

C 1903/64

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for March 1 9 3 4.

N.B. Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
1. <u>References to the I.L.O.</u> ..	1 - 7
2. <u>National Labour Legislation.</u> The New Factories Bill; Report of Select Committee.	8-10
3. <u>Conditions of Labour.</u>	
(a) Restoration of Minimum Wages in Ceylon; Question to be discussed at Joint Conference.	11
(b) Appointment of Factory Inspector for Delhi Province; Chief Commissioner's Notification.	11-12
(c) Industrial Relations in Bombay Presidency; Government Policy enunciated in Legislative Council.	12-15
(d) Postal Department Reorganisation; Committee Appointed.	15-16
(e) Wage Reduction in Cotton Mill Industry; Investi- gation by Bombay Labour Office.	16-17
(f) Ahmedabad Textile Crisis; Wage Cut Postponed.	17-20
(g) Textile Strike in Sholapur.	20-21
(h) Madras Labour Department and the Depressed Classes - 1932-33	22-25
4. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
(a) Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency, 1932-33.	26-27
(b) Trade Union Movement in C.P. & Berar, 1932-33	28-29
(c) Government Employees Associations; Rules Governing Recognition Formulated.	29-30
5. <u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
(a) Economic Planning for India; Discussion in Legislative Assembly.	31-36
(b) Textile Industry of Bombay; Further Details re. Proposal for Nationalisation.	37-39
(c) Industrial Development in U.P.; Recommendations of Enquiry Committee.	
(d) Rural Indebtedness in Bengal; Question Referred to Board of Economic Enquiry.	42-43
6. <u>Employment and Unemployment</u>	
(a) Problem of Unemployment in Assam; Enquiry Committee's Report.	44-45

<u>Contents</u>		<u>Pages</u>
(b) Unemployed Day Demonstrations in India on 4-3-34.		45-46
7. <u>Social Conditions.</u>		
Measures to Control Opium Consumption: Recommenda- tions of Assam Enquiry Committee.		47-48
8. <u>Public Health.</u>		
Safety First Association of India; Programme for 1934.		49-50
9. <u>Women and Children.</u>		
(a) Care of Destitute Children & Young Offenders: Recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Bombay Children's Aid Society.		51-52
(b) 4th Biennial Conference of National Council of Women, Bombay, 1934.		53
10. <u>Education.</u>		
(a) Vocational Education: Resolutions of 32d Inter- Universities Conference, Delhi.		54-58
(b) Municipal Education in Bombay City: Progress of Free Compulsory Education, 1932-33.		58-61.
11. <u>Migration.</u>		
(a) Indian Labour for Malaya; Recruitment to be Resumed Shortly.		62
(b) Control of Money-Lenders in the Strait Settlements, Malaya; A New Money-lenders' Bill to be introduced.		62-63.

References to the I. L. O.

The Sunday Chronicle, Madras, dated 4-3-34 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 11-3-34 reproduces an article under the caption "1933: From Labour's Point of View" originally published in the January 1934 issue of Headway under the caption "The I.L.O. Year". Copies of the article were forwarded to the above journals by this Office.

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The February 1934 issue of the Nizam's State Railway Employees' Union Bulletin and the March issue of Union Herald, Bombay, summarise ~~the~~ under the caption "Activities of the International Labour Office during 1933", the Note on the subject published in the December 1933 issue of the Monthly Summary of the I.L.O.

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The Times of India of 13-3-34 reproduces an article under the caption "International Social Legislation Last Year" from the Christian Science Monitor in the course of which the activities of the I.L.O. during 1933 are reviewed.

* * *

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, of 24-3-34 publishes a long article under the caption "International Labour Organisation" contributed anonymously. The article examines in detail the functions of the I.L.O. and appeals to the planting community to take an intelligent interest in the work of the Organisation.

Emphasising the importance of following the work of the I.L.O., the article says:

It is becoming increasingly evident that, year by year, the Conventions, Resolutions and Recommendations passed at Geneva form the ground-work of what is commonly referred to as Labour Legislation in every country throughout the world. In its early stages the Conventions of the Organisation dealt solely with industrial labour, but of recent years agricultural industry has been included in all its discussions, and during the past year every convention of a general social aspect has been drawn up in duplicate, one concerning workers employed in industrial and commercial undertakings including the liberal professions, outworkers and domestic servants, and the other dealing with workers employed in all agricultural undertakings.

Naturally India, with its eighty per cent of agricultural population is vitally affected by the numerous proposals embodied in these international conventions emanating from Geneva. While it may be argued that the majority of these proposals are utterly unsuited to an oriental country such as this, where a considerable proportion of agricultural labourers are what may be termed independent workers, it is abject folly to be blind to the fact that, wherever organisations of agricultural employers do exist, whether in India or any other country, governments will legislate for the amelioration of the agricultural workman, and the brunt of every piece of initial legislation, much of it of necessity experimental, must be borne by the employers who are represented by agricultural associations.

