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References to the I. L. O.

The Hindustan Times of 14-12-1932, the Times of India and the Leader of 15-12-1932, the Hindu of 16-12-1932 and the Indian Labour Journal of 18-12-1932 publish a news item to the effect that the Madras Chamber of Commerce has suggested to the Government of India the name of Sir Phiroze Sethna for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the 17th session of the I.L.Conference.

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The Hindustan Times of 29-11-32 and the Hindu of 2-12-32 publish the news that the Southern India Chamber of Commerce has suggested the name of Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the 17th session of the I.L.Conference and those of Messrs. Gopala Menon and V.K.Chetty as advisers to the delegate.

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The Statesman of 9-12-32, the Hindustan Times and the Leader of 10-12-32 and the Advocate of 11-12-32 publish a news item to the effect that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recommended the name of Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the 17th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The combined monthly circular issued by the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association for October and November 1932 publishes the news that the Association has recommended the name of Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the 17th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Advocate of 11-12-32 publishes the news that the Bihar and

and Orissa Chamber of Commerce has suggested the name of Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the 17th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The November and December combined issue of the Trade Union Record publishes a letter issued to the Unions affiliated to the Indian Trades Union Federation by the General Secretary of the Federation, in the course of which attention of the affiliated Unions has been drawn to the items on the agenda of the 17th I.L.Conference and the Preparatory Technical Conference to be held in January 1933 to consider the question of reduction of hours of work in industry. The letter also requests the Unions to send recommendations for the nomination of the Indian workers' delegation to the 17th I.L.Conference.

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The Servant of India of 24-11-32 publishes a letter from its Geneva Correspondent under the caption "The I.L.O. and the Crisis" in the course of which the proceedings of the 60th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. which was held at Madrid are reviewed.

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The Statesman and the Hindu of 10-12-1932, the Hindustan Times of 11-12-1932, the Times of India and the Leader of 12-12-1932 and the Indian Labour Journal of 18-12-1932 publish a press communiqué issued by the Government of India on 9-12-1932 to the effect that the report of the Tripartite ~~xxxx~~ Preparatory Conference of January 1933 will form the 5th item on the agenda of the 17th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The combined monthly circular issued by the Karachi Indian

Merchants' Association for October and November 1932 publishes the opinion expressed by the Association on the report submitted by Mr. D.S. Erulkar to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the special session of the Governing Body held in September 1932 to consider the proposal of M. de Michelis on the reduction of Hours of Work in Industry. The Association is of opinion that the peculiar conditions of labour and industry in India, as also the defective nature of the mechanism generally in use in the country, do not warrant any general reduction in the present hours of work and urges the Government of India to issue instructions accordingly to their representative at the Tripartite Conference of January 1933.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 9-12-32 and the Times of India and Leader of 10-12-32 publish a summary of the Council of State debate of 8-12-32 on the resolution of Mr. Clow, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, recommending the Governor General not to ratify the Convention re. the Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations nor to accept the Recommendation on the subject.

(The full text of the debate is given at pages 9-13 of this report under the Section dealing with Ratification).

The Guardian, Madras, of 15-12-32 publishes a long article under the caption "Child Labour in Non-Industrial Occupations" summarising the main provisions of the Convention and criticising the attitude taken by the Government of India in recommending non-ratification of the Convention. The article finally recommends the undertaking of a careful

inquiry into the conditions of labour of children.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal of 11-12-32 publishes a long article under the caption "Age of Admission of Children to employment in Non-Industrial Occupations" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article examines the problem in all its bearings and puts forward various arguments why the Government of India should ratify the Geneva Convention on the subject.

The same issue publishes an editorial article under the caption "A Retrograde Move" condemning the Government's proposal of non-ratification of the Convention.

\* \* \*

The December 1932 issue of "India and the World" publishes an article under the caption "India and the International Labour Organisation" contributed <sup>by</sup> the Director of this Office. The article examines the benefits that have accrued to India by her connection with the I.L.O.

(A cutting of the articles from "India and the World" was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2711/32 dated 8-12-32).

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The December 1932 issue of "India and the World" publishes a review of Dr. Pillai's book "India and the International Labour Organisation."

(A cutting of the review from "India and the World" was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2711/32 of 8-12-32).

\* \* \*

Federated India of 30-11-32 publishes a communiqué issued by

this Office on the election of Sir Atul Chatterjee as the president of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

(Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2604/32 dated 10-11-1952).

The same issue of Federated India comments editorially on the election and says:

"The importance of the event consists in the fact that this is the first occasion that an Indian has been thought fit to be President of an international body. India, though an original member of the League of Nations (an "attribute of Dominion Status", according to Mr. Wedgwood Benn, ex-Secretary of State for India) does not enjoy any equality of status at Geneva, as she is yet to become a member of the League Council, although her financial contribution to the League is pretty big."

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The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 13-12-1932, the Times of India of 14-12-1932, the Leader of 21-12-1932 and the Advocate of 18-12-1932 publish the Statement issued by Mr. Walchand Hirachand regarding the formation of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers.

(Copies of the Statement and the Constitution of the Organisation were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute F.6/2752/32 of 22-12-32

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 15-12-32 publishes a summarised version of the Mysore Legislative Council debates of 14-12-32 in the course of which reference is made to the Bill to repeal the Breach of Contracts Act in Mysore (vide page 11 of the October ~~annex~~ 1932 report of our office and to our minute C.1/2627/32 of 17-11-32). It is understood that the Bill will be passed at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

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Mr. K. E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office delivered a lecture on 4-12-32 at the Delhi Y. M. C. A. on the subject of "Social Efficiency". In the course of ~~his~~ his lecture, Mr. Matthew dealt with the conditions of labour in India which were chiefly responsible for the inefficiency of the Indian worker and expressed the opinion that the Indian labourers' efficiency may considerably be increased by improving the conditions of life and work of the workers of this country. The benefits that have accrued to India by her participation in the various sessions of the I. L. Conference have tended to increase the efficiency of Indian workers. <sup>The lecturer</sup> and pointed out that the industrial efficiency of India will be greatly augmented by the country's whole-hearted adherence to the social programmes of Geneva.

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Under the auspices of the Graduates' Political Science Club, Allahabad University, Dr. R. P. Paranjpye delivered a lecture on the League of Nations in the course of which the aims and objects, and the achievements of the I. L. O. and India's connection with the I. L. O. were reviewed elaborately. Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, Editor, the Leader, and Member, 2nd Round Table Conference, who presided on the occasion, in the course of his concluding remarks stated that the League of Nations in general has not achieved much ~~and~~ as far as India is concerned. He declared "India has little to expect because it is a dependent country." The I. L. O., according to Mr. Chintamani, has proved more useful. Reviewing the activities of the I. L. O., he said "We may confidently look forward to better results following from its work. Labourers everywhere always have reason to be grateful to President Wilson for



having made the I. L. O. a part of the League of Nations and for having facilitated the advancement of labour conditions in country after country". The speeches of Dr. Paranjpye and Mr. Chintamani were published in the Leader of 7-12-1932 and in New India of 18-12-32.

The Leader of 8-12-1932 publishes an editorial article commenting on Dr. Paranjpye's lecture in the course of which it observes:-

"We have never made any secret of our opinion that at the present moment the policy and administration of the League is controlled to a great extent by France and Britain who have not hesitated to use it for imperialist purposes. At the same time we hope that this is a passing phase and that ultimately the weaker nations will come into their own, who, having no axes of their ~~of their~~ own to grind, will utilize the machinery of the League for better purposes. As regards India's position in the League organization, while we are far from satisfied with the present state of affairs, we believe that it is the subordinate character of the Government of India which is more to blame. How is it, for instance, that while the newest of state members has been admitted to the Council, India, one of the original members, has not been? How is it that while America is not even a member of the League, there are more Americans than Indians employed in the Geneva secretariat? We have only to improve the character and constitution of the present Government of India. Geneva cannot afford to disregard the legitimate demands of a self-governing India."

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The Hindu of 20-12-1932 publishes a British Official wireless message to the effect that the recent publication of the I. L. O., "Hours of Work and Unemployment", estimates the present number of unemployed in the world at 30 millions and the loss in wages at over £ 4,000 million per annum. The message also calls attention to the fact that unemployment which has been a consequence of the economic depression is now one of the causes of the expansion of that depression.

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The December 1932 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes

a long article under the caption "Towards the Forty-Hour Week" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article explains the necessity for reduction in hours of work in industry and the effort now made by the I. L. O. to bring about an international agreement on this point.

(A copy of the Indian Post containing the article was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/ 14 /33 dated 5-1-1933).

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"Capital", Calcutta, of 1-12-1932 publishes an article contributed by Mr. S. Keshoram, a member of the staff of this Office, under the caption "Economic Aspects of Prison Labour " in the course of which reference is made to the suggestions made by the I. L. O. for removing the present defects in the employment of prison labour as far as it affects free labour.

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Ratifications.

India and Convention and Recommendation re. the Age of  
Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations:

Motion for Non ratification Adopted by Council of State.

The following is the full text of the debate which took place in the Council of State on 8-12-1932 when the Hon. Mr. A.G. Clow, Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, introduced a resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. age of admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the 16th I.L. Conference:

The Honourable Mr. A.G. Clow (Government of India; Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That this Council having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its sixteenth session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation".

It is a matter of regret to me that this recommendation should be couched in the negative form that it takes. The subject of the Convention is one which I am sure will appeal to all Honourable Members of this House. It represents one of the now numerous efforts to ensure that childhood shall be really childhood and not an anticipation or an aggravation of the toils of adult life. As Honourable Members may have observed, the Convention contains provisions specially designed to meet the case of India, which makes it the more unfortunate that we are not able to accept those provisions. I hope, however, to be able to convince the House that the ratification of this Convention is impracticable, indeed impossible, in existing circumstances

In September last, the Department to which I belong circulated to Honourable Members copies of the Report prepared on this Conference by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee who represented the Government of India there, and appended to that Report were copies of the Draft Convention and the Recommendation. As all Honourable Members possibly have not brought their copies, a few spare copies of the Convention will be found in front of them. The Recommendation, to which I do not propose to refer again, is partly an amplification of the Convention and partly a guide to the methods which the Conference thought were best suited to the enforcement of the Convention.

I think it will assist the discussion of the subject if I indicate very briefly how the Convention came to take its present form. When these proposals were first mooted, the Government of India consulted Local Governments, and the information they received indicated that it would probably be very difficult to make any progress along

the lines that the Conference desired. But in view of the great importance of the subject — the importance properly attached to it in international circles — they felt that they should make an effort to try and meet the Conference half-way, and they therefore instructed their delegates to press for certain special conditions for India. I would refer only to two of these — the first, and perhaps the less important, was that the age limit should be fixed at 10 years instead of at 14 which the Conference was contemplating generally and the second, the vital condition, that the Convention in respect of India should apply only to certain specified occupations. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra put these points forcibly before the Committee which considered the question and he received support from a most valuable quarter. M. Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labour Office, a dynamic personality, whose death immediately after the Conference was a loss, not merely to Geneva, but to Labour throughout the world, came to the Committee and urged on it strongly the acceptance of the Indian proposals. He warned the Committee that the acceptance of those proposals offered the only chance of ratification by India, and the Committee agreed to the proposals. But when they came to the full Conference, they were met by a certain amount of criticism and after some confused debate, different proposals were put before the Conference by a lady from Spain. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra protested, but the Spanish lady's ~~plans~~ proposals were carried by a small majority, and, as a result, the Indian Government delegates and the Indian Employers' delegate, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, found themselves unable to support the Convention by their votes. I might add that they shared that position with a number of other Government delegates, including the Government delegates from Great Britain and from Japan.

Now, I would ask Honourable Members just to consider what the Convention does. I am not going through the provisions in detail, because there are really only two articles that apply to India, article 1 and article 9, apart from certain formal and supplementary propositions. Article 1 defines the scope of the Convention and article 9 contains the special provisions for India. The Convention, as the preamble and the title and article 1 indicate, applies to non-industrial employment, and it is proposed that in India three things shall be done. In the first place, much the most important, children under 10 should be excluded from all non-industrial employment. In the second place, older children should be excluded from certain street and itinerant occupations; and in the third place, children under 14 should be excluded from occupations involving certain dangers and risks. I would ask Honourable Members to concentrate particularly on the first point, which is the exclusion of young children from all non-industrial occupations, and I suggest that they put to themselves a question which I have put to several of my friends of different communities. If this Convention was accepted, what children in India would be affected? In other words, what children under 10 are employed in non-industrial occupations? They may find that question at first a little difficult to answer. Some of those to whom I spoke thought of tennis courts and golf courses where very young children are sometimes employed in getting tennis balls and in looking ~~after~~ for golf balls. Undoubtedly that would come under the Convention. More than one Local Government which was consulted indicated that so far as was known there was no substantial non-industrial occupation which would come under these provisions. I think most Honourable Members would agree that there are probably a small number of childrer

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scattered over various occupations, casually employed, under ten, and there is at least one occupation of importance in which, in some provinces at least, probably a considerable number of young children are employed. I refer to domestic service. I need not remind Honourable members that we are dealing with non-industrial employment only; that is, all industry and all agriculture is excluded, and perhaps the most important of the remaining occupations is, I suggest, domestic service. Now that affords a good example of the main, indeed the only reason why this Convention cannot be ratified. It is not that we want to see children under 10 employed. Far from it. It is not that their labour is in any way essential or that India would suffer if they ceased to work tomorrow. It is simply the difficulty of enforcing the Convention. Remember that these children employed in domestic service are not ~~scattered~~ concentrated in towns. They are scattered throughout the length and breadth of India. How are we going to enforce in the various houses, one child here and one child there, a Convention of this kind? I do not ~~xx~~ think I would get much support here or in any Provincial Council if I suggested, even if we could find the money, that the police might be strengthened and granted powers of entry into private houses for the purpose of enforcing the Convention. The other alternative would be the employment of special staff; and I must leave it to Honourable Members to form some picture of the size of the staff that would be required for excluding what is probably on the whole a very small number of children from certain occupations in which at present they find comparatively light work.

