :-

For rule 42 and its heading, the following rule and heading shall be substituted, namely:-

"Additional fencing in ginning and pressing factories.

"42. In addition to the provisions of anything hereinbefore contained, the following special provisions shall apply to cotton ginning and pressing factories to the extent therein indicated:-

- (a) The line shaft or second motion shaft in cotton ginning factories shall be completely enclosed by a continuous wall or unclimbable fencing with only so many openings as are necessary for access to the shaft for removing cotton seed, cleaning and oiling; and such openings shall be provided with gates or doors which shall be kept closed and locked.
- (b) The toothed rollers of the kapas (unginned cotton) opener shall be guarded by securely fixing across the machine not more than 8 inches above the lattice a stout wooden plank or strong metal guard not less than 15 inches in width so arranged that in no circumstances can a man's hand get into the rollers.
- (c) The spiked or fluted rollers in the Porcupine type of kapas openers shall be securely guarded by fixing across the mouth of the feed opening a strong wood or metal guard not less than 15 inches in width and not more than 6 inches above the moving lattice.
- (d) In all types of openers in use in pressing factories the slope of the feed table shall not be more than 1 in 10 and in no case shall it consist of a smooth metal plate. An operative shall not be permitted to feed the machine by his legs, and he shall always wear tight clothing which shall be provided by the occupier free of cost.
- (e) The beaters of toothed rollers of cotton openers in pressing factories shall be guarded by securely fixing

across the feed end of the machine a strong guard of metal or wood with sides closed not more than 12 inches above the lattice and not less than 20 inches in width so arranged that in no circumstances can a man's hand come in contact with the beaters or rollers.

- (f) The spur gearing at the side of all openers shall be completely covered by a strong metal guard.
- (g) The crank shaft pulleys and roller pulleys of all gins shall be securely guarded by strong box guards and hinged top covers.
- (h) All ginning machines and openers shall be provided with fast and loose pulleys and efficient belt shifters."

Berar Factory Rules. - The same amendment has been made to the Berar Factory Rules also by notification No.288-193-XIII dated 27-1-1932.

(Published at pages 121-122 of Part I of the Central Provinces Gazette, No.5, dated 30-1-1932).

13

Conditions of Labour

Rubber Estate Labour in Ceylon, 1930.

The Administrative Report of the Controller of Indian Immigration, Ceylon Government, for 1930 states that as a result of a questionnaire sent in December, <sup>1930</sup> to rubber estates representing over 100,000 acres, *it has been ascertained that* rubber estates reduced their labour forces by 25,000 to 30,000, but there were repatriated to India only 4,183 by the end of December, <sup>1930</sup> representing only about 3,200 workers. However, an analysis of the half-yearly return of estate Indian population ~~by~~ the Director of Statistics shows clearly that about 20,000 workers must have moved from rubber to tea. By the end of 1930 there was full employment for practically all "sillara" workers on rubber estates and none out of employment. In September, repatriation of any labourers so desiring, whether on grounds of unemployment or reduced remuneration or inadequate work, was authorized, and by December 31, 1930, 4,512 repatriations had been sanctioned, and 4,183 actually <sup>had</sup> taken place.\* Records kept at the Colombo depot of repatriates passing through showed that 27 per cent had been over twenty years in Ceylon, 28 per cent over ten, and the balance under ten. Several instances occurred of those early repatriated returning as passengers, and since the New Year, many have come over to Ceylon to take work on tea estates. In repatriating, unless the desire to go to India was palpably and clearly to go merely for a holiday of short duration, the policy has been to repatriate freely any desiring to go. The labourers who migrate to Ceylon from South India for estate work have never been engaged on indenture. The Immigration Fund, which is collected from estates employing Indian

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labour, defrays the cost of passage and other expenses of estate labourers, who amount to to about 50 per cent. of the total Indian immigrants to Ceylon. They work on estates on monthly verbal contracts, for breach of which by the labourer there is no penal sanction. The other Indian immigrants come to Ceylon at their own expense either to trade or to obtain employment, mostly in Colombo city. For over a century Indian labourers have been coming and going between India and Ceylon, and without doubt their industry has been dominantly responsible for the creation of the great planting industries. They have also promoted almost every other form of activity. During this time they have promoted prosperity when things went well, and uncomplainingly and lyally helped to avert disaster when things went badly. As far as estates are concerned, though a large proportion are permanently settled in Ceylon, their contact with India is maintained in many ways. Indian labour is employed on 1,888 estates and on nearly all the larger ones. There are about 10,000 estates over 10 acres in Ceylon. There are about 222,000 Indian residents in estates in the Kandy district, 146,000 in the Nuwara Eliya district, and 128,000 in Uva. During the year the labour force was only decreased through the excess of emigration over immigration by 13,852. The increase through the excess of births over deaths at the same time was approximately 8,449.

(Taken from an extract reproduced in the Planters' Chronicle of 16-1-1932 (Vol. XXVII, No. 2) from an article published in the Home and Colonial Mail of 3-12-1931).

\* \* Note on Repatriation of Indians from Ceylon during 1930. -  
 The total number of persons repatriated in 1930 was 7,460. Of these, 61 were repatriated by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon and 3,216 under the Ceylon Government Scheme of 1924 for the repatriation



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of sick and indigent labourers. The remaining 4,183 to which alone reference is made here was made under the Ceylon Government Special Scheme of 1930 for the repatriation of labourers affected by the rubber slump. For details regarding conditions of Indian labourers in Ceylon during 1930,, vide pages 10-16 of the July 1931 report of this Office.

G.I.P.Railway Workshop Dispute, Matunga.

A strike involving 3,000 workers was declared in the carriage and waggon shop of the G.I.P.Railway workshop at Matunga, On 6-1-1932 due to the decision of the authorities to introduce short time work in those shops on account of decrease in traffic. It was decided by the authorities to close the above sections of the workshop on Fridays and Saturdays in addition to Sundays as a measure of retrenchment, ~~as stated~~ The workers objected to this arrangement and refused to work from the above date.(The Times of India, 8.1.1932). On 8-1-1932, the authorities declared a lock-out and ordered the workshops to be closed until further notice. (The Times of India, 9-1-1932). Negotiations between the G.I.P.Railway Workers' Union and the management were started soon after the lock-out was declared and eventually a compromise was arrived at by which the authorities agreed to meet the worker's claims half way by keeping the workshop closed only for one day in addition to Sunday instead of closing for two days in the week, in addition to Sunday. Accordingly, the lock-out was called off on 19-1-1932 and the workers resumed work on 20-1-32. (The Hindu,20-1-1932).

Recruitment of Labour for Assam Tea Gardens  
from the Madras Presidency, 1930-31\*

The following details regarding the recruitment of labour for Assam Tea gardens from the Madras Presidency are taken from the report on the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1931.

The system of recruitment (For details vide page 9 of February 1931 Report of this Office) is reported to have remained unchanged during the year. 27 licenses were issued to local agents, and 5,648 garden sardars, including 397 sardarnis (women recruiters) worked under the licensed local agents. 9,930 emigrants were registered during the period under review in the Presidency, as against 8,855 in the previous year. 9,535 of these were recruited for Assam, 18 for Cachar and 377 for Sylhet. Of the 9,930, 8,268 were actual labourers, and the remaining 1,662 were dependent. Of the 9,930 emigrants registered, 8,354 only were despatched to their final destinations from the forwarding stations. Of the persons despatched, 8,049 (5,281 men, 1,508 women and 1,260 children) were for Assam and the remaining 305 (143 men, 85 women and 77 children) were for Cachar.

(The working of the Act in the Madras Presidency during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 9-10 of the report of this Office for February 1931).

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\* Report on the Working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act for the year ending 30th June 1931. - Published by the Government of India Central Publication Branch, Calcutta - 1931 - Price, 6 annas or 8 d. - pp.9.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1930\*

The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, submitted by the Chief Inspector of Mines in India, for the year ending 31st December 1930, has recently been published by the Government of India. The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous year, the report deals with the following classes of mines:- Coal, iron, manganese, lead, silver, gold, tin, wolfram, chromite, copper, zinc, gems, mica, rock salt, lime stone, stone, clays and a few other minerals.

Persons Employed: - During the year 1930, the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 261,667, as compared with 269,701 in the previous year. The decrease was 8,034 persons or 2.98 per cent. Of these persons, 120,333 worked underground, 71,582 in open workings and 69,752 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

	Men.		Women.	
	1930.	1929	1930	1929.
Underground . . .	101,649	92,856	18,684	24,089
In open workings . . .	50,396	54,235	21,186	28,728
Surface . . .	52,709	51,954	17,045	17,839
	<u>204,754</u>	<u>199,045</u>	<u>56,915</u>	<u>70,656</u>

\* Indian Mines Act, 1923 - Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1930.- Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch - 1931 - Price Rs. 2-4 or 4s.3d. - pp.191.