Instead of waiting in a state of apathy until the Government drop on the heads of the planting community a bombshell in the shape of a definite piece of labour legislation and then only giving the subject belated and, possibly, a hurried and superficial study, every planter must sample all the products from the Geneva factory as fast as they are produced, analyse their contents, extract their proper food values long before the Government presents the community with a ready-made decoction which has an unpalatable appearance, and so be fully prepared for the bomb before it falls. Progressive labour legislation is as inevitable and necessary as the general spread of education and is, in fact, the outcome of the increase of general knowledge. It is therefore futile to dismiss labour legislation with the remark that it is unsuited to India, although that is to a very great extent true. In the cause of common humanity, for which we are all full of praise so long as it does not cost us anything more than a benevolent blessing, social labour enactments are bound to continue to come forward with increasing frequency, and every planter must make a point of studying in advance each Geneva proposal at the same time as Government is studying it, so as to be ready with facts,

figures and the best recipe to make the mess of pottage as palatable and least noxious to the industry as possible.

* * *

The printed proceedings of the meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 21-2-1934, contain a reference to the ensuing 18th session of the I.L. Conference. The Committee, observing that the question of the employment of women on under-ground work in mines is on the agenda of the Conference, sent a letter to the Employers' Federation of India drawing attention to the scheme in vogue in India regarding the gradual exclusion of women from underground work and suggesting that the present rate of withdrawal of women from mines should be accelerated and that their employment should cease as from July 1937 instead of July 1939, and that there should be a similar prohibition as regards the employment of women in coal quarries and open workings.

* * *

The Sunday Chronicle, Madras, of 18-3-34 publishes a short note sent from Geneva reviewing the recent Grey Report ~~on~~ employment of women underground in mines.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 16-3-34, the Statesman and the National Call of 18-3-34 and Labour Times, Madras, of 26-3-34 publish a communique issued by this Office on 15-3-34 reviewing the Report on the Partial Revision of the Convention re. Night work of Women (cuttings of the communiqué from the first three papers were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute

H.2/622/34 dated 22-3-34).

The Guardian, Madras, of 29-3-34 publishes a short editorial note summarising the communiqué.

* * *

Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, delivered a lecture on 8-3-34 at the Lady Reading Health School, Delhi, on the "Problems of Indian Women Workers". In the course of the lecture, the speaker made extensive references to the work of the I.L.O. in respect of protection of women workers.

A summary of the lecture was published in the Hindustan Times of 10-3-34.

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The January and February combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes the Government of India Communiqué announcing the change in the date of the 18th I.L. Conference.

* * *

The January and February combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay publishes a short summary of the proceedings of a meeting of industrial workers held at Madura on 3-1-34. Mr. S.R. Varadarajalu Naidu, the principal speaker, in the course of his speech urged that the Government of India should arrange to send advisers along with the Indian workers' delegate to the ensuing session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 11-3-34 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Organise the Unemployed" ✓

Commenting on the Unemployment Day demonstrations held at various Indian industrial centres on 4-3-34 (details re. the demonstrations are given in this report in the section "Employment and Unemployment"). In the course of the article the following comments are made on the failure of India to implement the Washington Convention on unemployment:

According to Article 2 of the Washington Convention of 1919 on Unemployment, the member-States are required to collect statistics of the unemployment. Although India has ratified this Convention, amazingly enough, no reliable figures are available on unemployment. Even the census taken as recently as 1931 does not provide any definite information on unemployment. At Geneva whenever the Workers' Delegate raises any question of unemployment particularly at the Committee under Article 408 of the Treaty of Versailles, the representative of the Government of India assures the nations present that there is no unemployment in India in the same sense as there is in European countries. One cannot make out what this really means. This is evidently due to want of organization of the unemployed and strong public opinion on the social evil.

* * *

The March 1934 issue of the Union Herald (A monthly journal issued by the G.I.P.Railway Accounts Administrative and Executive Offices Staff Union), Bombay, publishes a summary of the lecture delivered by Mr. S.C.Joshi at Bombay in connection with the "Bombay Looks Ahead" series of lectures arranged at the Nagpada Neighbourhood House. The subject of the lecture was "Can we solve the Problem of Industrial Unemployment?" In the course of his lecture Mr. Joshi deplored the absence of statistics of the unemployed in India and directed attention to the fact that the Government of India had not moved in the matter of implementing the Washington Convention on unemployment which

~~which~~ India has ratified.

A summary of the speech was published in several of the Bombay papers.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 4-3-34 ^{and} the National Call of 5-3-34 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 3-3-34 on the Report issued by the Delegation of Observers sent by the United States Government to the last session of the I.L.Conference.

(copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/523/34 dated 8-3-34).

* * *

The Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, dated 31-3-34 publishes a short note under the caption "International Regulation of Contract Labour" on the decision of the I.L.O. to place the question of contract labour on the agenda of the 1935 session of the I.L.Conference. The note reviews the work done in the field by the Committee of Experts on Native Labour.