In conclusion, I would remind the Council that the proposals in this Convention are not the only proposals recently made for stopping the employment of young children. These proposals relate to non-industrial employment, but there are a large number of young children engaged in certain forms of industrial employment. The Whitley Commission in their Report called special attention to the case of children who are employed in what are known as unregulated factories, that is, in workshops where such occupations as weaving carpets, splitting mica, making biris and things of that kind are carried on, and they suggested that the first step should be to exclude children under 10 from that kind of workshop and to limit the hours of elder children. India is a country of very limited resources and that makes it the more important that any resources we can find should be devoted where they are most needed. I have no doubt personally that the needs of children employed in industry are far greater than those of any children coming under this Convention speaking as a whole. I cannot attempt to prophesy in the present difficult circumstances at what rate progress will be made; but I would put it to the Council that whatever steps we are able to take should be directed first towards those children who are employed in industry. If Local Governments, owing to the acceptance of this Convention, found themselves obliged to deal with non-industrial employment they would find, I think, Sir, that such resources as are available for progress in protecting child labour would be mortgaged for years to come, so that progress in other directions would be impossible. Not only is the need greater in industry, but the possibilities of enforcement are very much greater because there you are dealing with children employed frequently in comparatively large groups and generally in the bigger towns. In suggesting that it is ~~along~~ that direction that we ought to move as soon as we can move, I think I can claim the support of the International Labour Conference itself. This is a supplementary Convention.

It is intended to supplement several Conventions relating to industry, to agriculture, and to maritime employment. The Conference itself dealt with industrial employment in the year 1919, whereas this Convention was only framed last year. It seems to me therefore that we should tackle that question first. If and when we have been able to make some progress with the difficult question — for even that is not going to be easy — of children in industry, it will be time to turn, if we still have resources left, and consider what can be done with the very much less important and very much more difficult question of children in non-industrial employment.

The Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu (Bengal; Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the question involved in this Resolution can be looked at from two different points of view and I only want that the Members who represented this Council on the Committee when they considered this question will extend to us the courtesy of giving some sort of lead in this matter because they had the opportunity of discussing this matter in the Committee. The question involved is very difficult from both points of view, the point of view that was placed before us by the Honourable Mr. Clow and also the point of view that we feel, namely, that children under a particular age should not be employed but should be left to do some other work so that they may be more useful to the country after they become youths. Before we make up our minds I would ask the Honourable Members who represented us on the Committee to give us the benefit of their discussion here.

The Honourable Mr. E. Miller (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir I think the Honourable Mr. Clow has made it abundantly clear that he and the Government are in full sympathy with the protection of child labour. We know ~~Mr. Clow's~~ Mr. Clow's efforts in this direction and that he has ~~made it quite clear~~ very great sympathy for anything of that nature. I think he has made it quite clear that this particular proposed reform is impractical because it cannot be enforced and for that reason I support the Resolution.

The Honourable Mr. Abu Abdullah Syed Hussain Imam (Bihar and Orissa Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to speak on this motion with some temerity because I am not very conversant with the subject, but I wish to enter a protest against the manner in which the Government is utilising this House. This Resolution could have been in the other House as well. It is not necessary that this should be ratified by the Upper House. Because they find that they can have an easy time and can get through any measure according to their own desire they bring forward this sort of Resolution in this House simply to lower the dignity and the regard in the public esteem for this House. This Convention is not being ratified because the Government does not find itself able to do so. The Honourable Mr. Clow stated that India was prepared to accept the Convention if certain amendments were made in it, but he failed to inform us when the Government intend to bring forward a measure on the lines which they suggested to the Conference; but if they had come forward and said that they would introduce in this House a measure according to their own lights, we would have seen no reason to oppose it, because I quite agree with the Government in thinking that it is impossible to give effect to all these provisions in the Convention. But when the Government have accepted that certain steps could be given, unless we have the assurance from the Government that they are going to bring forward a measure on the lines suggested by the Indian delegates, we cannot, Sir, support this measure.

The Honourable Mr. A.G. Clow: Sir, in view of the modest silence of members of the Standing Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Labour, I think I ought to explain to the House that the Resolution which stands in my name was put forward after consulting them and represents their views.

I would just like to say in reply to what has fallen from the Honourable Member who spoke last that I was very greatly surprised to hear his suggestion that the dignity of this House was in any way being infringed by the present Resolution. The Resolution is put before this House in consequence of a Treaty obligation. Government are obliged within a year or 18 months of the conclusion of the Conference to put before the competent authority Conventions of this kind. The competent authority in this case is the Indian Legislature and a Resolution in identical terms has been tabled in both Houses. I do not think that Government can be blamed if the other House has found itself somewhat preoccupied and has been unable ~~to~~ as yet to find time to deal with this Resolution. I am surprised that the Honourable Member should have made a charge of this kind and I hope he will realise on reflection that it is entirely unjustified.

He went on to say that India was prepared to accept the Convention if certain modifications were made in it. If I conveyed that impression, I misled the House. What I said was that the Government of India suggested certain special provisions, but I did not say that India would accept the Convention if those special provisions were embodied. I do not attempt to disguise from the House the fact that we should have been faced with by no means an easy problem if our original proposals had been accepted; but it would have rested with the Legislature to consider whether anything was possible along those lines.

The Honourable the President: The question is, that the following Resolution be adopted;

"That this Council having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its sixteenth session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation".

The motion was adopted.

(Extracted from pages 311-315 of the Council of State Debates of 8-12-1932, Vol. II, No. 9 of 1932).

✓ National Labour Legislation.Proposal for Reduction of Hours of Work in Mines\*

By the Mines Act of 1923 weekly hours for miners were limited to 54 underground and 60 aboveground. No limit was set to the daily hours and a certain number of coal miners continued to spend on occasion long continuous spells in the mine. A daily limit of 12 hours was, therefore, imposed by the Act of 1928, with effect from 1930, so as to secure a regular and reasonable distribution of the miners' hours in those mines where this had not already been achieved by the employers. Discussions in the Central Legislature over the Mines Act amendment Bill of 1928 revealed that a considerable body of opinion was in favour of enforcing an 8-hour day and this was also the view of a minority of the Select Committee on the Bill. The remaining members of the Committee agreed that a system of eight-hour shifts was the system which should be gradually worked up to, but they considered that the safest course was to advance cautiously and they recommended that after the measure had been in force for three years the situation should again be examined to see whether an eight-hour shift could then be introduced. The measure came into force in April 1930, and on the basis of this recommendation the examination should take place next year. The Royal Commission on Labour which reviewed the whole question came to conclusions similar to those reached by the Select Committee. So far as the weekly limits were concerned, the Commission recommended the reduction of the limit aboveground to 54.

Having regard to this Resolution and to the fact that about two and a half years have elapsed since the Act of 1928 came into full effect, \* Bulletins of Indian Industries & Labour - No. 49 - Reduction of Hours of Work in Mines (November 1932) - Published by order of the Government of India - Calcutta; Government of India Central publication Branch 1932 - pp.26.



the Government of India consider that the question might now be examined, and have, therefore, addressed all Local Governments and Administrations asking for the views of representative organisations of mine employers and <sup>of</sup> mine workers on the subject, to be submitted before 1-3-1933.

According to the circular letter, so far as weekly hours are concerned, the Government of India are provisionally disposed to the view that hours aboveground should not exceed 54. As regards underground work, such statistics as are available suggest that existing hours in most fields do not exceed on the average 48 weekly, and the Government of India are therefore disposed to consider the possibility of a reduction to this limit. In this connection, it is observed that, whereas in the past considerable difficulty has arisen ~~to be g~~ from the scarcity of mining labour, the supply of labour now seems to be generally in excess of the work available. At the present time, therefore, it is suggested that a reduction might be effected with little dislocation from the point of view of management, and with advantages to labour as a whole. It is observed that the question of weekly hours should not be examined without reference to the reduction that can be effected in the daily limit as to make it possible to dispense with the weekly limit altogether. If this is to be attempted, the Government of India, while they are disposed to agree with the Select Committee that the eight-hour shift should be the aim, doubt if it would be wise or even practicable, in ~~the~~ present circumstances, to set so low a limit to the daily hours. If dependence is to be placed on a daily limit for preventing excessive hours, <sup>it is remarked, that</sup> nine hours would seem to be as low a limit as is reasonable. With such a limit, the miner would be given much better protection than he has at present and the industry might be assisted by securing greater regularity of work, which, as the Labour Commission have emphas-  
sized,

should be one of the main objects in the coalfields especially. At the same time, it would probably be unnecessary to attempt to reduce weekly hours below 54, and the weekly limit could be abrogated, thus greatly simplifying the problem of regulating hours.

The Government of India, therefore, desire the opinions of the interests concerned on the following points:-

What the most suitable limits to the daily and weekly hours of work *should be*

- (a) above ground, and
- (b) underground?

In addition, the Government of India have desired opinions on the following three points as well:

1. Should the present minimum age for children be raised, and if so, to what extent?
2. Should mine managers be required to report all accidents likely to involve the enforced absence of any worker in excess of seven days?
3. Should it be obligatory for Local Governments to publish reports of a Committee appointed under section ~~11~~ or of a court of enquiry appointed under section 21 of the Mines Act?.

Conditions of Labour.Labour Commission's Recommendation re. Attachment of  
Wages and Salaries; Proposed Government Legislation.

Reference was made at page 29 of our report for November 1932 to the proposals of the Government of India to give effect to the recommendation of the Whitley Commission advocating that legislation should be enacted providing for a summary procedure for the liquidation of workmen's unsecured debts. (Recommendation No.185). Another recommendation of the Whitley Commission on the subject of indebtedness of Indian labourers was that the salary and wages of all workmen receiving less than Rs.300 a month should be exempted entirely from the possibility of attachment. The Commission further recommended that if, on examination, there are objections to applying this exemption to everyone employed on a salary less than Rs.300 a month, the definition of workman in the workmen's Compensation Act might be suitable. (Recommendation No.182 vide pages 231-232 and page 509 of Whitley Report). The Government of India has issued a circular letter recently to all Local Governments and Administrations enunciating the Government of India's proposals to give effect to the recommendation and calling for opinions of the local governments on the proposals, a summary of which is given below:

The Present Law Regulating Attachment. - The present law is not easy to follow. The substantive provisions relating to the attachment of salaries and wages in execution of decrees are those contained in clauses (i) & (1) and the explanation of the proviso to section 60 (1) of the Civil Procedure Code. Clause (1) protects the wages of labourers and domestic servants without limit. Clause (i) protects the salaries of Government and railway servants up to one half of the employee's salary or forty rupees, whichever is greater. But by the explanation to the proviso, the unprotected part of a Government or railway servant's salary becomes liable to attachment not merely after it is payable, but before it is due. This liability appears as an express provision in Rule 48, Order XXI, of the Code. In other words, as the Commission point out, it is possible to secure continuous attachment of this portion, whereas

there is no such possibility in the case of private employees.

Effects of the Present Law. - Clause (i) of the proviso, with the explanation, has much more important effects, for the principle of continuous attachment which it introduces operates to increase very greatly the security of creditors lending to the persons to whom it applies. In its absence, public officers and railway servants could have their salaries attached only after they were payable and, as suggested above, this would be of little value to creditors. The State in fact, by this clause, lends to creditors the whole weight of Government authority against its own servants by providing a debt-collecting machinery from which there is no escape.

The grounds on which the principle of "continuity of attachment" was introduced into Indian law are obscure; but it seems to have been designed for the protection of public servants rather than of their ~~xxx~~ creditors. Whatever its original purpose, there is good ground for believing that, by increasing the facilities of the persons it affects for obtaining credit, it contributes largely to the heavy indebtedness of certain classes of Government and railway employees. The Government of India understand that among railway and postal officials of the subordinate grades in particular, chronic indebtedness is widespread and they are disposed to agree with the Commission's view that such indebtedness can be largely traced to the ease with which substantial sums can be borrowed. Decrees can be, and are, obtained requiring heads of departments and railway administrations to deduct and pay into court, month by month, a large proportion of the pay of those employees against whom attachment orders have been obtained; and it is probable that for every case so coming to light, there are many others in which money-lenders have not been forced to obtain orders or decrees, but secure large payments of interest on the strength of their power to do so.

Proposals of the Government- The Government of India have already consulted the heads of Railway Administrations and of the Posts and Telegraphs Department on this subject and find them unanimous in favour of an amendment of the law.- It is remarked in the letter that the Commission apparently contemplated a single provision which would replace wholly or in part both clause (i) and clause (4) of the proviso to section 60 (1). There would seem to be no sufficient ground, so far as this clause is concerned, for granting exemption up to the comparatively high limit of salary suggested by the Commission, and if it is regarded as desirable that the persons to be exempted by this clause should be defined in terms of occupation, a limit of Rs.100 might be more suitable.

Provisionally, also, the Government of India are disposed to the view that steps should be taken to diminish or abrogate the power of creditors to secure the continuous attachment of the salaries of Government and railway servants, or of certain classes of these servants.