The number of women employed underground was 18,684, or 15.56 per cent. of the total number of men and women employed underground. In 1928 and 1929 the numbers of women employed underground were 31,785 and 24,089 respectively. Since the restrictions came into force in 1929, therefore, the number of women employed underground has ~~in~~ been reduced by 41 per cent. The reduction in 1930 was mainly due to the employment of women underground in mines other than coal and salt mines no longer being permitted; it was to some extent <sup>also</sup> due to the fact that from 1st July 1930 the second annual reduction of the number of women employed in coal and salt mines took effect. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 18.39, as compared with 29 per cent. in 1928 and 23 per cent. in 1929. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was: Bengal 6,128; Bihar and Orissa 11,376; Central Provinces 783; and the Punjab, 397. Of the 18,684 women employed underground, 18,287 were employed in coal mines and 397 in salt mines.

Distribution of Workers:      In Coal Mines. - The number of persons employed in coal mines was 169,001, which is 3,343 more than the number employed in 1929. Of these persons, 44,810 were coal-cutters, 14,232 were male loaders and 36,876 were women.

In Other Mines. - The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 92,666 which is 11,377 less than the number employed in 1929. 72,629 were men and 20,037 were women. Of the women, 397 worked underground in salt mines.

Wages. - The rates of wages during 1930 were much the same as in the previous year, but there were marked falls in the

wages of salt miners in the Punjab and workers on the surface at tin and lead mines in Burma.

Output of Minerals: Coal. - The total output in 1930 was 22,683,861 tons of a declared value of Rs.88,177,022. The increase in the output was 375,687 tons, or 1.68 per cent. in excess of the record production obtained in 1929. The opening stocks in 1930 were 829,388 tons and the closing stocks 986,006 tons. The average output of coal per person employed was , for underground and in open workings, 194 tons in 1930 as against 184 tons in 1928-29, and for miners employed above and below ground, 134 tons in 1930 as against 125 tons in 1928-29. There was once more a small improvement in the average. In comparing the above figures with similar figures in other countries, it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines. In 1929 the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 270 tons. In 1928 comparative figures in certain other countries were Japan 140 tons; Transvaal 561 tons; United States of America 745 tons.

The year commenced with a prospect of better trading conditions than had been experienced for some time. Stocks of coal at the collieries were lower than they had been for some years. The demand was better, and the higher prices obtained in 1929 were maintained. Early in the year some difficulty was experienced in the matter of wagon supplies, and for a short time there was an acute scarcity of wagons caused by a strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The effect of the general trade depression gradually affected the coal industry. Shipments to the consuming

centres in India, particularly Bombay, fell considerably and there was a steady decline in the exports to markets outside India. Owing to the heavy fall in the Chinese exchange and the abandonment of the boycott of Japanese coal, a severe set-back in the Hongkong coal market was experienced. The shipments of coal from the port of Calcutta were 2,085,883 tons, as compared with 2,600,015 tons in 1929. In the Central Provinces and Assam there was a steady and increasing demand for coal, and outputs were correspondingly higher.

Accidents . - During the year 1930, at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 217 fatal accidents, which is 5 more than in 1929, and 9 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 745 serious accidents involving injuries to 769 persons, as compared with 651 serious accidents involving injuries to 672 persons in the previous year. No record is maintained of minor accidents. 257 persons were killed and 815 persons were seriously injured. The number of persons killed is 9 less than in 1929. Of the killed, 227 were men and 30 women. In two cases six lives, in one case four lives, in three cases three lives and in twenty cases two lives were lost. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified

as follows:-

	Number of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure . . . . .	146	67.28
Fault of deceased . . . . .	41	18.89
Fault of fellow workmen . . . . .	6	2.77
Fault of subordinate officials . . . . .	14	6.45
Fault of management . . . . .	9	4.15
Faulty material . . . . .	1	0.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Deaths occurring in each class of mine were as follows:-  
 211 in coal mines, 4 in mica mines, 8 in manganese mines, 4 in silver-lead mines, 8 in tin and wolfram mines, 2 in limestone mines, 18 in stone mines and 2 in a copper mine.

Health and Sanitation. - The principal bodies charged with looking after the health of the miners were the Asansol Mines Board of Health and the Jharia Mines Board of Health. The death rate during 1930 in the area under the jurisdiction of the former was 21.8 per thousand as compared with 23.2 in 1929, and infant mortality rate 129 per thousand. In the area under the jurisdiction of the latter, the death rate was 16.18 per thousand as compared with 19.57 in 1929 and the birth rate 28.09 per thousand as against 27.75 in the previous year.

Coal-Dust Committee. - The Coal-Dust Committee held one meeting and in addition made underground inspections in the Raniganj coalfield. In the course of the inspections, the methods and adequacy of stone dusting as a preventive against the danger of coal-dust and the conditions as regards coal-dust were investigated. Since the end of the year several collieries in the Jharia coalfield were visited and additional experiments were conducted. It is hoped to publish the Committee's final report about the end of 1931.

Inspection. - The number of coal mines worked during the year was 549, which is one more than in the previous year. The number of metalliferous (including stone, etc.), mines at work was 1,120, as compared with 1,184 in the previous year.

During the year, 958 mines were inspected and many of them were inspected several times. 2,261 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made on the invitation of mineowners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. An increasing proportion of the time of Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground workings of coal mines.

(The Report on the Working of the Indian Mines Act for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 25-32 of the Report of this Office for December 1929 and that for 1929 at pages 19-26 of the December 1930 Report).

Labour & the Reformed Constitution

Main Demands.

Mr. N.M.Joshi, on behalf of himself and the two other Indian labour delegates to the Round Table Conference, Messrs.V.V. Giri and B.Shiv Rao, circulated a memorandum in November 1931 on the Rights of Indian Labour among the members of the Round Table Conference. As the memorandum can be regarded as an authoritative statement of the demands of Indian labour, below is given a summary of the main points set forth in it:-

1. Numerical Strength of Indian Labour. - Precision is not possible in this matter, as the details of the Census Report of 1931 are not yet fully available. ~~We include~~ In the category of labour, <sup>are included</sup> all those who are wage-earners, whether in fields, plantations or factories. A memorandum was prepared in the India Office in 1921 and submitted to the Council of the League of Nations to urge the inclusion of India among the leading Industrial States of the world. According to the figures mentioned in that memorandum, there were 27.8 million agricultural workers employed as farm servants and field labourers in India in 1911. This figure includes workers in the tea, coffee, rubber and indigo plantations, but does not include the much larger class of small holders and tenants who numbered at that time over 40 millions. The estimate of workers in industries, mining and transport is given as approximately 20.2 million. The total number of workers in India would, therefore, be 48 millions.

This was in 1911. During the last 20 years there has been an increase in general population by about 10 per cent. Cultivation has been extended and industries have been developed on a considerable scale. ~~The~~ estimate of the total number of workers at the present moment is therefore between 55 and 60 millions. Of these, an appreciable number is drawn from the Depressed Classes whose representatives have put forward their special needs and claims, but what exact proportion they form is difficult to say without a proper enquiry. Nevertheless, it is safe to estimate that the rest of Labour, excluding ~~for the moment~~ those belonging to the Depressed Classes, would be about 35 millions, or 10 per cent of India's present population.

2. Declaration of Rights. - A Declaration of Rights should be inserted in the constitution and the following points should be included in the Declaration:

(a) Decent Standard of Living. - It is the duty



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of every citizen so to use his mental and bodily powers as to contribute to the welfare of the community, and correspondingly it is the duty of the community to secure, so far as lies in its power, that every citizen shall be given the training and opportunities necessary to enable him to maintain by his work a decent standard of living;

(b) Living Wage for Workers. - The Indian Parliament shall make suitable laws for the maintenance of health and fitness of work of all citizens, the securing of a living wage for every worker, and provision against the economic consequences of old age, infirmity and unemployment;

(c) Protection of Women & Young Persons. - The protection of motherhood and the rearing of the rising generation to physical, mental and social efficiency are of special concern to the Commonwealth. Women, young persons and children shall therefore be protected against moral, spiritual or bodily injury or neglect and against exploitation and excessive or unsuitable employment;

(d) Regulation of Conditions of Labour. - The welfare of those who labour shall be under the special protection of the Commonwealth and the conditions of labour shall be regulated, from time to time as may be necessary, with a view to their progressive improvement;

(e) Freedom of Speech and Association. - The right of workers to express their opinions freely by speech, writing or other means, and to meet in peaceful assembly and to form associations for the consideration and furtherance of their interests, shall be granted by the Commonwealth. Laws regulating the exercise of this right shall not discriminate against any individual or class of citizens on the grounds of religious faith, political opinion or social position;

(f) Breach of Contract no Criminal Offence. - The No breach of contract of service or abetment thereof shall be made a criminal offence;

(g) Social Justice. - The Commonwealth shall co-operate with other nations in action to secure the realisation of the principle of social justice throughout the world;

(h) Free Elementary Education. - All citizens in the Commonwealth have the right to free elementary education without any distinction of caste or creed in the matter of admission into any educational institutions maintained or aided by the State and such right shall be enforceable as soon as due arrangements shall have been made by competent authority;

(i) Right to Education. - All citizens in the Commonwealth have the right to education up to the university level;

(j) Right to Work. - All citizens in the Commonwealth have the right to work up to the university level;

(i) Equality of Civic Rights. - All citizens are equal before the law and possess equal civic rights;

(j) Access to Places of Public Resort. - All citizens have an equal right of access to and the use of public roads, public wells and all other places of public resort.