* * *

The March 1934 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes a long article under the caption "The Economic and Financial Work of the League of Nations" contributed anonymously from Geneva. In the course of the article references are made to the co-operation of the I.L.O. with the League in the sphere of economic reconstruction.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 25-3-34 publishes an article contributed by Dr. P.P.Pillai under the caption "Nazis"

and Control of Industry* giving details regarding the German Act to Regulate National Labour. The article is based on the Note on the subject published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 19-2-34.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 11-3-34 publishes an article under the caption "Trade Union Unity" contributed by Pandit Hariharnath Shastri, President, All-India Trade Union Congress. Regarding the question of Indian labour's participation in the activities of the I.L.O., Mr. Shastri says;

Now to come to the question of Geneva, I do not agree with Mr. Ruikar that Geneva and Council entry stand on similar footing. All the same, I admit that if the Federation group agrees to leave the question to be decided by the All India Trade Union Congress from time to time that would satisfy those associated at present with the All India Trade Union Congress.

* * *

The January and February combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a summary of the proceedings of the 1st session of the National Trades Union Federation held at Bombay on 24-12-33. The session, it will be remembered, was attended by the Director of this Office who also addressed the session. The resolutions adopted at the session, some of which referred to the work of the I.L.O., are also reproduced in the journal.

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26

National Labour Legislation.

The New Factories Bill; Report of Select Committee. ✓

The report of the Select Committee on the Factories Bill, 1933, to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour in Factories was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 27-2-34. The report includes a Minute of Dissent signed by Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury, Mr. K.P.Thampan and Mr. N.M.Joshi, besides a Note of Dissent by Mr. H.P.Mody.

Although the main principles of the Bill have been left unaltered, many alterations in detail have been made affecting practically all important sections, and the coming into force of the measure has been postponed to January 1, 1935.

The following are the more important of the suggestions made by the Select Committee:-

Health and Safety. - In the Health and Safety chapter, the appellate provisions have been modified so as to ensure that an employer appealing against orders relating to cooling of the factory need take no action while the appeal is being considered, and an appeal has been provided against safety orders issued by an inspector. Power to issue special rules for prevention of industrial diseases in hazardous processes has been transferred from Local Governments to the Government of India.

Hours of Work. - The Committee has approved the proposals to reduce the hours of work. In dealing with hours of work, the Committee has modified the provision relating to spreadover and given Local Governments unrestricted power to relax this. The clauses governing the fixing of periods of work beforehand have been remodelled and the provision requiring managers to give a week's notice of Sunday work has been modified so as to permit notice to be given any time before Sunday or the day substituted for it. The overtime provisions have been altered so as to make it unnecessary to pay overtime for Sunday work unless ordinary weekly or daily limits of hours are exceeded, and so as to allow continuous process factories to work up to 56 hours before overtime is due. Provisions for daily limits to overtime has been deleted. Exemptions on account of exceptional pressure of work can now *last*

only two months at a time instead of three.

Penal Provisions.- The penalty provisions have also been altered. The Committee has limited the provision for minimum penalties for repeated offences in contravention of the chapters relating to hours of work and employment of children, but it has increased the maximum penalty in the case of such repeated offences. In cases where both the occupier and manager are convicted it has limited the total fine to the amount imposable upon each. Rules made by the Government of India which do not at present require previous notice have been made subject to the same provisions as Local Government rules and will have to be published for objection, at least three months beforehand.

Minute of Dissent. - The minute of dissent presented by Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury, Mr. K.P.Thampen and Mr. Joshi, advocates changes in several clauses of the Bill. The important suggestions made in the minute are:-

Extension of the Factories Act. - That ^{the} time has come when the provisions of the Factory Act should be made applicable automatically by this Bill itself to all factories using power, where ten or more workers are employed; and it is not enough merely to give the Local Governments power to do it.

Health and Welfare of Workers. - That Local Governments should be endowed with power to issue welfare orders as suggested by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour.

Safeguards against Danger arising out of Hazardous Operations. - They would like safeguards to be provided against dangers arising from all operations, which may be declared hazardous by Local Governments.

Hours of Work and Rest Period. - (a) That the maximum weekly hours in perennial factories should be 48 and in seasonal factories they should be 54;

(b) That the maximum daily hours of work in perennial factories should be nine and in seasonal factories they should be ten;

(c) That the interval for rest for ~~all workers~~ should be simultaneous ^{for all workers.}

(d) That the maximum period of spread-over allowed in the case of a worker should not exceed twelve hours; and

(e) That the payment for the deprivation of ^{the} weekly rest should be at one and a half times of the worker's ordinary rate of pay.

Mr. Mody's Note of Dissent. - In his Note of dissent Mr. Mody points out that the mill owners have withdrawn their opposition to the 54 hour week solely out of consideration for the welfare of the workers in the factories. Mr. Mody adds: " In waiving my objection, however, I strongly urge the Government of India to do all they can to secure the adherence of the Indian States to the provisions of the legislation which is now under consideration. Already, industries in Indian States enjoy considerable advantages in costs of production over those in British India; and, if Indian capital and enterprise are not to turn increasingly away from British India, it is necessary that there should be a closer approximation between the conditions obtaining there and those prevalent in the territories of Indian Princes."

(The full text of the Select Committee's Report and the Bill, 1933, as amended by the Select Committee, is given at pages 44 to 59 of the Gazette of India dated 3-3-34, Part V).