The Government of India have ~~xxx~~ called for opinions on the following:-

(1) Is it desirable to extend the complete protection of wages from attachment to other classes than those at present included in clause (1) of the proviso to section 50 (1) of the Civil Procedure Code, and if so, how should these classes be defined?

(2) Should the power to secure continuous attachment of the salaries of public officers or railway servants be curtailed, and if so, to what extent and in what manner?

(3) What special provisions, if any, should apply to debts due to cooperative societies?

(4) To what extent should any changes introduced apply to debt incurred before the changes were made?

✓ Immigrant Labour in Assam, 1931-32\*

The Government of Assam has recently published the annual report on conditions of immigrant labour, mainly in the tea-gardens in the Province for the year ending 30-6-1932. The report, as usual, is divided into two parts: (1) Immigrant Labour in the Assam Valley Division and (2) Immigrant Labour in the Surma Valley & Hill Division. The following information relating to the conditions of life and work of the immigrant labour population in the province is taken from the report:-

General.- Depressed Condition of Tea Industry. - The Assam Government's resolution on the Report states that: "As in the previous year the tea industry continued to suffer severely from the world-wide trade depression. The immediate causes of the depression affecting the tea industry are said to be over-production, heavy stocks of tea in the markets and importation into Great Britain of

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\* Report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1932. - Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press 1932 (Price Re.1-6 or 2s.1d).- pp.15.

foreign grown teas. Attempts have been made to check over-production by resorting to finer plucking which should yield higher grade teas obtaining higher prices. According to the report, it is too early yet to know what will be the effect of the action of Parliament in giving an imperial preference of two pence per lb. over foreign teas or what success will attend the attempts now being made to have statutory provision in all tea-producing countries for compulsory restriction of production. The existing depression is, however, by no ~~far~~ means confined to the tea industry and the Governor in Council fears that no permanent improvement can be expected till the purchasing power of the consuming public has been substantially restored. The fact remains that in both the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley a large proportion of tea estates are at present working at a loss and that expenditure has necessarily been curtailed everywhere.

Fall in Recruitment and Wages. - In spite of the depression in the tea industry, there was a very small decrease in the number of immigrants imported, the number being 50,997 against 53,519. Of the 50,997 immigrants, no less than 50,376 were imported into the Assam Valley - These figures show that the industry though depressed is by no means moribund, and from the proceedings of a conference held by the Assam Government with the representatives of the tea industry at Shillong on 25-9-1931 it would appear that the number of immigrants actually imported was much larger than the representatives of the Tea Districts Labour Association anticipated at that conference. The general view expressed at the conference was that it would not be practicable to transfer on any scale surplus labour from the Surma Valley to the Assam Valley. Government put forward this suggestion as a means of reducing recruiting charges for Assam Valley estates

and of finding employment for labourers on Surma Valley estates who might have to be discharged on account of want of funds.

Owing to the slump there was an all-round decrease in the cash earnings of labourers. In the Assam Valley the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs.14-0-11 to Rs.12-8-5, Rs.10-12-7 to Rs.9-8-7 and Rs.7-4-7 to Rs.6-15-8, while in the Surma Valley the average wages fell from Rs.9-3-2 to Rs.7-14-11, Rs.7-10-5 to Rs.6-1-1 and Rs.5-3-6 to Rs.4-9-1 respectively. In the Assam Valley, the decrease in average wages is ascribed to enforcement of finer plucking to counteract low prices and to reduce opportunities of earning ticca or additional pay for work over and above the standard task. It is observed that fortunately the decrease in earnings was counterbalanced by a decrease in the price of foodstuffs and other necessities. The Commissioners of both the Valleys express the view that even if there has been a slight deterioration in the standard of living of garden labourers owing to the stoppage of ticca work, this standard is in no way inferior to that of the neighbouring villagers.

Whitley Recommendations. - The Report of the Royal Commission on Labour was published during the year under review. A senior officer was deputed by this Government to enquire into and report on industrial conditions on plantations in Ceylon with special reference to the wage-fixing machinery. His report has been received and is still under the consideration of Government along with the recommendations of the Commission. The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, was passed in the Central Legislature after the close of the year.

#### Conditions in Assam Valley.

Recruitment & Labour Strength. - The total number of immigrants

imported during the year was 50,376 against 51,525 in the previous year showing a decrease of 1,149. The decrease is due to prevailing conditions.

At the close of the year the garden population was, 754,622 against 743,014 in the previous year. It is to be noted that in spite of short recruitment, of free permission given to labourers to leave the gardens and settle outside, there was an increase of garden population by 11,608 over that of the last year. This was mainly because their earnings being reduced, labourers preferred to stay in the gardens rather than settle on Government waste lands as they used to do in previous years.

The total strength of the adult labour force during 1931-32 was 435,877 (241,573 men, 194,304 women) as against 434,593 during 1930-31. There was no unusual change in the distribution of coolies over the provinces of origin. The general health of the coolie population, according to the report, continued to be good. The birth-rate was 31.97 against 31.95 and the death-rate was 22.16 against 22.59 in the previous year. The coolies are reported to be generally well off. There was no serious epidemic among the coolies during the year under report. The year was a healthy one.

Wages & Concessions. - The average wages of men, women and children were Rs.12-8-5, Rs.9-8-7 and Rs.6-15-8, respectively, against Rs.14-0-11, Rs.10-12-7 and Rs.7-4-7, respectively, in the previous year. ~~The~~ It is explained that the decrease in average wages is due to enforcement of finer plucking to counteract the low prices prevailing and reduced opportunities of earning ticca or additional pay for work over and above the standard task. This is generally true of all the districts. In addition to cash wages coolies were often supplied with paddy and rice below the market rates. The other concessions which the coolies enjoyed in the shape of free housing, fire-wood, medical attendance or of the benefit of being allowed to cultivate land either free or at a nominal rent, etc., were continuing. Many gardens allowed maternity leave with full or half pay for a period of four to six months. Though there has been a slight decrease in the average wages, the material condition of the labourers and their standard of living were not appreciably affected as the prices of food-stuffs and other necessary articles were also low. Agents and Managers alike were alive to the importance of protecting their labour force from the effects of the depression and in spite of curtailed expenditure budgets, the level of wages on the whole was well maintained. There was a slight deterioration in the standard of living and amenities of life of the labour force due to the stoppage of ticca works but this standard of living of the coolies in this depressed condition of the industry, it is reported, is not in any way inferior to that of the neighbouring villages.

Land held by Coolies & Ex-Coolies. - During the period under review, the Coolies working in the garden held 127,001 acres of land, of which 16,880 acres were held by coolies directly as settlement holders under government, 99,327 acres as tenants of the garden, and 10,794 as tenants of other land holders. During the same period, 320,724 acres were held by ex-garden coolies as settlement holders directly under government and 26,800 acres as sub-tenants.



Relations with Employers. - The relations between the management and the labour force were generally good. According to the report, 11 criminal complaints were filed by coolies against Managers. Of these, eight cases were decided against complaints and only one in favour of the complainant. 2 cases were compromised.

Inspections. - The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 533 against 539 in the previous year. Out of 329 gardens liable to inspection, 305 ~~in the previous year~~ gardens were inspected during the year under report.

#### Conditions in Surma Valley & Hill Divisions.

Recruitment and Strength of Labour Force. - The total labour force, working and non-working, at the close of the year was 317,991 as compared with 322,140 at the end of the year 1930-31. The number imported during the year was 621 against 1,994 in the preceding year. The condition of the tea industry was responsible for the fall. As in the previous year there was no unusual change in the distribution of labour force over the provinces of origin. The adult labour force in the Division during 1931-32 consisted of 182,418 (93,831 men, 88,587 women) as against 186,915 during 1930-31.

Health Conditions. - The death-rate per mille per annum was 21.43 as against 21.21 in the preceding year. The general health of the coolie population, according to the report, continued to be good and there was no serious epidemic during the year under report. The birth-rate was 32.82 against 32.55 in the preceding year. The ratio per mille of deaths to strength among adult labourers according to nationality was 23.88 against 22.11 in the previous year. The death-rate amongst the Assam coolies, as in the previous year, was highest of all (39.58) and that amongst the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar coolies came second (22.56).

Land held by Coolies. - The coolies of the gardens held 54,592 acres of land against 53,464 acres in the previous year. Of the total area, 3460 acres were held as settlement holders under government, 48,161 acres as tenants of the gardens and 2,971 acres as tenants of ~~the~~ other land holders. The average rent realised per acre of land under the gardens was Re. 1-8-4 against Rs. 5-9-9 per acre under land holders.

Relations with Employers. - Including the one case pending from the preceding year, seven miscellaneous cases were instituted against managers by coolies. 5 of these cases were decided in favour of complainants and the remaining 2 were compromised or withdrawn. In Cachar there were two cases of disturbances, and in Sylhet there were four cases.

(The conditions of immigrant labour in Assam during 1929-30 are reviewed at pages 7-10 of our November 1930 report, those during 1930-31 at pages 10-13 of our December 1931 report).

*Employment of*  
Prohibition of Women Underground in Mines.

Reference was made at pages 28-30 of our August 1932 report to a meeting of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 20-7-32 to consider the question of prohibition of employment of women underground in mines, in the course of which a large number of the persons present at the meeting favoured immediate total exclusion. In the course of a letter addressed by the Government of India to the Government of Bihar and Orissa sometime back on the above subject, it <sup>was</sup> stated that it had been represented to them that women, other than the wives or dependents of miners, now rarely worked underground, that the dwindling percentage of women allowed to work underground in exempted mines made it necessary to discriminate between the wives of the several miners and that the necessity for ~~the total prohibition~~ discrimination gave rise to great difficulties. In these circumstances it had been suggested by the Government that the total prohibition of the employment of women underground from some date in the near future, e.g., 1st July 1933, might be welcomed by the industry.

The Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, consulted members of the Association with reference to the above proposal and the majority of those interested in Collieries in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, who have replied, are in favour of the prohibition of the employment of women underground in mines at the earliest possible date. One member makes the reservation, however, that such prohibition should also apply to coal quarries; whilst another member suggests that the restriction should apply from January <sup>1933</sup> instead of July. <sup>1933</sup> It is pointed out that to remove women at the beginning of the rainy season, when labour is already scarce, will hit output

severely at a time when raisings are at their lowest. If, however, women are removed during the good labour season, it will permit of easier adjustment at the collieries.

Whilst, the majority of members are in favour of female labour being withdrawn <sup>role in</sup> from underground workings, a not inconsiderable minority is of opinion that the regulations now in force have operated satisfactorily both to employers and to the workers and <sup>that</sup> in view of the present economic position of the workers, it would be inadvisable to prohibit the employment of women underground in the near future. A suggestion has been made, however, that the present rate of withdrawal should be accelerated and that the employment of women should cease altogether as from 1st July 1937 instead of 1st July 1939.

✓ Proposed Restriction on the Loads of Women  
in Quarries and Open Workings.

In the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India it was recommended that permissible loads for women should be prescribed in quarries and open workings where the depth and lead exceeded a certain standard and that both the load and the standard of depth and lead should be fixed by Mining Boards. The Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, in the course of a letter to <sup>the</sup> Government on the subject, stated that some difficulty would be experienced in ensuring that the permissible maximum loads were strictly adhered to and that, therefore, they did not think it would be practicable or desirable to give effect to the recommendations of the Labour Commission. In support of this view ~~it~~ it was stated that the capacity of a woman to carry a load varied greatly with her physique and age and there was a danger that a maximum limit might be taken advantage of to force a standard load on a weak woman; and to limit the load to suit the smaller and weaker woman would not be

fair to the stronger and more robust worker. Owing to the varying specific gravity or density of the material handled, the Committee did not think that a standard basket could be used. From experience it had been found that the worker usually varied the ~~x~~ load to suit her own strength and desires: she also regulated her load in accordance with the circumstances affecting the lead and grade of paths and if there was one way easier than another she would be sure to find it out. Any attempt to fix a depth of quarry or length of lead beyond which a restricted size of basket should be used, would, owing to the continually changing conditions in a quarry, lead to many complications and difficulties. As an alternative to the fixing of maximum loads, the Committee were of opinion that it would be more practicable to require the footpaths along which loads had to be carried, to be constructed so as to give a secure foothold and be graded at a reasonable slope. The Committee also suggested that it might be practicable to restrict the length of the lead to not more than 500 feet and that where the gradient of the path exceeded 1 in 3, horizontal steps not less than 2 feet long and a reasonable width and not more than 6 inches apart vertically should be constructed in the path. It was also stated that the Committee were strongly in favour of the complete withdrawal of women from quarries, both coal and stone, at the same rate as they were being withdrawn from underground workings in coal mines and in this connection it was pointed out that work in quarries during the hot weather was far more strenuous than work underground in mines.

✓ Payment of Wages in Mines on ~~the~~ Rest Days

In the report of the Royal Commission on Labour it was recommended that payment of wages in mines should be made on a working day, preferably Saturday, (Recommendation No.94, Vide page 501 of the Whitley Report). The Commission suggested that the matter might be left to the initiative of the management of mines, but that if after a reasonable time payment on a rest day had not been discontinued, Government should take steps to prohibit the practice. The Government of India have addressed a letter to the Government of Bihar and Orissa requesting the latter to elicit the views of industrial interests concerned in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa on the above recommendation.