3. Labour Legislation. - A Federal Subject. - Labour legislation should be a Federal subject, with power for the Provincial or State Legislatures also to legislate but not, as the Royal Commission on Labour observed in its Report "so as to impair or infringe the authority" of the Federal Legislature.

4. Ratification of I.L. Conventions. - The power to ratify International Labour Conventions should be vested in the Federal Government.

5. Adult Suffrage. - The introduction of adult suffrage is vital from the workers' point of view. Labour has no objection if, on detailed enquiry it be found that universal adult suffrage would be impracticable as the next stage, to some qualification being made, such as raising the age limit to 25 years, provided that the restriction applies equally to all classes. But immediate recognition must be given to the principle of adult suffrage in the terms of reference of the Expert Franchise Committee that is hereafter to be appointed.

6. Joint Electorates. - Labour is opposed to the continuance of separate electorates for communities divided according to religion or race. The experience of the Indian Trade Union movement strengthens conviction in the efficacy and soundness of not dividing the community on a religious or racial basis. Communal and racial feelings have had comparatively little influence on the movement and the workers are organised as an economic class, not as Hindus, Muslims or Untouchables. Communal electorates, with the introduction of adult suffrage, would create a false division among the workers and break the solidarity of the working-class movement. Such wrong division will throw a powerful barrier in the way of the development of the labour movement and prevent the organisation of political forces on an economic basis. The communal problem ~~xxx~~ is a problem of the past. Moreover, the real problems of the future will be economic and social, and it would be wrong to build the constitution in a manner which has no relation to the realities of tomorrow.

7. Occupational Basis for Electorates. - A division of the electorates on an occupational rather than communal or a territorial basis, in order to bring into the Legislatures elements which, because of their lack of organisation and influence, might fail to secure adequate representation is to be preferred. If adult suffrage, however, is introduced on ~~an~~ a basis of joint electorates, and no other special interests are recognised, labour will not ask for ~~a~~

special constituencies. But in the event of even one of these conditions failing to be fulfilled, labour must have both.

8. Representation to be on Population Basis. - So far as the total number of Labour seats is concerned, no weightage is required for labour. But representation of labour can and must be on the population basis; that is, ten per cent in the Federal Legislature and if the decision ultimately be in favour of a bicameral system, then in each house of the Legislature. With regard to the Provincial Legislatures also, the numbers will have to be ascertained in each Province, and the seats allotted in their proportion to the total population of the area.

9. No Nominations. - The principle of election should be substituted for that of nomination, and registered trade Unions should form special constituencies for the purposes of election.

10. Agricultural & Plantation Labour. - As regards agricultural and plantation labour, some other method of election will have to be devised, as there are no trade Unions among the workers of these two classes. The question is worth considering whether Kisen Sabhas, or organisations of agricultural workers, wherever they exist, may not be registered under a law analogous to the Trade Union Act and regarded as a special electorate. The Conference should endorse, without qualification, the principle that these millions of workers are entitled to an adequate share in the government of their country.

(Summarised from text of Memorandum reproduced in the M. & S.M. Railwayman of December 1931, Vol. 3, No. 6).

Factory Administration in India, 1930\*

The following information regarding factory administration in India during 1930 is taken from the statistics of factories subject to the Indian Factories Act for the year ending 31-12-1930 published by the Government of India together with a note on the Working of the Factories Act during the year.

Number of Factories. - The statistics for 1930 reflect the approach of the depression in trade and industry which commenced during the year and spread throughout the country with increasing intensity. The total number of factories rose from 8,129 in the preceding year to 8,148 in 1930, but this small increase marks a definite slackening of the rate of progress in the construction of new factories which was a prominent feature of the eleven preceding years. There was a decrease in the total number of factories in Madras, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces, Delhi and Bangalore and Coorg. The most important decrease was in the number of saw-mills and cotton-ginning and baling presses, the closure of some of the factories of the latter class being attributed to the formation of "pools" in the Punjab, Central Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara. The total number of factories notified under section 2(3)(b) of the Indian Factories Act rose from 184 in the preceding year to 202 in 1930 which is the highest figure recorded since the amendment of the Act in 1922.

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\* Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1930 together with a Note on the Working of the Factories Act during the year. - Published by order of the Government of India. - Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1931 - Price Rs.1-2 or 2s. pp.31.

Classification of Factories. - Out of the 8,148 factories, 351 were owned by Government or Local Funds, 462 were textile factories; 594 engineering concerns; 125 minerals and metal works; 1,615 rice mills; 959 tea factories; 249 oil mills; 358 paper and printing factories; 186 saw mills and 2,090 cottong ginning and baling factories. Bombay Presidency had, as usual, the largest number of factories - 1,550, followed by Madras with 1,527, Bengal with 1,444, Burma with 980, Central Provinces and Berar with 695, Assam with 620, the Punjab with 526, the United Provinces with 376 and Bihar and Orissa with 282. ~~The~~ Industrial activity in other provinces was, as in the previous years, very slow.

Strength of Factory Population. - The presence of the general trade depression is also apparent from the decline during the year of the total factory population. The average daily number of persons employed in factories fell from 1,553,169 in 1929 to 1,528,302 in 1930, which, though slightly higher than the figure for 1928, is actually lower than the figure for 1927. The only provinces showing increase are Bombay, Burma, the United Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province. The increase in the Bombay Presidency was due to more settled conditions prevailing after the dislocating strikes of the two preceding years. An interesting feature is the extraordinary increase in the number of employees in the cotton spinning and weaving mills. The figure rose from 337,962 in 1929 to 353,451 in 1930 which is the highest figure recorded since the year 1919.

Distribution by Provinces .- The distribution of factory workers by provinces is as follows:- Madras, 142,549; Bombay 370,704;

Bengal, 563,877; United Provinces, 92,161; Punjab, 49,549; Burma, 98,701; Bihar and Orissa, 66,315; Central Provinces and Berar, 68,856; Assam, 45,820; North-Western Frontier Province, 1,251; Baluchistan 1,181; Ajmer-Merwara, 14,902; Delhi, 9,811 and Bangalore and Coorg, 2,625.

Distribution by Industries. - (1) Government and Local Fund Factories - 142,882, (Railway Workshops, 73,972; Ordnance factories 21,664; printing presses 13,172; engineering (general), 10,130); (2) Textile Factories - 697,000 (cotton spinning, weaving and other factories, 352,268; Jute mills, 336,356); (3) Engineering - 144,568 (railway workshops, 56,728; general engineering 33,412; ship building and engineering 20,242); (4) Minerals and Metals - 55,085 (iron and steel smelting and steel rolling mills, 30,484; petroleum refineries, 12,034); (5) Food, Drink and Tobacco - 182,307 (rice mills, 78,271; tea, 60,161; sugar, 15,203); (6) Chemical, Dyes, etc., - 51,043 (matches, 17,137; oil mills, 11,919); (7) Paper and Printing - 31,795 (printing, book binding etc., 24,373; paper mills, 5,597); (8) Wood, Stone and Glass - 37,614 (saw mills, 15,057; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ bricks and tiles, 9,611; Cement, lime and potteries, 6,149); (9) Skins and Hides - 5,991; (10) Gins Presses - 172,123 (cotton ginning and baling, 138,833; jute presses, 33,031); and (11) Miscellaneous - 7,894 (rope works, 3,831).

( The above figures indicate the distribution of factory population by industries. The figures ~~written~~ within brackets indicate the number of workers in some of the important industries under each general heading).

Women and Children in Factories. - With the general decline

in the total number of workers there was also a fall in the number of women and children employed in factories. The general tendency during the last ten years has been towards steady increase in the number of women and a steady decrease in the number of children employed in factories. During the year under review the number of women and children were 254,905 and 37,972 as against 257,161 and 46,843 respectively in 1929. The percentage of women and children to the total factory population is now 16.7 and 2.5 respectively. The corresponding percentages for the preceding year are 16.5 and 3 respectively. In the cotton industry there was a marked increase in the number of women operatives, while the number of children showed a small decrease. The progressive elimination of children is most marked in the jute industry where irregularities in employment were prevalent, particularly in the mills which worked under a system of multiple shifts. The provincial reports indicate that the increasing stringency in the enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Factories Act relating to the employment of children is responsible for the preference which is now being shown by employers for adult labour.

Hours of Work. - The position as regards the normal weekly hours for adults remained approximately the same as in the preceding year. Out of every 100 factories employing men, in 28 the men worked 48 hours or less per week, in 19 for more than 48 hours but not more than 54 hours a week, while in 53 factories the weekly hours for men exceeded 54. The figures for 1929 were 27, 13 and 60 in the same order. Out of every 100 factories employing women, in 31 the working hours for women were limited to 48 ~~hours~~ or less

per week, in 13 women worked for more than 48 hours but less than 54 hours per week, while in 56 the weekly hours for women exceeded 54. In 1929 the corresponding figures were 32, 12 and 56 respectively. There was, however, a satisfactory improvement in regard to children's hours. The percentage of factories employing children which fixed their maximum hours at not more than 30 per week was 39 as against 34 in 1929. There was no appreciable change during the year in regard to exemptions.