Conditions of Labour.Restoration of Minimum Wages in Ceylon;Question to be discussed at Joint Conference. ✓

Reference was made at pages 41-42 of our September 1933 report to the part restoration of minimum wages in the tea and rubber plantations in Ceylon with effect from 1-11-1933. (A review of the history of the reductions in minimum wages in Ceylon consequent on the crisis in the tea and rubber industry of the ~~Island~~ ^{Island} was given at pages 29-31 of our March 1933 report). It is now understood that the question of minimum wages for Indian immigrant labour will be discussed by a joint conference of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce and the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour to be held shortly. Both these bodies have been investigating the position in view of the present prices of tea and rubber but, whereas the former is understood to favour the restoration of wages rates in tea estates to the level at which they stood before the cut in 1932 and increase those on rubber estates, to the point below that level, the latter body are only prepared to agree to increases below the 1932 rates. It is believed the Governor has requested the two bodies to confer together in order to endeavour to arrive at a mutual agreement.

(The Hindu, 14-3-1934).

Appointment of Inspector of Factories in DelhiProvince; Chief Commissioner's Notification. ✓

Delhi Province did not hitherto have a separate Inspector of Factories, and the factories in the Province were being inspected

by the Inspector of Factories, Punjab. This arrangement has recently been terminated by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi Province, who has appointed Mr. W.M.Vacy-Ash as Inspector of Factories for the Delhi Province with effect from 12-3-1934

(The National Call, 18-3-1934).

Industrial Relations in Bombay Presidency:

Government Policy Enunciated in Legislative Council. ✓

Attention of the Government of Bombay was drawn by Mr. Dixit in the Bombay Legislative Council on 8-3-34 to the present unrest in the textile industry in the Bombay Presidency and to the public feeling that the Government was not ^{taking the necessary steps} ~~doing the needful~~ to establish amicable relationship between employers and labour. A general discussion over the question was ^{initiated} ~~initiated~~ by Mr. Dixit, moving a token cut in the budget demands.

Mr. R.R.Bakhale in supporting the motion pleaded for the appointment of a whole-time secretary to be in charge of the Labour Department as the present arrangement whereby the Department is under the Secretary in charge of ^{the} Political and Reforms Department was unsatisfactory, since ^{the} necessary time could not be devoted by him to labour problems. In ^{the} ~~that~~ connection, he requested Government to set up machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission on Labour. The machinery ought to be such that officers

of the department should be able to proceed to industrial centres and inquire into the disputes between the employers and employees. Mr. Bakhale also protested against the attitude of the Government towards labour during periods of strikes or on the eve of strikes. The moment a strike was apprehended, magistrates issued orders under Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting meetings of workers or speeches from labour leaders. The immediate result of such orders was that workmen could not come together even to discuss their grievances, so as to decide on a course of common action. Mr. Bakhale finally drew the attention of Government to the growing unemployment and requested them to introduce unemployment insurance schemes.

In the course of the debate many speakers drew pointed attention to the growing unemployment in the Bombay City, where the number of unemployed has been estimated to be 100,000 and to the strained relations between employers and labourers especially in textile centres, and urged the Government to devise measures to solve these problems.

Home Member's Enunciation of Government Policy: Separate Department of Labour. - Mr. R.D.Bell, Home Member, replying to the debate, explained the position of the Government in regard to industrial disputes, making a special reference to the strike situation in Sholapur. Referring to the suggestion that there should be a separate department for labour, he said that the idea behind the suggestion was that an independent department should be started with its own Secretary to devote full time to labour problems. Government had no funds to adopt "fancy schemes" under the present circumstances.

Establishment of Conciliation Organisation. - As regards the criticism that Government had done nothing in the matter of introducing any conciliation organisation, the Home Member said that there were two main ~~difficulties in the way~~ ^{considerations}, namely, the want of sufficient funds at the disposal of Government, and secondly the relations between capital and labour were more amicable today than they were some time ago.

Enquiry into Labour Conditions in Textile Industry. - Alluding to the forthcoming inquiry by the Labour Office into the condition of the textile industry (vide pages 20-21 of our February 1934 report), the Home Member made it perfectly clear that it was exceedingly unlikely that Government would attempt to interfere, in any way, with the relations between labour and employers or to modify by such interference the conditions in the industry. The idea underlying the inquiry was to put the facts before the public. These industrial disputes were matters of great importance, in which public opinion very often had a profound influence in settling disputes. That was the main object of the inquiry which had been instituted very largely on the suggestion of some of the members.

Unemployment. - The Home Member touched on the problem of unemployment and ~~he~~ said that it had been suggested that Government should open public ~~or productive~~ works in order to absorb unemployed labour, and the ~~an~~ example of South Africa was quoted in support of that suggestion. To him such a suggestion appeared to be an academic one. No member had pointed out any productive public work on which unemployed labour could possibly be employed, nor had Government spare revenues to devote to this task.

Industrial Disputes. - Referring to Mr. Bakhale's complaint that the Government were employing the District Police Act, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Special Powers Act (the last passed in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement), to frustrate concerted action on the part of employees, Mr. Bell quoted a passage from the speech delivered by his predecessor, Sir Frank Hudson, in November 1932, which was to the effect that the Communist and terrorist movements were worse than the civil disobedience movement, and that there was no reason why Government should not make use of the Emergency Powers Act. Mr. Bell said that it was the settled policy of Government not to use the Special Powers Act in any way in industrial disputes, and that policy was well-known to Government officers. He denied that in any single case these powers had been used. Quoting the report of the Bombay Riots Enquiry Committee (appointed in 1929) he pointed out that it came to the conclusion that the Red Flag Union was the basic cause of the riots, and that conclusion was also endorsed by the Pearson Committee. The immediate cause of the riots was the Hindu-Moslem tension. The communist agitators always seized the opportunity of interfering with the activities of well-established labour unions and created turmoil. That had actually happened in Sholapur now.