It is stated in the letter that the Government of India agree generally with the views of the Labour Commission and regard as unsatisfactory a practice which compels workers in mines to spend a considerable portion of their weekly rest day in waiting for their wages. It is common practice for workers who have a long way to come from their homes to the mines to find the whole of Sunday occupied in the business of receiving their wages and therefore to absent themselves from work on the following Monday. As recommended by the Labour Commission, the Government of India are willing to leave the matter in the first instance to the initiative of mine managements. They propose to review the matter <sup>in</sup> ~~next~~ <sup>1933</sup> March and if ~~they~~ find that there has been little or no progress in the direction advocated by the Labour Commission, they will examine the desirability of proceeding to legislation.

Variations in <sup>Size of</sup> Tubs used in Coal Mines.

One of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission regarding conditions of labour in mines was that Mining Boards should examine the question of securing greater uniformity in size of tubs used in coal mines and of ensuring that remuneration bears a closer relation to output and that the possibility of check-weighing in larger mines should be explored (vide Recommendation No.96, page 501, of the Whitley Report). The Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, in the course of a letter to the Government giving its views on giving effect to the above recommendation, states that the Labour Commission lacked a knowledge of the psychology of the Indian miner when recommending a standard size tub and a standard output per person. The Indian miner was not so simple as to be deceived by a difference in <sup>the</sup> size of ~~a~~ tubs, and if a larger tub than the average had to be loaded, he would demand an increase in wages which was very often more than the due proportion. The Committee did not think that anything was to be gained by insisting upon the weightment of tubs. Indeed, if payment was made by weight the miner would find greater difficulty in checking the wage due to him. Where weighbridges had been introduced, the Committee understood that they were used only as an occasional check and that wages were always calculated according to the number of tubs even at collieries where weighbridges were installed. The Indian miner, it is remarked, is quite capable of looking after himself and the Association is of opinion that the introduction of a "check-weigher" would lead to endless trouble amongst the miners themselves. It was finally urged that the practice of payment per tub load should be allowed to continue and that the question of the size of tubs should be left to the management of each individual colliery to decide.

Reduction in Hours of Work;Views of Indian Merchants' Chamber, Calcutta.

At pages 11-15 of our June 1932 report was given a summary of the salient features of the Draft Factories Bill and in the subsequent reports the views expressed by some of the Indian commercial bodies on the reduction of hours of work in industry contemplated in the Bill were given (the Delhi Factoryowners' views, vide pages 11-13, August 1932 report; views of the Bombay Millowners' Association, pages 15-18 October 1932 report; and views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, page 30, November 1932 report). The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, expressed the following views in the course of a letter addressed to the Government of Bengal, on the question of reducing the hours of work in industry from the present 60 hour week to a 54 hour week which is one of the most important changes contemplated in the Bill.

The Committee of the Chamber states in the letter that the Chamber is deeply concerned with the conditions of work of labour in India, but in ~~that~~ view of the unsettled ~~state of~~ state of affairs in the field of industry and trade in India, particularly because of the new tariff arrangements, it is of opinion that no measure should be undertaken which may adversely affect the progress of Indian industries. It is emphasised that all economic legislation should be directed first to ensure the survival and development of indigenous industries, and, according to the letter, provided this is assured the Committee would be prepared to provide for labour as much favourable conditions of work and living as possible. With these observations the committee think that the present time is not opportune for measures affecting the working hours of mills.

✓ Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act  
in the U. P. 1931\*

According to the Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the United Provinces during 1931, the Act on the whole worked smoothly in the province during the year and no particular difficulty is reported to have been experienced by the Commissioners in its working. So far as regulated factories were concerned, the daily average number of persons employed in them increased from 92,161 to 93,223.

During the year under report there were 66 fatal accidents, 65 permanent disablements and 845 temporary disablements, in respect of which compensation was paid, as against 86, 59 and 962 accidents, respectively under the above categories during 1930. Rs. 40,281 were paid in respect of fatal accidents, Rs. 18,187 in respect of permanent disablements and Rs. 8,378 in respect of temporary disablements, as against Rs. 53,031, Rs. 19,149 and Rs. 7,760 for the above kinds of accidents, respectively, in 1930. It will be seen that as in the case of regulated factories the total number of accidents has decreased and the number of deaths has also gone down but there is a small increase in the number of permanent disablements. The average amount of compensation paid for temporary disablements increased appreciably. The greater part of the compensation paid is, however, for fatal accidents.

Railways were responsible for the greater number of accidents and accounted for 731 cases of temporary and 43 of permanent disablement, and for 35 deaths. Considering that they employed less than

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\* Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) in the United Provinces for the calendar year 1931. - Allahabad: The Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1932 - pp.9 - price, 8 annas.



15,000 persons as against nearly 25,000 employed elsewhere, it would appear that service on railways is distinctly more hazardous than in ordinary factories. On the other hand, the amount of compensation paid by them for death and permanent disablement is on an average Rs.386 as against Rs.462 in other cases.

On a comparison of the figures regarding the extent to which references are made to Commissioners in ~~the~~ case of accidents, it is seen that almost all fatal accidents were referred to Commissioners, while very few cases of temporary disablement went up to them; and that in spite of the fact that the average amounts paid under the orders of Commissioners for these classes of accidents were Rs.576 and Rs.112 respectively, as against Rs.1,133 and Rs.9, respectively, paid without reference to them. The amounts disbursed in the latter cases seem to be somewhat high for fatal accidents and very low for temporary disablements. For permanent disablements the Commissioners awarded Rs.395 on an average as against Rs.168 paid ~~direct~~ in other cases.

As regards the disposal of cases by Commissioners, the year opened with 22 pending cases. During the year only 69 cases were filed as against 113 in the previous year. In addition, 27 cases were received from other provinces, while 4 cases were transferred; 104 cases were disposed of, 99 of them being uncontested; 52 being admitted, 44 allowed ex parte, 2 dismissed and one withdrawn. Of the 5 contested cases, 2 were allowed and 3 dismissed. The year closed with only 10 pending cases. As usual, almost all the cases were concerned with the apportionment of compensation; as there were fewer cases, only Rs.49,500 were paid during the year as against Rs.67,500 in 1930.

A special feature of the year, according to the report, is that 38 agreements for payment of compensation for permanent disablements were registered as against 19 in the previous year. Cawnpore was responsible for this abnormal increase where alone 21 agreements were registered.

By far the larger number of persons, to whom compensation was awarded, drew Rs.25 per mensem or less as wages. Thus, of the 62 fatal accidents for which compensation was awarded by the Commissioners, 48 belonged to this wage class; similarly, 23 out of 32 persons permanently disabled drew Rs.25 or less as wages, while 9 out of 10 cases of temporary disablement were found among the same class. There was no case of occupational disease during the year.

✓ Conditions of Mining Labour in Kolar Gold Mines, 1931-32.

The following information regarding conditions of work in the Kolar Gold Mines in Mysore is taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1931-32.

Labour Strength in Mysore Mines. - The total number of persons employed in the mining industry in 1931 was 19,109 as against 18,935 in the previous year. Of the ~~18,935~~ 18,398 persons employed in Gold Mining, 341 were Europeans, 400 Anglo-Indians and 17,647 Indians. As many as 9,954 persons are being employed below ground and 8,434 on surface.

Fatal Accidents in Gold Mines. - The death rate in the Gold Mines in the year 1931 was 7.12 per 1000, as against 2.31 per 1000 in 1930, the abnormally high rate being reported to be due to the disastrous fire accident in the Nundydroog Mine to which reference was made at page 33 of our May 1931 report. Out of 35 fatal accidents, 15 were due to rockbursts resulting in the death of 59 persons. It is reported that in spite of precautions taken, the accidents continue to occur followed by heavy casualties.

The Government, therefore, felt it necessary to make a thorough

investigation into the causes of rockbursts and have accordingly approved of a special committee being constituted to go into the question for suitable measures being adopted for their prevention. The report of the committee is awaited.

Statistics of Compensation. - During the year under review 143 claims for compensation were settled by the Mining Companies and the compensation awarded in fatal cases and cases of permanent total disablement and permanent partial disablement amounted to Rs. ~~117,984~~ Rs. 117,984-8-0 as against Rs. 88,441-15-0 during the previous year. Besides the above, compensation amounting to Rs. 13,360-1-0 was paid in cases of temporary disablement.

Relations between Employers and Workers. - The relationship between the employer and the employee is reported to be satisfactory. The report of the Special Officer appointed by the Government to report on the economic and social conditions of workers in the Gold Fields (vide pages 17-18 of our December 1931 report for a summary of the report) was considered by the Mine management and many of the recommendations were given effect to. The report expresses satisfaction to note the action taken by the Mining companies for the welfare of the labourers by introducing various measures for the amelioration of their condition.

Ventilation. - The question of providing adequate ventilation in deep mines which is a very difficult problem is reported to be engaging the attention of the management.

✓ Recruitment of Labour for Assam:

Labour Board's Report, 1931-32\*.

The following information regarding the recruitment of Indian labour for Assam during 1931-32 is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board for the year ending 30-6-1932:—

Local Agencies. - At the close of the year, 35 local agencies were at work, distributed as follows: Bengal - 2, Bihar and Orissa - 14, United Provinces - 4, Central Provinces - 9 and Madras - 6. During the year two local agencies of the Tea Districts Labour Association were opened and six local agencies were closed.

\* Annual Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending the 30th June 1932 - Resolution No. L-1723 dated New Delhi, the 8th December 1932 of the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India. - pp.9.

Recruitment. - The total number of persons recruited during the past season was 49,857 as against 50,555 in the previous year, and the number of garden sardars at work was 22,934 as against 32,544 in the previous year. Of the total number recruited, 22,789 came from the Ranchi area, 10,316 from Sambalpur and the surrounding States and 4,778 from Koraput. The average number of recruits per sardar was 2.17 as against 1.55 in the previous year. The increase in the average number of recruits obtained by sardars testifies to the growing popularity of Assam amongst the labouring classes. The supply of labour is reported to have been plentiful during the year under report. A comparison with last years figures shows that the average of advances to sardars for each adult recruit has fallen in 25 and risen in 3 agencies. On the whole there has been a marked fall in the scale of recruiting advances paid. No cases are reported to have occurred in which local agents have been found to be extravagant or indiscreet in the matter of giving advances to garden sardars.

The recruiting prospects for next year are not encouraging owing to the slump in Tea.

Experimental Free Recruitment in C.P. - Mention was made at pages 14-15 of our report for December 1931 that the Central Provinces Government had withdrawn the notification under Section 3 for a period of one year with effect from the 15th May 1931 in order to afford greater freedom to the movement of labour from the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor and Damoh of the Jubbulpore Division. The experiment having proved successful, the concession was extended for a further period of one year with effect from the 15th May 1932. During the year 193 sardars assisted by 64 recruiters recruited 250 persons, i.e., an average of 1.3 for each sardar. It will be observed that the average success of unassisted sardars was 1.8, whereas that for assisted sardars was 1.3.

It was also stated in our last year's December report that the question of the introduction of free recruitment in Bengal and Madras was under consideration with the Governments of those Provinces. The Government of Madras subsequently decided not to introduce any scheme of free recruitment in view of the prospects of legislation being undertaken by the Government of India to remedy the present system. The proposal to introduce free recruitment in Bengal has been dropped for the same reason.

Illegal Recruitment. - The total number of garden sardars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment was 32 as compared with 69 in the previous year. 11 garden sardars were returned to their gardens without prosecution on account of minor irregularities, as against 23 in the previous year.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30-6-1930 is reviewed at pages 26-27 of our December 1930 report and that for period ending 30-6-1931 at pages 14-15 of our December 1931 report.).

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Factory Administration in India, 1931\*

The following information regarding Factory Administration in India during 1931 is taken from the Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act for the year ending 31-12-1931 published by the Government of India together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year.

Changes in the Law. - The only alteration in the Indian Factories Act made during the year was the amendment, by Act XIII of 1931, of Section 37 in such a manner as to enable local Governments to make rules providing for precautions against fire in factories. The report of the Royal Commission on Labour was published in July 1931 and contained a number of recommendations relating to the amendment of the Act and its administration. The proposals for amendment have been embodied in a provisional draft Bill which is under the consideration of local Governments, industrial organizations and the public generally.

Number of Factories. - The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour included one for the separation of statistics relating to seasonal factories from those relating to perennial factories. This recommendation has been adopted and the statistics now published show for the first time separate particulars for these two classes of factories. They bring out, in consequence, important features illustrating the differences between seasonal and perennial factories. For the purpose of these statistics, all cotton ginning factories, jute presses, tea, coffee, indigo, and rubber factories are treated as seasonal. In addition the seasonal list also includes any group of factories dealing with agricultural products in the raw state if the majority of factories in ~~dealing with agricultural products in the raw state if the~~ that group are normally closed on more than half the days in the year. The statistics show that more than half the total number of factories are seasonal but that the operatives in seasonal factories constitute only a fifth of the total number of operatives.

The total number of registered factories was 9,206 and the number  
 \* Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1931 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 1932 - Price Rs. 1-8 or 2s.6d. - pp37

actually working, including 173 notified under Section 2(3)(b) of the Act, was 8,143 of which ,3,737 were perennial and 4,406 seasonal. The number of new factories registered was 380 and the number struck off the registers 286, giving a net increase of 94. The number of factories actually working was 5 less in 1931 than in 1930, and the number of factories on the registers which closed down in 1931 was 185 more than in 1930. In spite of the continued depression in industry there was no severe setback, but the pace of new enterprise has slowed down and more factories on the margin of profitable working were closed. The most noteworthy increase in new establishments was in the United Provinces where the number of working sugar factories rose from 26 in 1930 to 61. Five new cotton mills commenced operations in Ahmedabad, and four new hosiery factories were established in the Punjab. Bengal registered 30 new concerns, principally in the engineering trade, and the Central Provinces 22, most of which were ginning factories and rice mills. On the other hand, a number of small factories in which the number of operatives fell below 20 as a result of general trade depression were removed from the registers in various provinces.