Accident Statistics. - The steady increase in the total number of recorded accidents received no check during the year in spite of the decrease in the total factory population. The figures for 1930 was 21,784 giving an accident rate of 1,425 per 100,000; in the preceding year the total number of recorded accidents was 20,208, while the accident rate was 1,301. It is, however, satisfactory to note that while the number of fatal accidents was the same as last year, there was a fall in the number of serious accidents. The increase in the total number of recorded accidents and in the accident rate was therefore due entirely to minor accidents. The explanation generally given for the steady rise in the total number of accidents in recent years is the improvement which has been affected throughout India in the reporting of accidents particularly since the introduction of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. Of the 21,784 accidents reported during the year, 240 ended fatally, 4,115 were serious and 17,429 minor. The corresponding figures for 1929 were 240, 4,389 and 15,579. The Factory Inspection Department in every province is paying greater attention to the question of prevention of accidents and it is reported that there



has been a marked improvement during the year in the fencing of machinery and in the use of safety posters. Commendable work in this direction is also being done by the safety-first organisation of the G.I.P. Railway, which has been holding quarterly meetings to consider industrial risks in the workshops. Automatic guards of the pattern suggested by the International Labour Office have been provided in several power presses in Bombay and an interesting experiment is reported in a large wood-working establishment in the same Presidency where, on the advice of the Factory Inspector, the workers have been graded so that the most risky operations are performed by men with experience and training who are unlikely to tamper with the guards.

Housing and Welfare Work. - The general trade depression has had its unfortunate effect on the progress of housing schemes and other forms of welfare work. In the matter of providing housing accommodation for the factory workers the only substantial advance was in Delhi. The textile mills in this centre, which are reported to have enjoyed a good year, have done much to promote the happiness of their workers outside the factories. Both the Delhi Cloth and General Mills and the Birla Cotton Mills have extended considerably the number of quarters for their employees and have made praiseworthy efforts to make them as comfortable as possible. The housing scheme which the Delhi Cloth and General Mills have now in hand includes the provision of a hospital and of playfields, while the Birla Mills hope to provide housing accommodation for their entire mill staff at an early date. On the other hand, the Cawnpore Scheme for the housing of about 20,000 workers continued in a state of suspended

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animation owing to the existing slump. This is unfortunately the position in most other centres. Some improvement in general sanitary conditions is reported from almost every part of the country. The need for the active co-operation of municipal bodies is being felt in more than one centre.

The trade depression has also cast its shadow on some important welfare schemes which were described in last year's report. A partial suspension of such activities is perhaps inevitable at a time of financial crisis, but employers in India as elsewhere have begun to realise that properly conducted welfare schemes which lead to greater contentment among their employees are well worth the expenditure which is incurred on them. In spite of bad times, it is satisfactory to note that the standard of working conditions within the factory has not shown any signs of deterioration. In the fencing of machinery, in ventilation and lighting arrangements, particularly in the large perennial establishments, steady progress has been maintained. The rules regarding humidification in textile mills came into effect in the Punjab during the year, and it is reported that as a result the conditions under which the operatives have now to work are greatly improved. In other directions also, the general volume of welfare work has not been seriously diminished. Thus, in Bombay although several creches were temporarily closed during the year there was on the whole an increase in the total number. This was mainly due to the decision to provide a creche in each mill of the E.D.Sassoon group. An interesting experiment in education in the same centre deserves notice. It is reported that 33 mills employing 75,000 persons have combined to secure " a visual education

service", the objects of which are "the stimulation of the interests of the workers in the elimination of the factors that adversely affect their health, efficiency and earning capacity or interfere with their individual progress towards a higher standard of living". The method adopted is to issue a series of posters dealing with the most common causes of loss of efficiency and to measure the results by the suggestions received from workers on the subjects of these posters. The Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association held four health exhibitions in the mill compounds in Bombay and its activities are being extended to other centres. A similar exhibition was organised by the Labour Union in Ahmedabad and was very well attended by the mill operatives. In Bengal, the Indian Jute Mills Association has decided to establish welfare centres, public clinics and creches in all mills within their membership. A preliminary survey is to be undertaken in 1931 by a lady doctor experienced in welfare work in order to furnish materials for the preparation of the scheme. (vide page 24 of the Report of this Office for December 1931). The Burma-Shell Oil Company, Budge-Budge, has inaugurated a welfare department with a labour office under a labour officer. The duty of the labour officer consists in supervising engagements, discharges and promotions of workers as well as enquiring into grievances brought by the workers. He is also to supervise the refreshment canteens started by the Company. The same Company has started a provident fund to which all labourers employed by the Company ~~xxxxxxxx~~ are eligible to contribute. The workers are allowed to contribute 6 pies ( $\frac{1}{32}$  of a Rupee), 1 anna ( $\frac{1}{16}$  of a Rupee) or 1 anna 6 pies at the individual worker's option.

The Company contributes an equal amount. The fund is reported to be popular among the workers.

Convictions under the Act. - The number of convictions obtained during the year for offences under the Indian Factories Act fell from 1,302 in 1929 to 1,201 in 1930, but the number of persons convicted increased from 463 to 498 in 1930. Complaints regarding the inadequacy of fines inflicted by magistrates continued to find expression in almost all provincial reports.

Inspections. - The total number of factories inspected during the year fell from 6,953 in 1929 to 6,914 in 1930, and the percentage of the number of factories inspected to the total number of factories fell from 90 ~~in~~ in 1928 and 86 in 1929 to 85 in the year under report. The largest number of uninspected factories was in Assam, in which province a separate Factory Inspector was appointed for the first time in May 1930. 3,316 factories were inspected once, 2,053, twice, 861 thrice and 723 more than three times.

(The following are the references in the reports of this Office for the reviews of the Administration of the Factory Act during 1930 in the various provinces: in Burma, pages 25-27 of July 1931 report, in Bombay, pages 20-24 August 1931 report, in Madras, pages 24-27 of August 1931 report, in Central Provinces and Berar, pages 28-29 of August 1931 report, in Bengal, pages 29-34 of August 1931 report, in Punjab, pages 35-38 of August 1931 report, in the United Provinces, pages 27-29 of September 1931 report and in Bihar and Orissa, 13-14 of November 1931 report.

The Administration of the Factory Act in India for the year 1927 is reviewed at pages 46-50 of the January 1929 report, that for 1928 at pages 34-37 of July 1930 report and that for 1929 at pages 15-19 of August 1931 report).

Wage-Cuts in the M.& S.M. Railway:

Protest of Union.

As decided by the Government of India, wage cuts ranging from 3/8 per cent. to 10 per cent. (for details vide pages 29-30 of the November 1931 Report of this Office) have been enforced on the M. and S.M. Railway and the first cut was made on wages for the month of December 1931, which came up for disbursements during January, 1932. The Secretary of the M. and S.M. Railway Union has issued recently a statement to the press enumerating the objections from the workers' point of view to the cuts in their salaries. The following principal objections against this retrenchment measure have been raised in the statement:-

(1) In other departments, like Posts and Telegraphs, retrenchment was kept in abeyance pending the recommendations of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee appointed by the Government of India. But in the Railways, on the other hand, retrenchments were already begun and many measures to that effect were actually carried through before the Railway Retrenchment Committee had arrived at definite conclusions.

(2) In the Railways a very large number of men have already been put on short time, over 33,000 have been discharged and a few thousands have been demoted from their grades. To impose a general wage cut, in addition to the above measures of retrenchment is unjust.

(3) The provincial Governments of Bombay and Madras, within the jurisdiction of which the M. and S.M. Railway runs, have exempted from salary cuts all employees drawing below Rs. 50 and

Rs. 40 respectively, as the two Governments are of opinion that employees getting salaries below these limits could not afford to make any sacrifice. <sup>in part</sup> But the railway workers living in these Presidencies have been subjected to wage cuts of 6 pies in the rupee for salaries below Rs. 30 and 1 anna in the rupee for salaries between Rs. 30 and Rs. 83-5-4 and 10 per cent. in salaries above Rs. 83-5-4. In the revision of wages in the M. and S.M. Railway during 1930 (for details vide pages 42-44 of the December 1930 report of this Office), the Agent of the M. and S.M. Railway had laid down that those of the staff getting below Rs. 80 should be considered to be low paid and had taken that fact into consideration in making the revisions in 1930. In view of these facts, the present cuts affecting even the lowest grades of employees, is unjust.

(4) The Indian Railways were not working at a loss even during the present crisis. The M. and S.M. Railway was able to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. (which was above the guaranteed percentage ~~ix~~ to its shareholders during 1931 in spite of the prevailing trade depression. The actual fall in earnings was more than counter-balanced by the reductions in the working expenses already effected. Hence there is no justification either for drastic retrenchment of staff or for wage-cuts.