During the debate a question had been raised as to the propriety of picketing. Picketing had been going on in Sholapur. The Home Member informed Mr. Petit that peaceful picketing was a recognised measure. It meant that two workers should stand at the gate of a mill or a factory and persuade employees from

going in. Government had no objection to that. But when mass picketing was done and when employees were threatened, the matter was entirely different. Government attempted to stop that kind of picketing.

Defining the policy of Government in labour disputes the Home Member said that it was "to keep the ring clear for the two parties—the employers and the employee—to settle the dispute between themselves." That was not only a correct policy, but it was the only policy which any self-respecting Government could adopt.

In conclusion the Home Member advised the moderate section of labour leaders to extirpate ^{Communist} those agitators from trade unionism altogether, in their own interests. The real trouble in Sholapur had come from outsiders—agitators whose only interest was to fish in troubled waters, and to pull down the existing fabric of society.

In view of the explanation of the Home Member, the mover withdrew his ~~cut~~ motion.

(The Times of India, 12-3-1934)

Postal Department Re-organisation: Committee Appointed. ✓

The Government of India appointed by the middle of the month under review a Committee with Mr. M.L. Pasricha as chairman with a view to rationalise the Postal Department. The following are the terms of reference of the Committee:-

- (a) ^{to} investigate the methods of work followed in all departments of the Post Office, with a view to their simplification;
- (b) ^{to} investigate the methods followed for determining the number of posts of all establishments, including ~~ring~~ signallers employed in Post Offices, Postal and Railway Mail Service divisions

and their subordinate offices and in offices of heads of circles;
and

(c) ^{to} make recommendations to secure the most efficient and economical organisation of the Department.

The Committee will assemble in New Delhi in the beginning of April 1934. The Secretary of the Committee is R.S. K.R. Bakhale.

(The Hindu, 17-3-1934).

Wage Reduction in Cotton Mill Industry:

Investigation by the Bombay Labour Office. ✓

With reference to the departmental inquiry into reductions in wages in several cotton textile mills in the Presidency, announced in the Bombay Legislative Council on February 26 last, by Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah, the Finance Member, it is stated that the Bombay Labour Office, which has been asked to make a special investigation, has done a considerable amount of preliminary work.

Questionnaires Issued. - Questionnaires for the textile mills in Bombay city and Ahmedabad and the rest of the Presidency have been drawn up and circulated, the varying systems of wage payments at different centres necessitating drawing up of questionnaires appropriate to each centre. Separate questionnaire has also been sent to all recognised trade unions and persons interested in the labour side of the inquiry.

Wage Data. - It is reported that in addition to the information that may be obtained from the questionnaires, one of the assistant Labour Commissioners, together with other members of the staff of the Labour Office, is engaged in extracting wage data from the muster rolls of the various mills. It appears that the Labour Office has been receiving the fullest cooperation from all interested in the textile industry. The questionnaires for the mills have been designed to elucidate the position with regard to wages. The trade unions have been asked to furnish information within their knowledge of wage reductions, un-employment, changes in the systems of working, hours of employment, methods of working, etc.

(The Times of India, 22-3-34).

Ahmedabad Textile Crisis: Wage Cuts Postponed. ✓

Reference was made at pages 21-24 of the February 1934 report of this Office to the decision of the Ahmedabad textile mill-owners to make , at an early date, a 25% cut in the wages of their workers without waiting for the decision of the Arbitrators before whom the question of wage cuts is pending. Early in March last, however, the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association decided to postpone ~~the date of~~ giving effect to their decision ^{to} for a later date. (The Indian Labour Journal, 4-3-34). This decision, however, did not deter a few mills from effecting

wage-cuts during the month under review, as a result of which isolated strikes occurred in individual mills where wages were reduced. Thus strikes occurred in the Patel mill, the Lal Mills, the Jupiter mills, the Rajpur mills, the Ahmedabad Ginning mills, the Industrial mills and the Monogram mill. In most of the strikes the Ahmedabad textile Labour Association was able to bring about a settlement in favour of the workers.

The cases submitted by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Labour Association to the arbitration board consisting of Mr. Gandhi and Sheth Chimanlal Parikh regarding the 25 per cent cut in wages are now available. The following are the summaries of the two cases:

The Case for the Millowners. - The millowners contend that the prices of cotton, cloth and other stores have now practically reached the 1913 level, while wages are still $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the scale paid in 1913. Wages have been reduced in Bombay, Nagpur, Akola, Indore, ~~Raver~~ and other centres in India. Apart from these centres which compete with Ahmedabad internally, ~~other~~ foreign countries which compete with it more keenly have also reduced their wages. If along with wage reductions, the schemes of increased efficiency which these countries have introduced are considered, Ahmedabad will be found to be paying the highest wages in the world per unit of production.