Classification of Factories. - Out of the 8,143 factories which were actually working during 1931, 352 were owned by Government or Local Funds, 472 were textile factories, 614 engineering concerns, 120 minerals and metal works, 944 food, drink and tobacco factories of which 1,445 were rice mills, 389 concerns dealing with chemicals, dyes etc., of which 198 were oil mills, 368 paper and printing factories, 363 wood, stone and glass factories of which 171 were saw mills, 959 tea factories and 2,093 cotton ginning and baling factories. Bombay Presidency had, as usual, the largest number of factories - 1,541, followed by Bengal with 1,471, Madras with 1,470, Burma with 947, the Central Provinces and Berar with 734, Assam with 622, the Punjab with 506, the United Provinces with 424 and Bihar and Orissa with 280. Industrial activity in other provinces was, as in previous years, very slow.

Strength of Factory Population. - The severe industrial depression which continued during the year was reflected in a large decrease in the factory population. The average number of operatives employed was 1,431,487, a decrease of 96,815 on the preceding year. The decrease, as compared with 1929 when the total was the highest ever

recorded in India, was 1,21,901 and was distributed over all the provinces except the United Provinces, Delhi, Baluchistan, Bangalore, and Coorg. The effect of the depression was most marked in the jute mill industry of Bengal, which recorded a decrease of 59,888 operatives or 18.2 per cent. since 1930. The average number employed in this industry in India during 1931 was 2,76,530, the lowest figure recorded since 1920. On the other hand, the figures for the cotton textile industry are in striking contrast, for the average number employed was 3,82,525, a figure substantially in excess of all previous records for this industry. Practically every province showed an increase in the number of operatives, the biggest increase being in the Bombay Presidency. Here the increase was mainly due to the increased prevalence of night shifts which helped to absorb labour thrown out of employment in other local industries.

Distribution by Provinces. - The distribution of factory workers by provinces was as follows: Madras, 137,377; Bombay, 381,349; Bengal, 480,439; the United Provinces, 93,223; the Punjab, 44,729; Burma, 90,812; Bihar and Orissa, 63,959; the Central Provinces & Berar, 64,386; Assam, 43,386; North-West-Frontier Province, 1,090; Baluchistan, 1,731; Ajmer-Merwara, 13,791; Delhi, 12,472 and Bangalore and Coorg, 2,743.

Distribution by Industries. - (1) Government and Local Fund Factories - 130,081 (railway workshops, 65,872; Ordnance factories, 18,352; printing presses, 13,254; engineering (general), 9,086); (2) Textile factories - 666,434 (cotton spinning, weaving and other cotton factories, 381,205, jute mills, 276,530); (3) Engineering - 128,050 (railway workshops, 53,251; general engineering, 29,934; ship building and engineering, 15,797); (4) Minerals & Metals - 47,781 (iron and steel smelting and steel rolling mills, 26,892; petroleum refineries, 11,286); (5) Food, Drink and Tobacco - 178,274 (rice mills, 72,265; tea, 55,937; sugar, 18,380); (6) Chemicals, Dyes, etc. - 47,368 (matches, 15,268; oil mills, 11,445); (7) Paper and Printing - 30,121 (printing, book-binding etc., 23,543; paper mills, 5,674); (8) Wood, stone and glass - 33,906 (saw mills, 13,719; bricks and tiles, 7,795; cement, lime and potteries, 5,142); (9) Skins and Hides - 5,028; (10) Gins and Presses - 156,445 (cotton ginning and baling, 126,696; jute presses, 29,735); and (11) Miscellaneous - 7,999 (rope and rope works, 3,217).

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

Women & Children in Factories. - With the general fall in the strength of factory population, there was also a fall in the number of women & children employed in factories. During the year under review, the number of women and children were 231,183 and 26,932 as against 254,905 and 37,972 respectively during 1930, thereby representing a fall of 9% in the case of women and 29 per cent in the case of children. The percentage of women and children to the total factory population was 16.2 and 1.9 respectively as against 16.7 and 2.5 in 1930. Despite increased activity in the textile mills in Bombay there was a tendency to curtail female labour, and elsewhere as well factory managers showed a preference for adult male labour when it was available ~~at~~ at only slightly higher rates. The slump in cotton ginning and pressing was one of the main causes of the reduced demand for female labour. Madras was the only province where more child labour (+127) was employed. But nearly all the decrease in the number of children is accounted for by a reduction of over 8,000 in the number of children employed in the jute mills of Bengal; child labour is now employed in only 21 of these mills out of 93. This reduction was due only in part to bad trade conditions and to the change over by the mills to the single shift system of work - ing and is ascribed mainly to the continuance of the policy of substituting adult labour, which is regarded as being both more economical and less troublesome. In 1925 the jute mills employed 26,474 children as against 3,462 in the year under report.

Hours of Work. - Out of every 100 perennial factories employing men, in 36 the men worked 48 hours or less per week, in 17 they worked for more than 48 but less than 54 hours a week and in 47, more than 54 hours but less than 60 hours per week. For men employed in every 100 seasonal factories, the figures were 23, 8 and 69 in the same order. Out of every 100 perennial factories employing women, in 38, the working hours were not above 48 hours per week, in 20 the hours were between 48 and 54 per week and in 42, between 54 and 60 per week. For every 100 seasonal factories employing women, the figures were 31, 8 and 61 in the same order. The percentages of factories which fixed their maximum hours for children at not more than 30 per week were 30 (perennial and 48 (seasonal). As compared with 1930 there was a tendency to shorten weekly hours, particularly for women in perennial factories and children in seasonal factories. The figures given above bring out the contrast



between seasonal and perennial factories in the matter of hours and show that in the majority of perennial factories neither men nor women now work on an average more than 54 hours weekly.

The Punjab and Central Provinces reports made references to the difficulties encountered in the administration of legal hours of work in the seasonal factories. The question of regulating the hours of contract labour in the Bengal jute-pressing factories was considered during the year under report as in previous years. Similar labour is employed in the ship-building and engineering industry in the province, The Factory Inspection Department discussed, during the year, the problems relating to this class of labour with associations of employers in the industries concerned, and the matter was, at the close of the year, under the consideration of the Government of Bengal. The abolition of the multiple shift system in the jute mills, a system which placed serious difficulties in the way of the enforcement of the employment provisions of the Act, was commented on with satisfaction in the Bengal report.

Wages. - An all round decrease in the earnings of factory workers is reported from most areas, the decrease being more marked in the case of unskilled labour.

Accident Statistics. - The numbers of recorded accidents were 174 fatal, 3,693 serious and 15,940 minor, the figures for the preceding year being 240, 4,115 and 17,429 respectively. The figures show, for the first time since 1922, a fall in the number of accidents recorded. Part of the fall corresponds to the reduction in the factory population; but it is noteworthy that the decrease is more than proportionate to the decrease in the number of operatives employed, so that the incidence of recorded accidents shows a decrease for the first time for many years. The reduction in the incidence is probably due, to a considerable extent, to the industrial depression. The number of openings for new recruits to industry has been greatly reduced and in consequence there has been a rise in the proportion of operatives familiar with machinery and alive to the risks of industry generally. It is remarked that, while the decrease in the number of accidents is a real one, the increase which has been a feature of the last decade, was due mainly to better recording rather than to any real increase in the number of accidents. A feature of the year was the substantial decline in the number of fatalities,

the total recorded being lower than that in any year since 1918 (when the total number of operatives was about 300,000 less than in the year under review). As usual, a large proportion of the accidents were due to machinery and mechanical appliances and the Railway workshops accounted for a considerable number of minor accidents.

Housing & Welfare Work. - In spite of the prolonged industrial depression, according to the report, there has been some advance in housing schemes in a few centres. The Cawnpore Improvement Trust built 64 quarters of different standard patterns and have offered them for sale, on equated payments, to the local mills. In the other districts of the United Provinces 269 additional quarters for workmen have been constructed by employers. Six additional factories in Madras provided housing accommodation for workmen; and in Bengal, while the majority of new housing schemes have been suspended owing to financial stringency, a few mills have carried out substantial improvements in the housing and living conditions of their employees. The housing schemes of the Delhi Cloth Mills and the Birla Mills were further developed and the former concern has opened up a colony within quarter of a mile of the mills. The Birla Mills acquired more land and have built additional quarters for their workmen. The Punjab Portland Cement Works at Wah completed a scheme for housing their employees; the quarters are fitted with electricity, and drainage and ventilation are reported to be good. The workers are reported to be better contented and more efficient, and there is less sickness. No development of outstanding note took place in the Bombay Presidency, but the Ahmedabad Municipality decided to create a Trust Fund for a sanitary housing scheme on the hire purchase system.

In spite of adverse financial conditions, the volume of welfare work was maintained at a steady level in all provinces and has in places expanded. The "visual education service" started by the Bombay mills has been dropped and a monthly magazine has been substituted. The magazine has a circulation of 15,000. The educative work undertaken by the Presidency Baby and Health Week Association, Bombay, developed during the year: 18 health exhibitions were held, and were attended by over 50,000 mill hands and their families. A "week" organized by one of the Jalgaon mills disclosed, during the course of medical examination of infants, the existence of fairly extensive opium drugging. A full time

Secretary has been appointed by Messrs. Bird and Company to organize and manage the welfare work in the jute mills under their managing agency and the firm has also appointed a lady welfare worker in charge of the welfare centre, creche and clinic opened in the Clive Mills during the year. The Indian Jute Mills Association in pursuance of their proposal to establish welfare centres, baby clinics and creches in all mills within its membership, appointed a lady doctor to carry out a survey and draw up a detailed scheme. The Keshoram Cotton Mills have opened a fully equipped and efficiently staffed hospital to which is attached a creche for all employees' children, and welfare propaganda is undertaken by a lady welfare supervisor attached to the institution. Leprosy clinics have been established in several jute mills, and at the Indian Iron and Steel Company's workers at Hirapur extensive arrangements have been made to secure the health and welfare of the operatives. The North-Western Railway extended its welfare programme and established a stadium for its employees at Moghalpura and the Railway Workshops at Perambur and the Golden Rock established welfare committees during the year. The Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act came into force on 1st January 1931 and 16 perennial factories paid maternity benefits amounting to Rs. 9,766 to 498 women.

Convictions Under the Act. - The number of convictions obtained during the year for offences under the Indian Factories Act was 1,016 and the number of persons convicted was 391. Of these, the seasonal factories were responsible for 519 cases and 194 persons convicted. The report remarks that the inadequacy of fines still continued to be a subject of comment in most of the provincial reports.

Inspections. - The total number of inspections during the year was 7,229, the percentage of factories inspected being 89. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 95 and 83 respectively. In Burma, out of 947 factories as many as 378 remained uninspected owing to civil disturbances in the Tharawaddy and other districts. The proportion of seasonal factories which remained uninspected in Assam was high. Every factory in Bihar and Orissa was inspected during the year, and only 16 factories remained uninspected out of 1,541 in Bombay. The work of the Inspection departments of all provinces was efficiently done.

(The Administration of the Factory Act in India is reviewed at the following pages:

For	1927	pages	46-50	of	January 1929 report
"	1928	"	34-37	of	July 1930
"	1929	"	15-19	of	August 1931
"	1930	"	26-34	of	January 1932

✓ Reduction of Hours of Work in Mines;  
Views of Southern India Chamber of Commerce.

Reference was given at pages 14-16 of this report in the section dealing with National Labour Legislation to the proposals of the Government of India to reduce the hours of work in mines and to their calling for views on the subject of the organisations of employers and of labour which are interested in the matter. The Committee of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce considered these proposals at a recent meeting and expressed complete agreement with the proposal to fix a 54-hour week. On the question of reducing 12-hours shift at present obtaining to eight, the Committee expressed the opinion that such a drastic reduction by four hours would be highly inadvisable. It is observed that while it would be unobjectionable to prevent excessive hours, the Government should not take any step that would result in the labourer finding his earnings diminished. Having regard to the statutory prohibition of women-labour in mining and <sup>to</sup> the migratory nature of industrial labour, it would, the Committee believe, benefit the working classes if a higher limit than eight hours ~~should~~<sup>be</sup> fixed.

They agreed with the proposed raising of the minimum age-limit to 14 and the stipulation that mine-managers should report all accidents likely to involve an absence of more than seven days of the injured worker.

✓ Minimum Wages in Ceylon: New Scale of Wages Suggested.

It will be remembered that in March 1931, the minimum wages in Ceylon was reduced by 5, 4 and 3 cents in the <sup>Cases</sup> ~~wages~~ of men, women and children respectively and that the price of rice issued to labourers

was at the same time reduced from Rs. 6.40 per bushel to Rs. 4.8.

In February 1932, a further reduction in minimum wages was effected in low country districts from 45, 36 and 27 cents to 41, 33 and 24 cents *for men, women and children* ~~to a male, female and child~~ respectively with the proviso that these rates <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ to be in force only as long as rice continued to sell at Rs. 4.8 per bushel (vide pages 23-24 of our August 1932 report). Since the price of rubber and tea has continued to be very low, the employers in Ceylon have been making efforts for some time past to persuade the Government to reduce still further the scales of minimum wages now in force (vide pages 31-32 of the report of this Office for November 1932). The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce and the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour have had before them the request made by planting interests that the operation of the Minimum Wages Ordinance should be suspended, while various District Wages Boards have been reducing wages in their respective areas. It is now understood that the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour has recommended the adoption of the following scales of wages for Indian Estate labourers: Low country: men, 33 cents; women, 25 cents; children 20 cents, per day; Mid-Country: men, 36 cents; women, 28 cents; children 21 cents per day; Up-Country: men 41 cents; women, 33 cents and children 25 cents per day. The new scales, it is reported, now await the consideration of His Excellency the Governor.