According to the statement, the ~~x~~ feelings of the workers are reported to be much exercised over the wage-cut and <sup>have</sup> ~~that~~ many <sup>^</sup> refused their reduced wages as a measure of protest. A meeting of the Central Committee of the Union was held at Bezwada on 20-1-1932. Since the Agent of the M. and S.M. Railway had not sent his reply to the letter on the subject sent by the General Secretary, the

Central Committee decided to write to the Agent and ask for a reply for the pending letter before 27-1-1932, and appointed a Special Committee of 7 members to meet on 29-1-1932 at Perambur to consider the Agent's letter, if received, or, the situation in the light of the silence of the Agent, if otherwise, and issue the necessary instructions to the members in pursuance of a resolution which was passed unanimously by the Central Committee. It was agreed that the resolution was to be kept in abeyance and released only after 29-1-1932 after the reply of the Agent was received. The Committee also referred the matter to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which is to meet at Bombay early in February. (The Hindu, 25-1-32).

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Industrial Organisations

Workers Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unionism in India, 1927-30\*

The following information regarding the progress of the trade union movement in India during the years 1927-30 is taken from the Note on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending 31-3-1930, with comparative statistics for the three years 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30 published recently by the Government of India:-

Difficulty in getting returns . - The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, came into force on the 1st June 1927. Under section 28 of this Act every registered trade union is required to send annually to the Registrar of Trade Unions of the province, on or before a fixed date, a general statement of all receipts and expenditure during the year, together with such other particulars as may be prescribed. These statements from individual trade unions are then consolidated by the local Governments concerned and forwarded to the Government of India with the annual reports on the working of the Act. Owing to the incompleteness of the returns the Government of India decided not to publish a summary for the years 1927-28 and 1928-29. According to the report, there was no improvement of the position in 1929-30, but in view of the importance of the trade union movement and the public interest in its development, the Government of India have decided to publish the statistics for the three years which, though incomplete and defective, are not without useful indications.

Registered and Unregistered Trade Unions. - The information supplied in the report relate only to trade unions which are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926. As registration is not compulsory and there are still a number of unions which are unregistered, the statistics do not furnish a complete picture of the trade union movement in the country. In Bombay, according to the Labour Gazette ~~of~~ for May 1930, the total number of unions in March 1930 was 94 with a membership of 144,409 while the number of registered unions was 40 with a membership of 98,109. The unregistered unions of this Presidency appear to be small and unimportant but an exception has to be made in the case of the Ahmedabad Labour Union with a membership of about 23,000, which is perhaps the most important unregistered union in India. In other provinces information regarding unregistered unions is scanty, but there is no reason to believe that

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\* Note on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 for the year 1930 with comparative Statistics for the three years 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30.- Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch: 1930 - Price Annas 10 or 1s. - pp.12.



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their number of membership is negligible. Thus, in 1929-30 there was only one registered union in Burma out of a total of 12 unions mentioned in the report of the local Government. Other provincial reports also refer to the existence of unregistered unions but estimates regarding their number and membership are not available. In this connection it is also important to mention that a number of unions consisting of Government employees have refrained from registering themselves under the Act pending a declaration by Government of its policy in regard to recognition. This question is dealt with in the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour whose recommendation on the subject is receiving consideration by the Government of India. Registration is, however, gaining increasing importance owing to the fact that it has come to be regarded as the acid test of recognition. Private employers have shown an unwillingness to have any dealings with unions which are not prepared to register under the Act. In Bombay and Calcutta industrial unrest has been responsible for the speedy registration of trade unions concerned in industrial disputes. The attitude of employers is due to the fact that registration provides some guarantee that a union is a bona fide organisation. Registration is thus fast becoming the rule with unions of any industrial importance. The above remark does not however apply to Federations very few of whom have so far registered themselves under the Act.

Factors Vitiating the Statistics. - The report states that the statistics from which it (the report) is compiled are incomplete and defective even with regard to registered trade unions. For 1929-30 no less than 14 out of a total of 104 registered unions failed to submit any returns.

Another defect of the statistics is that complete reliance cannot be placed on the figures regarding membership. In many cases there has been a tendency to put the effective strength at a figure which is higher than is justified by the circumstances. This is done by retaining on the register of the union the names of members who have long ceased to make any contribution, monetary or otherwise, to its activities.

In spite of these defects the statistics now published are of some assistance in gauging the development of trade unionism in this country. The trade union movement in India has been in existence for over a decade, but it is still in its infancy. Illiteracy is the greatest handicap to sound organisation, but the migratory character of Indian labour is no doubt also responsible for the ephemeral nature of some trade unions.

Number and Membership. - There were 29 registered trade unions with a membership of 100,619 at the end of the year 1927-28, in which the Indian Trade Unions Act came into force. The number rose to 75 unions with a membership of 181,077 in 1928-29 and to 104 unions with a membership of 242,355 in 1929-30. The increase in membership was thus 80,458 in the second year and 61,278 in the third year, or roughly 80 and 34 per cent. respectively. These figures indicate steady progress. The number of unions from whom returns were received was 28 in 1927-28, 65 in 1928-29, and 90 in 1929-30, out of a total of 29,75 and 104 respectively. The average membership of registered unions in 1929-30 was 2,693, as against

3,469 and 2,414 in 1927-28 and 1928-29 respectively. The concentration of membership of 90 registered trade unions in 1929-30 shows that the largest number of unions was in the group with a membership of 500-1,000. The unions ~~of~~ belonging to the 4 lowest group with a membership of less than 500, had less than 4 per cent. of the total membership.

Trade Unionism in the Provinces. - The figures given in the report indicate an increase in the membership of registered trade unions in all provinces excepting Burma, Assam, North-West Frontier Province and Coorg. In Bombay the total membership at the close of the year 1927-28 was 52,559 which rose to 53,595 at the close of 1928-29 and 94,665 at the close of 1929-30. These figures do not, however, indicate the extraordinary fluctuations in the membership of registered unions during this period in that Presidency. In 1928-29 the Girni Kamgar Union and the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, both registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, had a membership of 54,000 and 41,000 respectively. Figures were not available at the time of making the returns for 1928-29. At the close of the year 1929-30, while the strength of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union rose to 41,640, that of the Girni Kamgar Union fell to 2,350. The collapse of the latter union was due to the failure of the general strike in the Bombay cotton mills in 1929, which was also responsible for a rapid decline in the membership of all textile unions in the Presidency. The Bengal figures for the three years are 2,029, 37,645 and 55,268 respectively. The membership in Madras at the end of 1927-28 was 9,557 which rose to 16,613 at the end of 1928-29 and 45,346 at the end of 1929-30. The figures for the Punjab for the three years are 5,799, 14,507 and 26,318 respectively. In the United Provinces the membership rose from 3,119 in 1927-28 to 12,179 at the end of 1928-29 ~~it rose to~~ but in the following year the figure showed an increase of only 559. In Bihar and Orissa the membership in 1927-28 was 25,203 and in 1928-29 it rose to 41,682. No returns were received from this province for the year 1929-30. Bombay has the largest membership, but the figures from Bengal and Madras for the year 1929-30 show a rapid increase. The movement also appears to be progressing in the Punjab. The local Government in its annual report for 1929-30 states that "the trade union idea is certainly gaining ground though its functions are still imperfectly understood". Trade unionism has hardly gained a foothold in Burma, while in Assam it is still unborn.

~~The number of~~ <sup>The number of</sup> registered trade unions, which stood at 104 on 31-3-1930 were distributed among the provinces (the figures in brackets indicate total membership) as follow:-  
 Madras - 12 (45,346), Bombay - 38 (94,665), Bengal - 19 (55,268), United Provinces - 5 (12,738), Punjab - 16 (26,318), Burma - 1 (100), Delhi - 2 (2,676), Central Provinces - 7 (3,499), North-West Frontier Province - Nil, Ajmer-Marwara - 3 (membership figures not available), and Other Provinces - Nil. (The Total number of unions 104; total membership - 242,355).

Trade Union Activity in Different Trades. - Trade unionism has made most rapid progress in the railways. The membership of

railway unions registered under the Act during the three years under review was 57,239, 102,658 and 159,444 respectively. The figure for the last year represents about 20 per cent. of the total number employed on the railways in India. The registered membership of seamen's unions for the three years was 19,501, 27,477 and 37,121 respectively. These figures also indicate a steady progress. The registered membership in the case of the textile industry was 19,114 at the end of 1927-28, 16,776 at the end of 1928-29 and 16,183 at the close of 1929-30. The figures represent less than 5 per cent. of the total number of workers belonging to this group. There was an increase in all other trades except textiles, engineering and docks. In the case of the engineering trade the decline in membership is probably due to the exclusion of statistics from Bihar and Orissa. There is as yet no trade union organisation among plantation workers.

The actual distribution of trade unions among the different trade groups on 31-3-1930 (the figures in brackets indicate total membership) was as follows-

Railways (including railway workshops and other transport) - 28 (159,444), Tramways - 3 (4,074), Textiles - 10 (16,183), Engineering - 1 (445), Printing Presses etc. - 5 (3,404), Municipal - 6 (2,455), Seamen's Unions - 3 (37,121), Docks - 3 (957), Port Trusts - 6 (5,213), and Miscellaneous - 25 (13,059).

Organisation of Women Workers. - Organisation among women workers has made little progress in India. The total number of women members of registered unions rose from 1,166 in 1927-28 to 3,842 in 1928-29, but fell to 3,299 in 1929-30. The figure for the last year represents a little over 1 per cent. of the total membership of registered unions.