In Bombay the wages for a worker work out at Rs.17-8 and Rs.16 per month per side and per loom, respectively, as against Rs. 27-10-3 and Rs. 25 for similar work done in Ahmedabad. Similarly in Japan, one spinner minds nearly 800 spindles and gets 1-14 per day, as against a spinner in India who looks after only 200 spindles and gets 0-14-6 per day, while, in the weaving shed, one worker looks after eight ordinary looms and gets Rs.2-4 per day, while in Ahmedabad he minds only two looms and takes nearly Rs.2 per day. In England, the efficiency is still higher. A worker attends to nearly 900 spindles and gets from 25 to 38s. a week, while he does not get on an average more than 43s. a week for attending six looms. Thus a weaver in Lancashire gets Rs.115 for six looms, while Ahmedabad pays Rs.150 for six looms.

The share of Ahmedabad in the cloth trade comes to about ~~24~~

24 per cent, if the entire production of cloth in India is taken into account, and is much less if the total consumption of cloth including the imports is considered. It is not possible that a centre which controls only this amount of trade will be able to force its level of prices and wages on others. Sooner or later it will have to bring these in a line with those of others, in order to avoid loss of trade, unemployment and misery.

The Case for the Workers; Millowners' Profits. - In the course of a lengthy reply to the above statement of the Millowners Association, the Labour Association observes that the textile industry of Ahmedabad presents an unbroken record of excellent results extending over two decades. Since 1916, the net profit, deducting losses, has never gone below 14 per cent on the paid up capital, except in one year when it was about 9 per cent. Thirty-two per cent has been the average annual rate of profit during this period. For the year ended December, 1932, for which the latest published balance sheets are available, the textile industry in Ahmedabad has showed a net profit of about 16 per cent after paying agents' commission equivalent to about 58 per cent of the total net profit and about 9 per cent of the paid up capital.

Wage-level during Post-war Boom. - The height attained by profits during the post-war boom period was about 20 times the normal pre-war level, while the semi-starvation scale of wages prevailing in 1914 failed to rise up to even a living wage standard during the same period. If the industry had pursued a sound policy in the distribution of dividends, there would have been no talk of difficulties of wage cuts today. Having done so well for long, the industry has no reason to grudge the workers the continuance of their present scale of wages, low in itself, for a long enough period to allow industrial and trade conditions to settle down to a satisfactory level, even if no dividends are possible for the time being.

High Cost of Production due to Agents' Commission. - The agents' remuneration is another important charge on the gross profit of the industry. For their services to the industry in respect of finance and administration, the agents are entitled to be adequately remunerated. What the agents, however, have been actually receiving during the past decade and a half will be found to be many times in excess of what, by the most liberal method of assessment, may be computed to be the value of their contribution to the industry. Between 1918 and 1932 the total amount paid as agents' commission was roughly about Rs. 80 million. The agents' commission was more than half the total amount paid as dividend during the same period. The agents have also benefited vastly in their capacity as shareholders, besides earning high rates of interest on their funds invested as deposits.

How can the phenomena of new mills coming into being, extensions on a large scale and night shifts in a considerable and increasing number of mills be reconciled with the wail of continued depression? There is ample room for reducing the rates of supervisory charges and for bringing down costs in various other ways. The system of agents' commission on production or sales, irrespective of the fact whether the company is making losses or profits is an anachronism which should totally disappear in favour of a share in the profits or of a fixed amount. Considerable economy to the industry would result from this change.

Position of Industry Strong - - Despite an extravagant use of resources in the distribution of dividends and other directions, large reserves have been built up. As against a total block account of Rs. 168.2 millions, the depreciation and other funds amount to Rs. 98.2 millions. The present situation of the industry is not at all such as to necessitate a curtailment of the depreciation charge or any action of a drastic nature.

Cuts Unjustified. - Emphasis has been laid on the wage cuts in other centres, but the cuts there were as a rule preceded by a long period of losses. Ahmedabad has, on the other hand, been making good profits all along and doing much better than the places which are reported to have reduced wages. The places with lower wages have fared worse and there is reason to believe that lower wages are a cause of unsatisfactory state of affairs on account of their unfavourable influence of efficiency.

(The Times of India, 23-3-34).

Textile Strike in Sholapur.

Reference was made at pages 24-25 of our February 1934 report to the strike in the textile mills of Sholapur during February last due to reduction in wages of mill-hands. It will be remembered that the strike fizzled ^{out} during the last week of February and that by 4-3-34 all the mills reopened with full complement of workers. All the same discontent was rife among the workers and on 4-3-34 workers in the Jam mill came to blows with each other and trouble soon spread to other mills with

the result that mill attendance on 5-3-34 fell to 55% of normal attendance, on 6-3-34 to 45% and to 33% the next day. On subsequent days attendance was still lower. The strikers resorted to severe picketing to dissuade the loyal workers from attending the mills and cases were reported of occasional violence and rowdyism. Many strikers and their leaders were arrested on charges of intimidation or assault of workers attending mills, or for breaking the peace or causing public obstruction, etc.