✓ Safety First in Bombay Mills: Action taken by  
on  
Millowners' Recommendations of Chief Inspector of Factories.

Reference was made at pages 27-30 of the report of this Office for June 1932 to the recommendations <sup>made by</sup> of the Chief Inspector of Factories, to the Millowners' Association, Bombay, advocating the desirability of

setting up special "Safety Committees" charged with the maintenance of safety devices, enquiry into accidents and further development of safety measures in mills and factories. The Committee of the Association referred the proposals to a special sub-committee of the managers and engineers of mills for examination and report. The sub-committee <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ of opinion that it would be possible to assist the objects in view by an examination of the causes of accidents occurring in Mills. The Chief Inspector of Factories accordingly placed a record of accidents in Bombay Mills during the first half of 1932 before the sub-committee and discussed with them the means which might be taken to prevent their recurrence. The record showed that more than half the number of accidents reported during the period was due to cleaning machinery in motion, while a fairly large number of accidents was caused by flying shuttles, belt breakages, etc. It was felt that steps should be taken to warn the worker of the dangers of attending machinery in motion if accidents of this type were to be prevented, as they often arose from the workers' lack of knowledge and his ignorance of "safety first" methods in handling machinery. It was suggested by the Chief Inspector of Factories, in this connection, that a special device, striking enough to draw instant attention, might be painted or stencilled on machines which it was specially dangerous to attempt to clean when in motion. A suitable device for the purpose, it was stated, would be the "Red Triangle" which is part of the crest recently adopted by the "Safety First Association" of India. The Sub-Committee accepted the suggestion and agreed to recommend the Committee to ask Mills to take steps to give effect to it. Mills have, accordingly, been asked to have the "Red Triangle" painted, in the first instance, on the following machinery parts, a list of which was drawn up by the Chief Inspector of Factories:- Drawing Frames; -

Guard over calendar roller wheels; Cards:- (a) Front Plate; (b) Licker-in Cover; and (c) Back Panel Door; <sup>Ring</sup>~~Ring~~ Frames:- Guard over roller and draft change gearing. It is understood that the Chief Inspector of Factories has undertaken to report on the progress made by Mills in the matter and to assist and advise the management generally on the subject.

✓ Retrenchment in Railways during 1931: Government Figures.

In reply to a question asked in the Legislative Assembly ~~by~~ on 12-12-32 by Mr. Goswami M.R.Puri, Mr. P.R.Rau, the Financial Commissioner of Railways, stated that during the economy campaign in 1931 about 40,000 subordinate employees of all sorts, including labourers in workshops and ~~a~~ in permanent-way gangs, were discharged <sup>from</sup> on all State-owned railways. As regards superior officers, on State-managed railways alone about 134 posts had been abolished or held in abeyance and up to date about 47 officers had been discharged on account of retrenchment and many officiating officers reverted to their substantive subordinate posts. Government had no recent information about the number of officers retrenched on Company-managed railways, or final figures as regards the number of inspectors retrenched on any railway. It was stated that full information was being collected.

M. & S. M. Railway Strike.

Reference was made at pages 29-30 of our October 1932 report and at pages 33-34 of the November 1932 report to the strike declared by the M.& S.M.Railwaymen's Union on 21-10-1932. The strike continued

in November and on the 6th December, prominent citizens of Madras City issued an appeal to both parties to the dispute to explore the possibilities of an early settlement. Since there was no change in the attitude of the management, ~~Mr.~~ Mr. V.V.Giri sent a letter to the Administration on 10-12-32 giving notice of a general strike to be declared by the end of December. The points under dispute, awaiting settlement, stated briefly, are as follow:- (1) The reinstatement of the 93 men compulsorily discharged last year owing to retrenchment. (2) The stoppage of or curtailment of short-time ~~work~~ especially as the result of arrears of work accumulated in the shops owing to the strike. (3) No victimisation.

As the result of the strenuous effort made by a small committee of European and Indian citizens of Madras city which began its work on 18-12-32, a provisional agreement was reached on 22-12-32. The following are the salient features of the agreement:

(1) It is agreed that now and in future the Administration alone is to decide whether there is surplus of labour and how great it is; further, that there will be no opposition to discharges in August 1933 if these are found to be necessary and a considerable surplus still remains. (2) The Administration, on its side, assures its employees that the surplus declared was not, and will not be, larger than is absolutely necessary, taking into account the work in view and the money available. (3) The request for the immediate reinstatement of the men discharged on retrenchment last year is withdrawn. The position now accepted is that these men are on the Waiting List, and will be offered employment as soon as there are any suitable vacancies on a "no short time" basis. This does not mean that they must necessarily wait till the whole of the surplus has disappeared from the Perambur Workshop. It means that no man will be taken from outside to fill a vacancy which could be filled by a man on the Waiting List. (4) As regards the demand that there shall be no short time at all for 12 months, this is not agreed to. There will naturally be considerably less short time, but the details must be left to the Chief Mechanical Engineer. The Administration has already given an assurance that the short time, if any, will not be greater than is necessary. (5) It is understood that there is to be no pay for days absent from duty without permission, the strike period being considered as dies non. The provident fund, gratuity, and other privileges of strikers will not be affected except to the extent that the days of absence from duty without permission will be treated as dies non. (6) The pay of certain clerks was withheld as not being due on the ground that they had broken their agreements by going on strike. The arrears will be paid if the clerks resume work. (7) There is to be no victimisation.



On these terms being communicated to Messrs. V.V.Giri and Jamnadas Mehta, they recommended to the ~~General~~ Central Executive Committee of the Union to call off the strike and the strike was accordingly called off on 24-12-32. However, when the workers went to resume work, it was found that 63 strikers at Arkonam workshops and about 30 at Hubli workshops were not allowed to return to work by the railway authorities, as their places were filled up during the strike period. The Union leaders held that those dismissals amounted to victimisation and that such action went against the agreement of 22-12-32. They, therefore, decided to resume the strike and continue it till these workers are allowed to return to work and have informed the citizens' committee and the Central Executive Committee of the Union accordingly. The strike is progressing.

✓ Industrial Organisations.

Employers' Organisations.

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers:

A New Organisation Formed.

Mr. Walchand Hirachand, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Employers' Delegate to the 15th I.L. Conference, <sup>has</sup> issued a statement on 12-12-1932 announcing the establishment of a central organisation of industrial employers in India called the "All India Organisation of Industrial Employers". Following is a <sup>description</sup> ~~reproduction~~ of the Organisation as set out in Mr. Walchand Hirachand's statement.

~~In~~ As India is an original member of the League of Nations, as also of the International Labour Office, and as a number of questions dealing with industrial labour were being discussed and decided upon at the various sessions of the International Labour Conference held from year to year, it was felt very essential to organize a central body for industrial employers in this country with a view to enable them to take greater interest in these deliberations at Geneva. The ground for the establishment of such an organization was prepared during the course of the last five years by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as the Federation is precluded under its constitution from counting amongst its membership individual industrial concerns and as it was mainly a body comprising of provincial chambers and commercial associations.

The new organization launches on its career with a number of influential industrial concerns as members representing various industries such as cotton and jute textiles, salt, sugar, iron and steel, shipping, match manufacturing, constructional engineering, tanning, cement, oil extracting, soap manufacture, drugs and chemicals, coal mining, glass, metal manufacturing and milling industries. During the course of a week, the organization has been able to secure the membership of industrial employers - both individual and joint stock companies - employing about 150,000 labourers engaged in various industrial concerns in India, and the organizers expect in the near future to enrol members employing a quarter million labourers in industrial concerns.

The management of the organization is entrusted to a provisional committee consisting of Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. G.D. Birla, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. A.L. Ojha, Mr. M. Jamal Mahomed Sahib, M.L.A., Mr. Jadu Nath Roy, Mr. Adamji Haji Dawood, Lala Padampat Singhani, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das, C.I.E., and Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai, with Mr. Walchand Hirachand as the chairman and Mr. D.G. Mulherkar as the secretary.

The organization will, for the present, interest itself with the work of the International Labour Conference and is expected to help the various industries with regard to problems relating to industrial labour. The office of the organization is at present located at Bombay at Ballard Estate.

Economic Conditions.Progress of Cotton Mill Industry in India, 1931-32.

Much valuable information regarding the progress of cotton mill industry is contained in the annual mill statement for the year ended 31-8-1932, issued by the Bombay Millowners' Association from which the following information has been taken. The statement includes the growth and development of the mill industry over the whole of British India and the native states.

Mills Projected during the Year. - According to the statement, one striking feature of the year is the increase in the number of projected mills in the Bengal Presidency. During the year under review, 20 mills have been projected as against 4 for last year. It has, however, to be remarked that it is improbable that all these mills will actually work in the near future, for, only one out of the 4 projected mills in last year's statement, for example, has been transferred to the list of working mills during the year under review.

In The Bombay Presidency, the number of mills in course of erection is considerably less - 8 against 15 last year. The reduction is due to the inclusion of 4 mills which were in course of erection last year in the list of working mills this year. In other parts of India, there has been very little change in the number of mills projected or in course of erection. Of the 340 equipped mills in the whole of India, 317 worked either the whole or a portion of the year, and 23 were completely idle. Of these idle mills, 9 were located in Bombay City and Island, 2 in Ahmedabad, 6 in other parts of Bombay Presidency, and 6 outside Bombay Presidency.

Capital Invested. - The total paid-up capital of the

industry was Rs. 403.2 millions as compared with Rs. 402 million last year. This total does not include the capital of mills projected or in course of erection, or the capital of 43 mills which submitted no figures as to their share capital.

Increase in Spindles and Looms. - During the year, the number of spindles in the equipped mills in India increased by about 200,000 and the number of looms increased by about 4,000. In Bombay City and Island, the increase in spindleage and loomage was negligible, In Ahmedabad, there was an increase during the period of about 90,000 spindles and 2,500 looms, and in the rest of the Bombay Presidency, there was an increase of 50,000 spindles and 600 looms. In the Bengal Presidency, there was an increase of 7,000 spindles and 400 looms, and in other parts of the country, the increase in spindleage and loomage was relatively small.

Activity during the Year. - The total number of spindles in the 340 equipped mills in India amounted to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  millions, of which on the average 8.3 millions were working daily. The total number of looms in the country amounted to 186,000, of which on the average about 161,000 were working daily. In Bombay City and Island (excluding figures relating to night shift), spindle and loom activity during the year was relatively poor. Of the 3.4 million spindles erected, only just over 2.7 millions were working daily; of the 77,000 looms erected, an average of only 62,000 worked daily. In Ahmedabad spindles and loom activity was proportionately greater than in Bombay. Out of 1.8 million spindles erected, 1.7 millions worked daily, and out of 43,000 looms erected, nearly 40,000 worked daily. Despite an increase in the average count of yarn spun in Indian mills during the year, mills consumed nearly 300,000 bales of cotton more than <sup>the</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> year. Consumption

of cotton during the year amounted to 2.91 million bales ( of 392 pounds each). This figure easily constitutes a record. The average number of work-people employed daily in the cotton mills of the country during the year amounted to 400,000, which figure is exclusive of the number of employed during the night shift.

✓ Bengal Survey of Industry & Education:  
Bengal Chamber of Commerce's Recommendation.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has recently addressed a letter to the Bengal Government on the economic and educational conditions in the Province and suggesting remedies for improving them. The following is a summary of the points made out and suggestions for improving the present conditions as set out in the letter.

The Present Economic Situation. - The letter points out that since the 1919 Reforms, political expedience has too often usurped, in the Government of India, the place more rightfully claimed by economic considerations, so that Bengal, which had led the van of progress before 1919, has been in danger of losing her place, since then, and while other provinces have benefited, Bengal has paid heavily for the advantage of others. The policy of high protective tariffs, pursued by the Government of India during recent years, and loudly proclaimed in certain quarters as in the interests of India, has in the main meant for Bengal only increased taxation and a higher cost of living for all classes. In the Memorial on the recommendations of the Federal Finance Committee recently submitted to the Secretary of State by all the leading Associations and public bodies of the Province, figures were quoted to show the large share of central revenues contributed by Bengal and the heavy incidence of taxation in the Province. The Committee is of opinion that it is something more than a coincidence that Bengal's economic decline vis-a-vis other provinces dates from the inequitable financial settlement that is the main cause of Bengal's financial plight.

The urgent need of the moment, it is declared, is economic revival and while the Committee do not share the easy optimism of those who hold that some popular panacea, such as creating an artificial rise of prices by excessive currency inflation, will speedily restore prosperity, or that there is magic in any sensational Five-year Plan,

they do believe that the adoption of a comprehensive economic plan for Bengal will have beneficial results.

The Unemployment Problem & Educational Policy. - The unemployment problem, the letter states, is so frequently looked upon as a problem distinct from the general problem of trade and industrial organization that it is well to emphasize that on the contrary, it involves the whole economic, social and educational problem of the community. The immediate problem is no doubt one of finding work or means of subsistence for the unemployed among Anglo-Indians, Bengal bhadralog and the agricultural and labouring classes; but distinct in certain respects as each of these aspects of the case may be, they are part of a far wider problem. The Bengal Unemployment Inquiry Committee appointed in 1924, it is pointed out, rightly laid emphasis on this point and drew attention to the inter-relation, for example, between unemployment and the general education policy of the Province.