General and Political Funds. - The closing balance of the general funds of registered trade unions was Rs. 1,60,578 at the end of 1927-28, Rs. 294,301 at the end of 1928-29 and Rs. 311,765 at the end of 1929-30. There has also been a gradual increase in the total income of the general funds. This was Rs. 163,581 during the first year (1927-28), Rs. 316,863 in the second year (1928-29) and Rs. 432,638 in 1929-30. The last figure gives an average income of Rs. 4,973 per union and of Re. 1-13-7 per member. There was only one union, namely, the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma (Bombay) which maintained a separate political fund under section 16 of the Indian Trade Unions Act at the close of the year 1929-30. The collections in this fund during that year amounted to Rs. 32-12-0 only which remained unspent at the end of the year. The Madras Labour Union is the only other union which started a separate political fund. In 1928-29 it had an income of Rs. 106-8-0 in that fund, the whole of which was spent by the end of the year. The Union showed no receipts under this head in 1929-30.

Withdrawals, Appeals and Amendment of the Act. - There has been no instance of an appeal against the refusal of the Registrar

to register a trade union under section 11 of the Act and during 1929-30 there was no case in which the registration of a union was cancelled or withdrawn. Section 11 of the Indian Trade Unions Act relating to appeals was amended in 1928 in order to overcome a technical difficulty in regard to the venue of such appeals in Presidency towns. The report states that the working of the Act during its first three years justified the view held by the Government of India at the time of the passing of the Act that registration involves no obligation which a reputable and well-conducted union should not be willing and indeed anxious to accept.

Indian Colliery Employees' Association, Jharia, 1931.\*

The following information regarding the Indian Colliery Employees' Association is taken from the Report of the Association for the year 1931.

Progress of the Association 1929-1931. - Since the 9th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Jharia towards the end of 1928, the Indian Colliery Employees' Association has had a chequered history. The Congress created a good deal of enthusiasm amongst the local workers and the opportunity was seized by the Association to increase its membership and to improve its organisation. Due to various difficulties which arose during the period ~~Under~~ review, the work of the Association in this direction was very much hampered and a good number of old and regular members of the Association discontinued their membership as a result, it is alleged, of indirect pressure by their employers. The strength of membership, however, ~~was~~ remained unaffected; the number of

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\* Indian Colliery Employees' Association, Jharia. Report 1931. President:- S.J. K.N.Sen Gupta. - P.C.Bose, Secretary. pp.12+3.

members enlisted afterwards was more than that of the defaulting ones and a feature of this enlistment was that most of these members were drawn from actual manual workers. At the end of 1931, the membership of the Union exceeded 3000, of which more than 2,000 were actual miners and manual workers and the rest were clerical and other salaried staff working in the different collieries. The rate of subscription continues to be as before:- a minimum of one pice per week for miners and other weekly paid manual workers, annas two for those who draw a monthly wage below rupees thirty, and annas four for all other members.

Co-operation with Whitley Commission. - The most important event that took place, during the period under review, was the visit of the Royal Commission on Labour to the Jharia coal-field. The Association, having decided to co-operate with the Commission as beneficial to the interest of labour, submitted a memorandum to the Commission, sent two Assistant Commissioners to help the Commission in <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ investigation and led evidence before it to represent the cause of the entire mining labour in India. The Association was thus able through its co-operation with the Commission to give to the public a true picture of the deplorable conditions of mining labour. As a result of further discussion before the Commission, the representatives of the employers agreed to recognise the Association and co-operate <sup>with it</sup> on certain conditions ~~with it~~ in all matters relating to labour. ~~It is there~~

Demands of Colliery Labour. - The Association represented fully the demands of colliery workers to the Whitley Commission. The report states that if the recommendations of the Commission relating to mining labour are put into effect by legislation

considerable relief will be afforded to mine-workers. The following are the main points in the demands of the mine-workers:-

1. A minimum wage sufficient to maintain the worker and his family in reasonable comfort, and to meet other expenses necessary to maintain his position according to the standards of civilized society.

2. Additional rewards to a worker for his skill, gradual increment to him according to experience and opportunities, and prospects of promotion.

3. Security against loss of employment through causes which can be controlled.

4. Reduction of hours of work to periods short enough to prevent undue fatigue, and to leave a margin of leisure, in conformity with International Labour Conventions.

5. Provision of facilities for sanitary housing, proper food and water supply sufficient for drinking, bathing and washing purposes.

6. Institution of unemployment and old age pensions, maternity benefit and other social insurance systems.

7. Facilities for education of children of workers.

8. Ensurance of a degree of workers' influence in the conduct of the management sufficient to dispel the idea both from the employer and the employed that the worker is a mere tool or commodity, and to imbue the idea that he is, in fact, a partner in the industry.

Plea for Ratification of Geneva Convention on Hours of

Work in Coal Mines. - The following statement in the report embodies the views of the colliery employees regarding the I.L.O. Convention on Hours of Work in Coal Mines:-

"It has been universally admitted that an unduly long working day for miners is a most dangerous practice. It not only affects the health and efficiency of the miners but also increases the number of accidents in mines and the seeming economic advantage derived from this practice is of no consequence to the mine owners in India, in as much as Indian miners are paid on the piece-work

system. An eight-hour day for miners has been long established throughout the world, and there is demand every where for a seven-hour day now, but Indian miners are still suffering from all the evil effects of an unduly long working day (60 hours for above ground and 54 hours for under-ground worker). For want of supply of a few more coal tubs and some working appliances, many Indian mine workers are forced to remain idle underground for long periods and have to wait, on occasions, more than even twelve hours to complete work which can easily be done by them in five or six hours. There is absolutely no justification for so long a working day in Indian mines. The Government should therefore immediately ratify the Convention on hours of working in mines adopted by the last International Labour Conference."

Strikes. - There were three strikes during the period under review: one at Amlabad colliery and two at Balgora and Simlabahal collieries. All the three strikes were due to questions of wages and in all three the workers were successful.

Bombay Trade Union Conference, Bombay, 1932.

A session of the Bombay Trade Union Conference was held on 23rd and 24-1-1932 at Bombay under the presidentship of Mr. Muhammad Umar Rajab ( an adviser to the workers' delegate to the 14th I.L.Conference). The following were some of the more important unions represented at the Conference: The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, Tramwaymen's Union, the Bombay Port Trust Railway Employees' Union,

the B.B.& C.I. and the G.I.P. Railway Workers' Union, the Bombay Dock Workers' Union, the Bombay Municipal Workers' Union and the Bombay Textile Labour Union.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Abdul Majid, Vice-President of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference, drew the attention of the conference to the present disturbed industrial and political conditions in India which, he said, was very critical from the point of view of Indian workers. Reviewing industrial conditions, he said that more than 35,000 workers were already retrenched and that many more were about to be discharged from the railways. In the textile industry, he said that between 50,000 and 60,000 workers were at present thrown out of employment. As for the dock workers in Bombay, they were unable to secure work for even two days in the week. Regarding the political situation, Mr. Abdul Majid was of opinion that the Congress movement would not better the position of the workers and so he advised workers to form their own political party.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions, a summary of the more important of which is given below: One resolution favoured the socialisation of lands, mines and banks. <sup>A</sup> Second resolution protested against the sentence of twelve years' imprisonment passed on the communist M.N. Roy. A third resolution stated that in certain Bombay mills, the management had decided on increased output without affording any proportionate increase in wages to workmen. This system of rationalisation, it was stated, resulted in increasing unemployment. It was therefore resolved that the textile workers should prepare themselves for a general strike if it should become necessary. A fourth resolution stated that



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members of the criminal tribes or prisoners in gaol should not be employed in any railway or other utility concern when the original workmen were on strike.

(The Times of India, 26-1-1932).

Employment & Unemployment.

An Employment Bureau <sup>Experiment,</sup> Opened in Delhi.

An Employment Bureau, which is expected to prove useful both to employers and to those in search of employment, <sup>has been</sup> ~~was~~ recently opened by the Government of Delhi Province. The Bureau has started maintaining a register to furnish up-to-date statistics of unemployed in the Province. A circular letter containing details of the ~~scheme~~ was sent to the principal employers of labour in the Province with a view to secure their co-operation. The following is a brief outline of the scheme:-

Employment & Unemployment Registers. - Delhi Province has been divided for the purposes of the scheme into a number of divisions by the statistics. In each division a person is appointed, in nearly all cases without remuneration, to be responsible for reporting on the unemployed in his area. Besides keeping a register of those out of work, the conditions under which they live and the position of their families and dependents are also to be reported. When work is available, suitable applicants are to be interviewed by prospective employers. When a man is taken on, his name is to be removed from the unemployment register and entered in the register of employed, together with particulars of his pay, nature of work and the length of time he is likely to be employed. If at any time he again becomes unemployed his name is to be re-entered on the unemployed register.

Employment Grades - The Heads under which employment is being found are (1) Government and Private employers of labour; (2) Home industries and rural and secondary occupations; (3) apprenticeships in local factories; (4) seasonal occupations; (5) newly

created industries; and (6) fruit, flower and vegetable production on a developed scale.