The demands of the workers are (1) abolition of the 12½ per cent cut recently made in workers' wages, (2) recognition of the workers' union, (3) reinstatement of all strikers (4) approval of the Union being sought for future wage-cuts (5) increase of 50% in the wages of women and 25% in those of spinners and (6) reduction of 5% in the rents of mill chawls.

(The Times of India, 15-3-34)

On 15-3-34, the Sholapur Municipal President called together a meeting of the Municipal Councillors and a few prominent citizens to bring about an amicable settlement by setting up a neutral Conciliation Board. As a preliminary step it was decided to direct Mr. Jakkal, the Municipal President, to discuss the present situation with both parties. The Peace Committees' delegates —Messrs. Jakkal and Long, have not made any tangible progress so far in effecting a compromise. Though mill attendance began to increase slowly towards the last week of the month under review the strike has not yet been called off. Newspapers report increase in the activity of Bombay Girni Kamgar (Red Flag) Union leaders among the textile workers in the city.

Madras Labour Department and the Depressed Classes, 1932-33.* ✓

The following details regarding the work of the Madras Labour Department for the uplift of the depressed classes ^{are} taken from the Administration Report for 1932-33 of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, submitted to the Madras Government. In the letter forwarding the Report, the Labour Commissioner has remarked that, if the duties devolving upon the Commissioner of Labour regarding depressed classes are to be discharged properly, a whole-time officer is required to discharge them. As in the previous year, the limited budget provision did not admit of ~~any extension~~ any extension of work. Attention was concentrated on the proper maintenance of the institutions already brought into existence in past years and on the completion of works which had been commenced in previous years. New works were under taken only when unavoidable. This continued curtailment of activities naturally led to a further reduction in the special labour staff working in the districts. Subject to these limitations, the ameliorative work done for the depressed classes proceeded on the usual lines and consisted of:-

- (1) provision of house-sites;
- (2) organization and supervision of co-operative societies;
- (3) opening of labour schools, granting of scholarships, stipends, boarding grants, etc.;
- (4) provision of sanitary amenities, such as pathways, burial-grounds, etc.;

* Government of Madras - Public Works and Labour Department - G.O.No.373 L., 14th February 1934 - Labour Department - Administration Report-1932-33. - pp. 3+34

- (5) provision of wells, tanks, etc., for the supply of drinking water; and
- (6) assignment of land for cultivation.

House-Sites. - The depressed classes are provided with house-sites either by the assignment of waste or poramboke land at the disposal of the Government or by the acquisition of land from private persons through the agency of the Land Acquisition Act. Assignments in the former case are free of initial payment, while in the latter case the cost of acquisition is advanced by the Government as a loan to applicants for sites and is subsequently recovered from them in instalments. Owing to the financial stringency the advance of loans to the depressed classes for the acquisition of house-sites was stopped during the year. 1,461 house-sites of the total extent of 251.76 acres were provided during the year under the method of free assignment of Government lands bringing the total number of house-sites assigned in this manner since the commencement of special activities to 32,804. An extent of 6.56 acres providing 146 sites was acquired and assigned to the depressed classes at a cost of Rs.5,271. The total number of house-sites provided by this method since the commencement of operations was at the end of the year 37,740.

Co-operation. - The organization and supervision of co-operative societies among the depressed classes is one of the principal items of ameliorative work carried out by the department for the benefit of the depressed classes. The detailed supervision of the working of the societies was originally entrusted to a staff of co-operative Inspectors lent by the Co-operative Department. These Inspectors worked under the control of the District Labour

Officers. As experience showed that District Labour Officers who had no special knowledge of the detailed working of co-operative societies were not in a position to supervise the work of the Co-operative Inspectors properly and that this fact affected the efficiency of many of the societies, a Special Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed in June 1930 to put the working of the co-operative societies on a proper basis. One of the objects with which a Special Deputy Registrar was appointed to work in the Labour Department was the preparation of a scheme for the ultimate transfer to the control of the Co-operative Department of those depressed classes societies which had been brought to proper working order. In pursuance of this plan a large number of depressed class societies were transferred during the year under review, in batches to the control of the Co-operative Department. 2,384 societies were working at the beginning of the year, 15 societies were registered during the year and 149 wound up, leaving 2,250 societies working at the end of the year.

Education. - The educational work proceeded on the usual lines and consisted of:-

- (1) the maintenance of separate schools for the depressed classes;
- (2) the provision of scholarships and boarding grants for students of the depressed classes;
- (3) grant of stipends for the training of teachers;
- (4) the maintenance of free hostels at important centres for the benefit of the students of the depressed classes; and
- (5) grant of financial help to private associations and bodies engaged in the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes by maintaining schools, hostels, etc., for their benefit.

There was no change in the policy pursued by ^{the} department in connexion with the starting and maintenance of separate schools for the depressed classes. Owing to ~~the~~ paucity of funds very few schools could be started in the year. Inefficient schools were closed. The schools in the areas in which the work for depressed classes has been completed in the districts of East Godavari, Guntur, and South Arcot, numbering 215 in all, were transferred on 1st April 1932 to the control of the local bodies concerned. 1,148 schools were working at the beginning of the year; six schools were started and 266 schools were closed or transferred ^{during the year} to local bodies. There were thus 888 ~~in~~ schools working at the close of the year. 871 of these were day schools. The rest were night schools. 32,147 pupils, comprising 25,742 boys and 6,405 girls, were given instruction in these schools. The schools were staffed by 1,083 teachers, of whom, 1,072 or 99 per cent were trained teachers. Four new sheds were constructed and 94 schools were repaired at a total cost of Rs.11,111. The Government of Madras sanctioned many scholarships and stipends for depressed class students.