Committee's Suggestions. - (1) Survey of Economic & Educational Position. - The letter points out that a series of Royal Commissions including the Industrial Commission of 1918, the Labour Commission of 1930, and the Banking Inquiry Committee of 1931 have at different times reviewed one or other aspect of the whole field of economic life. In the sphere of education, the Reports of the Hartog and Sadler Committee have similarly provided much valuable information. Sir Arthur Salter's report on Economic Advisory Organisations in India is also most valuable. In the Committee's view the time is perhaps opportune for a general survey of the position in Bengal with a view to reaching some broad plan to form the basis of future policy for all parties in the Province, irrespective of other political views. Such a survey should, it is considered, cover both the economic and the educational spheres.

(2) Organisation of an Economic Council. - The Committee do not think that any elaborate body is required for the above survey and what they have in mind, rather than a new inquiry, is the creation of a small standing Bengal Economic Council, of an expert rather than of a representative nature, to study and coordinate the reports of the former Commissions. It is suggested that the Commerce and Industries Department of the Province should collect available data and statistics regarding the scope for the development of Bengal industries. Subsequently the Economic Council, which is to be composed of business men, officials and practical economists, should be able to examine the possibilities of economic development as revealed by the statistics submitted to them, working through special ad hoc Committees and through existing unofficial institutions and associations. The Committee of the Chamber believe that an intensive study of this nature would reveal many avenues by which Bengal might be able profitably to supply the requirements of the province.

(3) Reorganisation of Educational Policy. - The Committee has directed attention to the importance of reorganising the present educational system and has suggested that, while a Council is examining the figures in relation to the economic side of the problem, an inquiry should be conducted simultaneously into the problem of education, more particularly a study of the reports of the Hartog and Sadler Committees. The Committee of the Chamber believe that the time has come when the ~~education~~ educated classes in Bengal are at last beginning to appreciate

that the educational system which served them well in the past is in need of overhaul. They are aware that it is impossible for the educational authorities to reorganize the system so long as it is dependent so largely upon the collection of fees; this state of affairs can be overcome only by a more favourable financial settlement which will allow education to be set upon a sounder financial ~~basis~~ <sup>basis</sup>, and by a more practical turn, on the lines of Polytechnic Institutions, to be given to the upbringing of future generations to enable them to meet modern economic conditions.

Though the proposed Economic Council and an Education Committee might, in the first instance, conduct their studies independently, it would be essential that in the later stages of the inquiry they should work as a joint body, so as to ensure that the recommendations in one case were in accord with the recommendations in others.

✓ Impetus to U.P. Industries: Enquiry Committee Appointed.

The Government of the United Provinces have issued a communiqué to the effect that they have been considering the reorganisation of their Department of Industries so as to make it possible to pay greater attention to the development of provincial industries than has been possible hitherto by the existing Department. They have accordingly appointed a committee recently with the Minister of Industries as the president to inquire into the working of the Industries department as a whole and to suggest the lines along which reorganisation may be carried out and to chalk out a provincial programme of work for the future. It is intended that suggestions made by this committee <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ to be further examined by another committee consisting largely of non-officials before final orders are issued by the Government.

Economic Enquiry on Indian Railways:  
Expert Appointed for Preliminary Enquiry.

It will be remembered that the Government of India appointed a Retrenchment Committee and various sub-committees to explore means of



effecting retrenchments in the several departments of the Government of India (vide pages 50-52 of our 12 June 1931 report). The Retrenchment Sub-Committee on Railways recommended in its report, among other <sup>steps</sup> things, the urgent necessity for appointing an expert committee to enquire into and report on the railways' working expenses. On 28-11-1932, Sir Joseph Bore, Commerce Member with the Government of India, stated in the Assembly that as it was found impossible to get together a suitable Expert Committee in 1932, the Government of India have decided to modify the plan of procedure originally contemplated. He announced that Sir Josiah Stamp, the President of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, had offered the Government of India the services of the officer who was mainly responsible, under Sir Josiah himself, for the <sup>recent</sup> economy campaign on that railway. The Government of India ~~had~~ accepted the offer and Mr. Pope, <sup>the expert officer referred to by Sir Josiah</sup> ~~has~~ arrived in India on December 8. It ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> proposed to postpone the full independent inquiry originally proposed till the next cold weather when it <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ hoped ~~that~~ it would be possible to obtain the services of suitable <sup>additional</sup> experts. The task of these experts, Government felt, would be much facilitated by <sup>preliminary</sup> the technical investigation to be conducted under the guidance of Mr. Pope. It is expected that Mr. Pope will be staying in India for three months. He is to be assisted by a Committee consisting of Mr. R.C. Case (Great Indian Peninsula Railway), Mr. G.A.R. Trimming and Mr. J.A. Bell (East Indian Railway) and Mr. Major (North Western Railway). The Committee will start investigations on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and afterwards visit other Railways and will examine their working with a view to finding out what economies could be effected and how efficiency could be improved.

✓ Employment and Unemployment.

Industrial Occupations for the Unemployed: Bengal Scheme Sanctioned.

Reference was made at page 54 of the report of this Office for July 1932 to a Bengal Scheme sponsored by Mr. N.K. Basu, an Indian member of the Bengal Legislative Council, to provide lucrative employment to as many young men as possible without entailing heavy outlay on the part of the Government. A press note issued recently by the Government of Bengal states that the Government, having accepted the principle behind the scheme evolved by Mr. N.K. Basu, have worked out necessary details which, having been finally approved, preliminary arrangements have been made to mobilize the demonstration training parties — 28 in number — with respect to staff and equipment. Seven industries have been selected and it is proposed to send out into the mofussil four demonstration training parties for each of the seven industries.

It is understood that one party for each industry has already been appointed which has settled down to train up the staff of the remaining three parties for each of the seven industries. ~~Considerable time has~~ It is also understood that at a conference recently convened by the Hon. Nawab K.G.M. Farouki, Minister-in-charge of Agriculture and Industries with the Bengal Government, it has been decided to establish one Industrial Association, ~~to be~~ described as an Advisory Committee for each District. The composition of the Committee is to be as follows (a) The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board; (b) one representative from each sub-division, to be selected by the District Board; (c) the Agricultural Officer; (d) a representative of the Co-operative Department; (e) one officer to be nominated by the District Magistrate and (f) <sup>a few</sup> members of the Legislative Council in the district. It ~~will be seen~~ <sup>is understood</sup> that the Committees proposed will be largely non-official in character.

It is expected that the demonstration parties will be fully equipped to begin operations from April, 1933. In the meantime, the local Industrial Committees are being formed. In addition, <sup>two</sup> Industrial Surveyors are to be appointed at an early date to take up the work of the collection of information regarding the marketing conditions and possibilities for the products of the various industries in which unemployed young men will be trained.

✓ Social Conditions.

Census of 1931: Abstract of Tables.

At pages 54-55 of our March 1931 report was given the provisional figures of the Census of India taken on 26-2-1931 and at pages 58-60 of the October 1931 report the revised figures. The Government of India has recently published an Abstract of the tables giving the Statistics of the 1931 Census, a summary of which is given below:

Area and Population. - The area of the Indian Empire is according to the latest estimate 1,808,679 sq. miles. The population returned at the census is 352,837,778 showing a rise of 10.6 per cent since 1921. The number of males is now 181,828,923 and females 171,008,855 giving a proportion of 940 females per 1,000 males. The mean density per square mile in the whole of India is 195 varying from a maximum of 814 in the Cochin State, and in British India of 646 in Bengal, to a minimum of 5 in the Baluchistan States and 9 in British Baluchistan.

The decade according to the Abstract, was one generally free from pestilence, plague or famine in India as a whole, with the result that the growth of the population has been comparable to that in the last similar decade 1881-1891, when the natural rate of increase was 9.6 per cent. The figures in the table given include the increase due to the population in areas not previously censused.

The urban population is now 11.0 per cent of the total, an addition of 0.9 per cent in this population since 1921. In the population classified by Civil Conditions and Age almost half the males and a little above one-third of the females are unmarried, 46.7 per cent of the males and 49.3 per cent of the females are married, while 5.4 and 15.4 per cent respectively, are widowed. The relative proportions of the population under 15 years, aged 15 to 50, and 50 and over are 39.9, 50.5 and 9.6 per cent respectively.

Occupational Census. - The proportion of the working population engaged in agriculture is 66.4 per cent. Those engaged in trade form 5.13 per cent, in industries 9.95 per cent, and in transport 1.52 per cent. In 1921, the persons employed in mines, plantations, and organized industrial establishments having 10 or more employees numbered 2,681,125, out of a total of 23,236,099 persons engaged in Mines, Industry and Transport. The total under these three heads comes to 25,005,280 in 1931 and though no general return has been obtained from industrial establishments employing organised labour, it is believed that the maximum number of organized employees, corresponding to the 2½ million of 1921, cannot exceed 5,000,000, and if the rate of increase be the same as in the previous decade the figure will be about 3,250,000, of which 1,553,169 are employed in establishments governed by the Factories Act.

**Literacy.** - The number per mille of the population of India aged five and over who can read and write any language is males 156, females 29, the corresponding proportions (of all ages) in 1921 having been males 122 and females 18, and in 1881 males 81 and females 3. The proportion of literate in English is males 25 and females 3 per mille of 20 years and over only. The total literate population of India including children is 23,962,279 males and 4,169,036 females. The corresponding figures in 1901 were 14,690,080 and 996,341. The total illiterate population in 1931 was 156,243,305 males and 165,384,698 females.

**Languages.** - There are about 225 languages, exclusive of dialects, spoken in the Indian Empire, about 150 of which are confined to Assam and Burma. For the purpose of this abstract these languages have been shown in groups of allied tongues as classified by Sir George Grierson. With three exceptions the aggregate of speakers of any one of the indigenous groups shown comes to not less than 2 millions. At least 20 different scripts are employed in writing these languages, the two most important being Urdu and Nagri; Bengali, Telugu and Tamil follow in order in point of numbers of users. For Burma the Burmese is the only vernacular script of any importance. Speakers (by mother tongue) of languages foreign to India recorded at the census of 1931 numbered 646,535, the number of English speakers being 319,312.

**Religions Classification.** - The proportion in the population returned under the main religions, and the variations since 1921 are as follows:-

	Proportion per 1,000 of population.	Percentage of increase or decrease in actual number since 1921.
Hindu ...	682	+ 10.4
Muslim ...	222	+ 13.0
Buddhist ...	36	+ 10.5
Tribal Religions	24	- 15.3
Christian ...	18	+ 32.5
Others ...	18	+ 38.0

**Europeans in India.** - The number of Europeans is 168,134 (males 117,336, females 50,798), and of Anglo-Indians 138,395 (males 71,247, females 67,148). The figures of Europeans show a decrease in India proper of 10,883 since 1921 and of 3,309 since 1901. There has, however, been a rise of 2,986 persons, 1,585 males and 1,401 females, in Burma since 1921. This increase is partly attributed to the presence of tourists in greater numbers in 1931.

✓  
Public Health.

The Housing Problem in Bangalore, Mysore State.

References were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the interest that is being taken by the Bangalore Municipality in the problem of housing the poorer and labour classes of the population living in and around Bangalore City, Mysore State (vide pages 50-51 of our January 1932 report and pages 48-50 of September 1932 report). Recently an economic survey of the municipal areas was undertaken under the auspices of the Municipality. It was originally intended that the proposed survey should have for its scope all aspects of economic and civic life of Bangalore. But, owing to the shortness of time, only one aspect of the civic life of Bangalore, viz., the housing problem was chosen for investigation. The report, it is understood, have made some far-reaching recommendations, chief among them being the creation of a Housing Trust with representatives of Government, the Municipality and the employers of labour. It is recommended that a Town Planning Act, investing the Municipality with the necessary powers, should be enacted.

✓  
Factory Labour & Hospital Treatment.

It is understood that the Government of Madras have recently passed certain orders on the question of the cost of treating mill, factory and estate labourers in hospitals. They consider that employees in mills, factories, rubber, coffee and tea estates, railways and railway workshops when attending hospitals at their own instance should be regarded as members of the general public for the purpose of charges, etc. They have directed that when any of these employees drawing less than Rs.100 per mensem are treated as an in-patient or out-patient at the instance of their employers, the latter should be charged for the expensive drugs used at the specified rates besides the usual charge leviable under the rules.

Training in Borstal & Reformatory Schools, Calcutta, 1931

The following information regarding the working of Borstal and reformatory schools in Bengal during 1931 is taken from the report *by the Government of Bengal* on work connected with the Bengal Children Act, 1922, the Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1923, the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897, and the Bengal Borstal Schools Act, 1928, for the year 1931.

Administration. - The Education Department of the Government of Bengal is entrusted with the administration of the Bengal Children Act, the Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, the Reformatory Schools Act and the Bengal Borstal Schools Act. The Bengal Children Act extends only to the town of Calcutta, the suburbs and the port of Calcutta, the municipality of Howrah, and certain other areas in outlying districts. The Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act extends to the town, the suburbs and the port of Calcutta. The Reformatory Schools Act only applies to that part of the province to which the Bengal Children Act has not been extended.

During the year 1931, the total number of children dealt with by the Juvenile Court was 275. Of these 14 were dealt with under the Bengal Children Act, 45 under the Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, and the rest under the Indian Penal Code and other Acts.