~~During the~~ <sup>Within this</sup> short time during which the scheme has been tried, it has proved very useful. The method of keeping a list of unemployed and of securing suitable employment for them on a systematised and organised basis through the Bureau, instead of leaving the shiftless and often despirited unemployed to find out work for themselves, it is reported, has yielded good results without any great outlay of money being required for working expenses. It is reported that there is a large number totally or partially unemployed during the year, especially in the rural areas of the province. It is the aim of the authorities to teach these people secondary occupations, so that during the months of enforced idleness, they may be better able to support themselves and their families. It is expected that the creation of new industries and the development of those which are at present not very important will go a long way towards reducing unemployment.

(The Statesman, 13-1-1932).

Public Health.

Bangalore Municipal Housing Scheme.

A scheme has been prepared by the Commissioner of the Bangalore Municipality for the housing of the poorer classes of the population living in and around Bangalore City. The scheme which was submitted to the municipality on 23-1-1932 has been referred to the Managing Committee of the Municipality. The following are the important features of the scheme:-

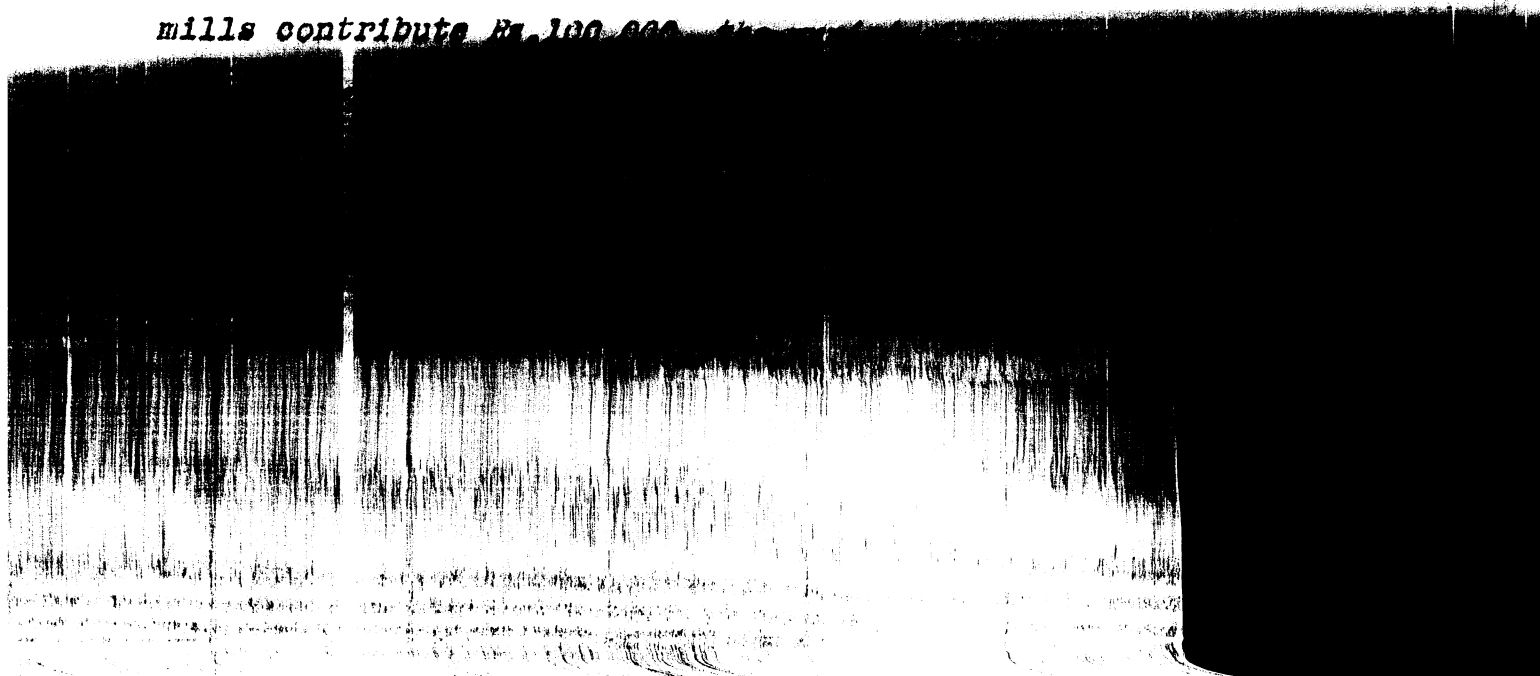
Present Housing Position. - The major portion of the poorer classes at present living in and around Bangalore city consists of workers in the factories and mills which have sprung up in all parts of the city. The poor in the city live in two classes of houses, viz., huts and sheds put up by the occupants themselves on lands belonging to Government or the municipality and rented tenements. In the first class, there is no house rent to pay, but a ground rent is generally charged for the space occupied, ranging from 2 to 8 annas a site. The need for housing the poor in such better sheds or houses has become a matter of great urgency as quite a large number of these sheds have recently sprung up in all parts of the city. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Most of them are in a wretched condition and excepting the huts constructed according to the lay-out given by the municipality, they are not in regular lines.

The New Scheme. - (a) Rent Free Tenements.- For the classes of people who are unable to pay rents, it is intended to select suitable sites in about half a dozen places round about the city and its extensions, on which sites measuring 30 feet by 15 feet are to be marked out, with an intervening space of 5 feet between sites. Persons desirous to build houses on these sites are to be

given land at cheap prices or are to be charged a nominal ground rent alone and they are to be required to build their own houses according to the plans and specifications given by the municipality. The municipality may, in the alternative, assess the houses built for taxes so that the cost of providing lights, taps, roads and drainage may be met at least partly from the ground rent or assessment. In order to keep the locality clean, underground drainage systems are to be provided as far as possible and every block of houses, is to be provided with bath rooms and privies.

(b) Better Class Tenements for Rents. - For the class of people who are prepared to pay rent, it is proposed to provide six different types of houses, substantial in construction and built in brick and mud with tiles or zinc sheet roofing and with good cement flooring. These houses are to have good drainage system and latrines with bathroom arrangements.

As for financing the scheme, the Commissioner, in view of the fact that the municipality by itself will not be able to finance the whole scheme, has suggested that the mills in Bangalore which employ a large number of people from these areas, can be induced to invest at least <sup>Rs.</sup> 50,000 per annum. It is estimated that if the mills contribute Rs. 100,000 the



## Co-operation.

### Progress of Co-operation in Bengal, 1929-30.

The annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year ended June 30, 1930 states that the year was not a prosperous one and the agriculturists could not earn much owing to the rapidly falling prices of crops, but the labouring classes fared comparatively well, as the wages of skilled and unskilled labour continued to rule high. The economic position of the rural population at the end of the year was therefore not prosperous.

Number of Societies and Working Capital.- The number of societies of all classes rose from 19,877 to 22,532 or by 13.3 per cent against an increase of 9.7 per cent in the preceding year, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> the number of members rose from 706,572 to 750,137 or by 6.1 per cent. The increase in membership was thus not proportionate to the increase in the number of societies. The total working capital rose from Rs. 128.8 millions to Rs 148.3 millions or by 15.1 per cent. The growth of the working capital thus kept pace with the increase in the number of societies. So far as mere figures are concerned, the progress made in Bengal was not less than that in most other provinces in India.

Main Lines of Expansion.- The expansion during the year largely occurred as usual under the head "Agricultural Credit Societies" which still constitute the bulk of the co-operative societies in the province. In the application of co-operative principles towards solving the problems of the rural classes in directions other than credit, many experiments have been made in this province, notably in the direction of agricultural sale societies. Another type of societies which attained remarkable success was anti-malarial and public health societies which promoted in a considerable measure

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the health and welfare of rural areas within their sphere of operations.

Adult Education.- An important part was played by the credit movement in bringing about an improvement in the economic condition of the rural population. The credit societies have effected a marked reduction in the prevailing rates of interests and have thus not only directly benefited their members but have also indirectly benefited the general population. Another direction in which the movement has been doing some good work within its limited power has been in assisting the promotion of education. The recent passing of the Bengal Primary Education Act has therefore been very pleasing to co-operative workers and to the better informed among the members of co-operative societies. Even after the Act comes into operation the problem of adult education and of continuation schools for preventing the lapse of boys into illiteracy will have to be solved and their existing organization for rural credit with central banks and their affiliated societies will probably play an important part in the solution of the problem.

Some Important Defects.- The position of the movement in this province has been recently examined by the Bengal Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee, 1929-30, who have in their report indicated some of the existing difficulties and defects of the movement and have also suggested measures for removing them. The most important defects pointed out by the Committee are: (1) illiteracy of members and their ignorance of co-operative principles; (2) heterogeneous membership; and (3) delay in obtaining loans by primary societies.

(The Statesman, 19-1-1932.)

Co-operation in India: Proposals for Reform.

A joint session of the Standing Committees of the All-India Provincial Co-operative Institutes' Association and the Indian Provincial Co-operative Banks' Association was held at Bombay on the 30th and 31st December 1931 and 1st January 1932. Sir Lallubhai Samaldas, the President of the Institutes' Association presided over the first day's session and Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu, President of the Banks' Association, presided over the 2nd and 3rd days' sessions. Representatives from almost all the major provinces in British India and from the State of Indore attended the sessions.

The Joint Sessions of the Standing Committees examined the necessity recommendations of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee for placing rural finance and co-operative credit on a sound and efficient footing and for extending their benefits to the agriculturists with a view to adopt such of them as may be found practicable and immediately beneficial. The necessity to effect reforms in the existing system and to give the movement a new orientation, and a more practical direction was felt by the representatives of the Provincial Banks and the Institutes. Their conclusions are embodied in the following resolutions:-

Propaganda and Education.- It was resolved that the All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association be requested to collect and publish all available information regarding the co-operative movement in India, in the shape of a standing publication entitled "Co-operation in India", and that the volume be priced at Rs. 3. It was also decided to request the Indian Institute of Bankers to include Co-operative Banking in the curriculum of studies and syllabus for these examinations and also to request the educational authorities to introduce the study of lessons on co-operations in a suitable manner in the secondary schools. It was agreed to publish an All-India Quarterly Journal of Co-operation under the title of "The Indian Co-operative Review".

Co-operative Credit.- With regard to co-operative credit, the Standing Committee agreed with the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee that there is no need for the establishment of an apex



Co-operative Bank for India, and that suitable measures may be taken by the Indian Provincial Co-operative Banks' Association to co-ordinate the activities of the provincial banks and to ensure that such provincial banks as may be in need of financial assistance get it from those which are in a position to render it. In the interests of the further development of Co-operative Banking on sound lines, it is desirable that the provincial banks and their constituent central banks should, as far as possible, follow common financial policies. The agency most suitable for evolving such policies is the conference of the central banks.

Imperial Bank and Co-operative Banks.- It was also agreed to address a suitable communication to the Government of India and the Provincial Governments regarding the present attitude of the Imperial Bank of India in the matter of financial accommodation to the provincial and the central co-operative banks, drawing their special attention to the observations and recommendations of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee on the subject.

Land Mortgage Banks.- The Standing Committees are in general agreement with the recommendations of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee regarding the establishment and working of land mortgage banks; but before establishing them in provinces where they do not exist, careful investigations must be made by co-operators whether conditions for their successful working exist or will be forthcoming.

The system of Provincial Co-operative Banks floating long term debentures and financing primary land mortgage banks is not sound, being attended with risks, and should, where it exists, be abandoned, and a separate provincial land mortgage corporation established as soon as possible to finance the primary land mortgage banks.

The practice of land mortgage banks advancing substantial loans for a maximum period of only ten years which now obtains in the Punjab and Madras is co-operatively and financially unsound, and the maximum period of the loans should be extended to at least 20 years as soon as financial conditions permit it.

Undue emphasis on advancing loans for the discharge of prior debts does not conduce to the proper working of the land mortgage banks; debt redemption, unless linked up with some scheme of debt conciliation in which the indebted members can be induced to repay a portion of the debt will not be a business proposition. The economic benefit derived by ~~xx~~ agriculturists from the land mortgage banks merely concentrating on loans for discharge ~~prior~~ of prior indebtedness will not be appreciable.

Long term loans for the substantial improvement of lands will prove beneficial and should also be encouraged by the land mortgage banks.

Co-operative Marketing.- The Standing Committees request the Provincial Banks and the Provincial Institutes to subject the recommendations of the Indian Central Banking & Enquiry Committee regarding co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to a careful examination in the light of the peculiar conditions and facilities of each province and to take prompt steps to develop schemes of Co-operative Marketing suitable to the localities concerned.

Co-operative Study Tours.- The Standing Committees are of opinion that inter-provincial study tours by co-operators will prove beneficial for the development of the movement on right lines and request provincial banks and institutions to make arrangements to depute some of their members on such study tours ~~a~~ somewhat on the lines recommended by the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee, in connection with co-operative education and training.

(The Hindu, 8-1-1932)

Women and Children.

Women's Labour Conference: Postponed<sup>ment-</sup> to September 1932.

At page 58 of the Report of this Office for December 1931 reference was made to a special conference of the National Council of Women in India which was to be held in February 1932 in connection with the Biennial Conference of the Council to discuss the outstanding problems of industry in so far as they affect women ~~in~~ and children. A press announcement issued on 20-1-1932 by the General Secretary of the National Council of Women in India states that owing to the unsettled conditions in India, it has been decided ~~is~~ by the Central Executive Committee of National Council of Women, Bombay, that the Biennial Conference and the Labour Conference which they had planned to hold in Bombay in February must for the present be postponed. It is hoped it may be possible to hold these Conferences in August or September. (The Hindu, 20-1-1932)

Education.

Vernacular Education Act, 1931, Baroda:

Minimum School Leaving Age to be 14.

Having repealed the Baroda Educational Department Act and all notifications issued hitherto, His Highness the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwar has enacted a new Act called the Vernacular Education Act which has come into operation since December 24, 1931.

The Act provides that all children of school-going age, which means a boy who has completed his 7th year but not the 14th, and a girl who has completed her 7th year but not the 12th, shall attend either the nearest Government school or a private institution which is recognized by the Government, failing which the parents shall be liable to pay the penalty fixed under the Act.

~~The aim of primary~~ All the educational institutions, including the libraries, orphanages, reformatories, gymnasia and the madrassahs (Muslim Schools) have been placed by the Act under the direct supervision and control of the Commissioner of Education of the State who has been held responsible for the educational progress of the State's subjects. It has been incumbent upon all parents in the State to give education up to standard 4 in vernacular schools to their children, failing which the Compulsory Education Act would be applicable to them.

The Government have decided to supply free of charge study requisites to poor children of school-going age of about 38 backward communities of the State, as also to children of the untouchables community. His Highness the Maharaja has earmarked a sum of Rs. 200,000 in 3½ per cent promissory notes for the translation of the best books into the vernacular with a view to furthering the intellectual advancement of the State. (The Statesman, 1-1-1932).

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Maritime Affairs.

Asiatic Seamen and U. S. A. Ports:

Protest against U.S. Bill to Prevent Entry.

The Leader, Allahabad of 27-1-32 publishes the following cable dated 24-1-32 from Washington, U.S.A.

A protest is reported to have been lodged with United States State Department by the British Ambassador at Washington against a bill recently introduced in the United States Senate authorising officials to board ships entering the United States' ports and remove or deport seamen of races ineligible for United States citizenship. The bill is designed to prevent the entry of seamen, especially Asiatics, who escape from ships. The British Ambassador pointed out that the bill would debar British lines from employing as seamen even natives of some British colonies or Indian lascars and conveyed the impression of being directed specially against the British empire.

(The Leader, 27-1-32).

Madras Port Trust Workers' Union: Protest Against Retrenchment

A meeting of the Madras Port Trust Workers' Union was held on 19-1-32 at Madras, Mr. M.S. Kotiswaran, President of the Union presiding. The following two resolutions were adopted (1) that a memorial should be sent to the Port Trust authorities putting forth the means of averting retrenchment; (2) regretting that the Government of Madras have not so far taken any step to amend the Port

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Trust Act in order to give labour representation on the Port Trust Board. The meeting welcomed Messrs. B.Shiva Rao, and V.V.Giri, the labour delegates from Madras to the Indian Round Table Conference, who also addressed the workmen.

Mr. Kotiswaran explained how within the last two years nearly 1,200 workmen on the Madras Port Trust had been sent away from one or other of the departments on the plea of insufficient work. Men who had put in service from six to seven years and in some cases for a greater number of years as for instance in the Gang Cooly Department had been sent away. When this was pointed out to the Chairman of the Port Trust, the latter promised to reconsider specific cases when brought to his notice. In these hard days the authorities must show some consideration for the poor workmen and seek measures of reducing expenditure by means other than that of sending away the workmen. The Union was ~~doing~~ doing what it could to make proper representations to the authorities and he hoped that the latter would sympathetically view those representations.

(The Hindu , 20-1-32).

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Migration.  
Cape Town Conference, 1932.

References were made in ~~the~~ earlier reports of this Office to a Round Table Conference to be held at Capetown during January 1932 composed of representatives of the Indian and South African Government to review the working of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927. (vide pages 68-69 of the March 1931 Report and pages 61-62 of the November 1931 Report of this Office). The Conference was formally opened on 12-1-32 by General Hertzog, who made a strong plea to the members for ensuring the success of the Conference by imbuing its deliberations with the same spirit as had marked ~~these~~ <sup>deliberations</sup> of the Conference of 1927. (The Hindu, 14-1-1932).

According to a cable from the Durban Correspondent of the Times of India republished in the Hindu of 26-1-1932, there is little possibility of a compromise being arrived at on the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. The message also states that it has been suggested that each side should appoint a Committee of Enquiry to further investigate the various questions that the Conference has been called to consider, and that the Conference should meet again a year hence in 1933 to settle matters finally.

The South African Indian Congress, in a memorandum to the Indian Delegation, urged the complete withdrawal of the Land Tenure Bill and the abandonment of the assisted emigration scheme and also claimed an extension of franchise with municipal and parliamentary privileges to Indians in Natal and Transvaal.

(The Hindu, 15-1-1932.)