Reformatory Schools. - The Reformatory Schools for boys and girls, Industrial Schools for boys and places of suitable custody under clause 28(1) of the Bengal Children Act were (1) The Reformatory and Industrial Schools for boys at Alipore, maintained by Government; (2) Reformatory School for Girls — The Salvation Army Women's Industrial Home at Entally; (3) Places of suitable custody — (a) Gobinda Kumar Home, Panihati, (b) Salvation Army Women's Industrial Home, Entally, and (c) Calcutta Protestant Home for Girls, commonly

called the Fendall Home.

Reformatory and Industrial School (for Boys), Alipore. - On 31-12-1931, the number of boys in the Reformatory School was 193 against 207 on the corresponding date in the previous year. The number of boys in the Industrial School in 1931 was 43 against 38 in 1930. All the pupils in both the institutions in 1931 were Indians except two Anglo-Indians. Of the Indians, 128 were Hindus, 94 Muhamadans and 12 Christians. In the workshops, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmithy, tinsmithy and weaving were taught. Regular moral instruction was given by the teachers once a week.

Gobinda Kumar Home, Panihati. - This home is intended for Indian girls dealt with under the Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act as well as the Bengal Children Act. The capacity of the home is 95 girls. There were 88 girls of ages varying from 6 to 16 in this home in 1931 as against 72 in 1930. Out of 88 girls, 71 were Bengalis, 6 United Provinces girls, 7 Oriyas, 3 Marwari and 1 Nepali. All of them were Hindus, dealt with under section 4 of the Immoral Traffic Act.

Society for the Protection of Children in India. - During the year under review the society continued to render useful assistance to children taken under its protection by arranging for their guardianship, by placing them in suitable schools, by help with clothing, temporary relief and advice. The society dealt with 737 children; 163 were placed in 42 different schools or institutions, 20 handed back to their guardians and 6 admitted into hospitals. The society undertook the protection or guardianship of 101 children and gave temporary help or advice to 336. In 1931, Government recognised the society as eligible for ~~the~~ capitation grants for children committed



to its custody by a Court under the Bengal Children Act or the Immoral Traffic Act, It also received the annual Government grant of Rs. 3,000. The total expenditure of the society during the year 1931 was about Rs. 30,000.

Education.Industrial Education in the Madras Presidency, 1931-32\*

The following information regarding the progress of industrial education in the Madras Presidency during 1931-32 is taken from the Report of the Department of Industries, Madras, for the year ending 31-3-1932.

The industrial schools in the Presidency covered by the report belong to two classes: (1) Government schools and (2) aided schools. There were 7 Government schools in the Presidency during the year under review, having 1,412 students during 1931 and 1,729 students during 1932. The more important of the subjects that were taught in these schools are: metal working and engineering trades (398 students), drawing and painting (217 students), carpentry (180 students), textile trades (77 students), electrical engineering (286 students) and printing and allied trades (98 students). The following are details about the working of some of the more important of the Government schools:-

Government School of Technology, Madras. - This institution which was hitherto known as "Madras Trades School" was renamed "Government School of Technology" with effect from 1-4-1932. The number of new admissions was 422, as against 263 in the previous year, of which 164 were admitted to the Electrical Engineering section and 85 to the Mechanical Engineering section. The strength of the school on the 31-3-1932 was 778 as against 580 in the previous year. The cost per student was Rs.78 as against Rs.110 in the previous year. The preparatory section attached to the school is reported to have continued to function on a temporary basis. The number of new admissions was 50 and the total strength on 31-3-32 stood at 116. 17 students completed their three years' preparatory course and most of them have joined the various workshops.

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\* Report of the Department of Industries, Madras, for the year ending 31st March 1932 - Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press - 1932 - Price 8 annas.

(2) Perambur Railway Branch School. - The branch school attached to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company also had a satisfactory year. The number of new admissions during the year was 69 and the strength of the school at the end of the year was 154 as against 152 in the previous year. Of the 32 students who presented themselves for the final examinations, 23 were declared to have passed, the majority of them being retained in the railway workshops.

(3) New Government Schools. - The Government Industrial Schools at Calicut and Bellary and the Trades School at Mangalore which were started during 1929 were functioning satisfactorily. These schools are now in the third year of their existence and are on a temporary basis. During the year the Retrenchment Committee examined the working of these schools and recommended that the net recurring cost should be restricted to Rs.45,000 per annum. The motor-driving classes attached to these schools were closed during the year and the staff sanctioned, therefore, was disbanded. Proposals for retrenchment in other directions were also submitted to Government reducing the net recurring cost to Rs.35,900. The strength of these schools at the end of March last, was 69 in Bellary, 92 in Calicut and 91 in Mangalore.

(4) School of Arts and Crafts. - The number of students on the rolls on 31-3-1932 was 279, of whom 3 were ladies as against 263 in the previous year. The average attendance was 225 or 85 per cent as against 159 or 73 per cent in the previous year. Enamelling on gold and silver and other metals, which was started last year was improved to a very great extent and was much appreciated by the public. New methods of lacquering furniture, etc., have been introduced in the lacquer work section and the progress is very satisfactory. Similarly, cotton printing by means of blocks was started during the year with a view to produce works similar to those executed by the costly waxing processes. The course of study in drawing and design class was reduced from five to three years. The fine arts section is reported to be attracting students from other parts of India.

Aided Schools. - On 31-3-1932, in addition to the institutions managed by the department direct, the total number of schools recognized by the department was 68. All these except five were in receipt of grants-in-aid and all of them were inspected during the year under review. At the end of the year there were 6,015 pupils under training in these schools as against 5,349 in the previous year. Of these, 2,684 were Indian Christians, 1,794 non-Brahmans (Hindus), 586 Brahmans, 337 Muhammadans, 314 depressed classes, 158 Europeans and Anglo-Indians. A sum of Rs.1,05,250 was distributed in the form of maintenance (including capitation) grant representing an average of Rs.17-8-0 per pupil per annum for the Presidency as against Rs.20 in the previous year. A further ~~xix~~ sum of Rs.13,863 was distributed as equipment grant to a few schools, while a sum of Rs.34,105 was distributed as building grant among three institutions. Owing to the financial stringency, it was not possible to render adequate assistance to all deserving institutions. The condition of the majority of the schools, however, continued to be satisfactory.

(Progress of industrial education in Madras Presidency during 1928-29 was reviewed at pages 61-67 of our June 1929 report, and that for 1930 -31 at pages 76-78 of our October 1931 report).

✓ Compulsory Primary Education; Calcutta Experiment Sanctioned.

It is understood that the Government of Bengal has decided to grant permission to the Calcutta Corporation to introduce compulsory primary education for boys in one ward of the City as an experimental measure. This, it is reported, is the first experiment in the corporation area towards the introduction of free compulsory primary education.

✓ Agriculture.

Rural Uplift in C.P.:Government Board Constituted.

Reference was made at pages 64-66 of the report of this Office for September 1932 to a scheme of rural uplift adumbrated by the C.P. Government. With a view to co-ordinating and intensifying the efforts of the various official and non-official workers in the field of rural uplift and rural reconstruction in the province, the Government has constituted a board called 'Village Uplift Board'. It ~~will~~<sup>is</sup> consist of the hon. Minister of Education as chairman, the directors of public instruction, veterinary services and agriculture, the inspector-general of civil hospitals, the registrar of cooperative societies, Mr. Niyogi, Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, and four non-official members. The Board is to consider and advise the Government regarding schemes for educational, economic, industrial and cultural advancement of the rural community with the help of the nation-building departments and non-official workers.

Maritime Affairs.Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta.

A meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta, was held at Calcutta on 7-10-1932 under the presidentship of Mr. Daud to consider the question of making its voice heard in the recruitment of seamen. Mr. Daud said that when the Royal Commission on Labour did not recommend the establishment of a State Employment Bureau for Indian seamen as recommended by the Seamen's Recruitment Committee on the lines suggested by the Geneva International Labour Conference, the only course left to the seamen was to join the Union and strengthen it so that its demand for a voice in controlling seamen's employment and thereby lessening unemployment among them, will have greater authority and force. The following resolution to that effect was adopted at the meeting:

"Resolved that, to minimise unemployment among Indian seamen and for the introduction of <sup>a</sup> free muster system of employment for seamen of all capacities as well as to regulate employment amongst Goanese and Calcutta Saloon men, this meeting urges the Indian seamen of all capacities to unite under the banner of the Indian Seamen's Union and that steps be taken to strengthen the Union in order to devise ways and means for taking action to control seamen's employment."

Decasualisation and Registration of  
Port Trust Dock Labour at Karachi.

It is understood that the Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, has issued a letter to the Karachi Merchants' Association to the effect that the Port Trust had been asked to explore in consultation with the interests concerned, the possibility of formulating a suitable scheme of decasualisation of ~~the~~ dock labour in this port. It is proposed to hold a Conference in which the interests concerned are to be represented.

Migration.

Indians in Malaya: Memorandum to Sir Samuel Wilson.

The visit of Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Wilson, Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies with the British Government, to Malaya preliminary to introducing certain changes in the constitution of that country has been availed of by the Indian Community in ~~the~~ Malaya to present him <sup>with</sup> a memorandum setting forth ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> conditions of life and work in that country and the disabilities they are under. The following is a summary of the salient points made out in the memorandum.

Labour Conditions in Estates. - The memorandum, in dealing with the conditions of estate labourers states that a drastic reduction in wages has been made and that in many estates rates as low as 20 Cents a day (less than 6d.) prevail on many of the estates. Due to the fall in the price of rubber, labourers were thrown out of work and repatriation was the only remedy tried to ease the unemployment problem. The memorandum points out that this policy of the Government has benefited neither the Government nor the planters nor even the labourers repatriated. Government spent last year alone the large sum of \$ 1,278,144,82 on repatriation. Another sum equally big was spent on it this year. These amounts, it is suggested, together with what will have to be spent to bring them back when needed and another three or four millions of borrowed capital could have been spent with advantage on development work with the aid of the same labourers, thereby saving the trouble and delay in bringing them back, not to speak of the loss likely to be incurred by the planting community by such delays and the great hardships the repatriates would be undergoing in India. One of the remedies suggested to ameliorate this state of affairs and which has been accepted by almost all employers of labour as well as by the Government, is the Indian Land Settlement Scheme. Every endeavour, it is urged, should be made to put this scheme in practice. A trial, it is observed, under the guidance of the Agent of the Government of India, in Selangor, is working very satisfactorily. Should the Land Settlement Scheme be set in motion and made a success there would be no need for Indian immigration when it is needed and repatriation when it is not needed.

Indian Immigration Committee. - The Indian Immigration Committee which looks into all matters connected with Indian Immigration has only two Indian members on the committee. It is urged that a better representation of ~~a~~ Indians thereon is an absolute necessity. The committee consists of 14 members excluding the chairman and vice-chairman and the present representation of only two Indians thereon is, it is represented, small.

Indians and Malaya Civil Service. - The memorandum strongly urges the necessity for giving Malaya-born Indians admission to the Malaya Civil Service and states that equal opportunities should be afforded to those domiciled in the peninsula. The plea that the States are

not British possessions, it is pointed out, cannot be adduced when it is remembered that in India such differences are not shown between British India and Indian India, that is, the Native States.

The employment of Malaya-born Indian youths in the several departments of the Government service is, according to the memorandum, the burning question of the day. While this has been greatly agitating the minds of the Indian community since the General Order regarding appointments in the subordinate service was altered in 1931, which was to the effect that only where Malay candidates could not be found to fill up vacancies, other candidates may be selected and that with the approval of the Chief Secretary or the Resident concerned, the policy of retrenchment was adopted as one of the remedies for the present slump. A great majority of those being retrenched in the subordinate services are Indians. These two actions of the Government, it is pointed out, has given cause for great anxiety and it is suggested that a certain percentage of appointments for each community be reserved whether in the pensionable or ~~in~~ non-pensionable service and that all future appointments be made strictly based on that percentage irrespective of existing percentages in the several departments. A fair proportion of this percentage suggested is: Malaya -40, Indians - 25, Chinese - 25 and Others - 10. Attention is drawn in particular to the inadequate representation of the Indian community in the Federal Council, Sanitary Boards, and other official and unofficial public bodies. The need for more representation on these bodies commensurate with the Indians' position as the second largest domiciled community in Malaya is stressed.

Educational Facilities. - The educational policy of the Government is said to be far from satisfactory. The standard of education imparted in the schools is not high. Boys are trained only up to the Senior Cambridge classes. Those seeking higher education cannot find opportunities for such studies anywhere in the States. A second language such as Latin or French is not made compulsory and taught in the schools. Yet the fees charged are abnormally high and out of proportion to the standard of education the boys receive. The fees levied by Government are raised so high that it is impossible for even the middle class people to educate their children.

Free elementary education is imparted to children of labourers working on estates as required by Section 76 of the "Indian Labour Code". This, it is suggested should be made compulsory not only on estates but also in all Government departments employing such labour.

Relief for Indians Unemployed in Durban.

Reference was made at pages 72-73 of the report of this Office for October 1932 to the prevailing unemployment among the Indians in Durban, South Africa, and to the lack of <sup>efforts by</sup> ~~support from~~ the Union Government to relieve the situation. Representations were made to <sup>the Union Government to</sup> afford



Indian unemployed Indians  
relief to the ~~Union Government~~ by the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa and the Unemployment Relief Committees which were organised to aid the Indian unemployed. It is now understood that as a result of these representations, the Labour Minister with the Union Government has given a definite assurance that the Government are prepared to co-operate in the Durban Town Council's attempt to relieve unemployment among Indians, numbering 4,000. The Minister stated that the Department was prepared to co-operate provided the work performed was restricted to Indian areas. The extent and manner, to which such assistance might be afforded is to be decided upon receipt of detailed proposals of the Council.