(The Working of the Labour Department, Madras, during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 24-28 of the March 1931 report, during 1930-31 at pages 6-7 of the November 1931 report and that for 1931-32 at pages 9-12 of the February 1933 report).

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisations.Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency, 1932-33.* ✓

As in the previous years, the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bombay, explains the delay in submitting the Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1932-33 as due to the difficulty which was experienced in obtaining correct and complete returns from the unions.

Number of Registered Unions. The number of new unions registered during the year was 12, which brought the total number of registrations on 31-3-1933 to 71. The registrations of 21 unions had been cancelled before 1-4-1932 and during the year under report, six unions were removed from the register. The total number of trade unions on the register on 31-3-1933 was therefore 44.

Classification of Unions. - Of the 44 registered unions at the close of the year under review, only 36 individual unions submitted annual returns. The 36 individual unions may be classified thus: Textile Workers' Unions - 5; Railway Workers' Unions, including those of railway workshops employees - 7; Seamen's Unions - 2; Municipal Workers' Unions - 3; Port Trust and Deck Workers' Unions - 6; Miscellaneous Unions - 13. There were no registered federations of trade unions.

Membership and Finances of Unions. - The total membership of the reporting unions decreased from 70,690 to 64,169 during the year under report. The number of withdrawals from membership

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1932-33 - Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press 1934 - Price Anna 1 or 1d. - pp.13.

was nearly double the number of additions. A large number of accessions than withdrawals was reported by the 'Port Trust and Docks' and the 'Miscellaneous' Groups. The female membership of registered trade unions increased from 986 in the previous year to 1,755 during the year under review. This increase was mainly due to the Kajugar Kamkari Union whose membership consists almost entirely of female workers. The opening balance of the combined general funds of the 36 unions was Rs.364,550-12-10 and the closing balance Rs.366,283-4-0.

The principal liability of the majority of the unions was the General Fund. It formed the only liability of 12 unions and a minor liability of three unions while only three other unions had liabilities other than the General Fund. The total amount at the credit of the General Fund Accounts of all the unions was Rs. 372,815-14-9 and other liabilities amounted to Rs.29,853-0-3 as against total assets amounting to Rs. 402,668-15-0. The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs.249,093-11-9 for unpaid subscriptions due, but one union contributes as much as Rs.217,638 to this total.

Political Fund. - The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, continued to maintain its political fund.

Number & Membership of Registered & Unregistered Unions. -

The number of Trade Unions - registered as well as unregistered - in the Presidency at the beginning of the year was 92 with a membership of 108,848, while at the close of the year there were

105 unions comprising 108,747 members.

(The Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 42-48 of the June 1930 report, that for 1929-30 at pages 58-60 of the May 1931 report, that for 1930-31 at pages 45-47 of the February 1932 report, and that for 1931-32 at pages 34-35 of the February 1933 report).

58

Trade Union Movement in C.P. & Berar, 1932-33*

Registered Unions. • One new union, was registered during the year and no union was dissolved during the period. The number of registered unions at the close of the year was 11. The number of unions which actually functioned during the year was only eight.

Membership and Funds. • The total membership of all the unions at the beginning and end of the year stood at 6,788 and 7,305, respectively, as compared with 4,331 and 6,853 in the preceding year.

No political fund was maintained by any of the registered unions. The closing balance of the general Fund of all the unions at the end of the year under review stood at Rs.2,100-2-2.

Appeals. • No appeals were filed by the unions during the year under report against the decision of the Registrar and hence no order was passed by the Judicial Commissioner in second appeal.

Action on Whitley Report. • The Royal Commission on Labour in India had recommended that all registered trade unions should be able to secure free of charge the conduct of their audit by officials of Government and that the reports of such official auditors should be made available for the public as well as for the unions. At the instance of the Government of India, the Local Government accepted the proposal as an experimental measure for three years, and the Central Provinces and Berar Trade Union Regulations were accordingly amended during the year. So far

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending the 31st March 1933. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P.1934. - Price Annas Six. - pp. 3

only one union, namely, the Central Provinces and Berar Municipal Employees' Association, Nagpur, has availed itself of the arrangement of free audit of its accounts. For the present, it has been arranged that the auditors of the Co-operative Department should conduct the audit of the unions.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in C.P. & Berar during 1931-32 is reviewed at page 38 of our January 1933 report).

Rules Governing Recognition of Government

Employees' Associations Formulated. ✓

The following rules governing the recognition of associations of their industrial employees (including railway employees), other than those subject to ~~limit~~ military law or to the provisions of the Indian Army Act, 1911, have been approved by the Government of India in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour in India (vide page 326 of Whitley Report). They do not apply to establishments under the administrative control of the Provincial Governments:-

1. The Government is prepared to accord official recognition to associations of its industrial employees. The grant and continuance of recognition rests in the discretion of the Government, but recognition when granted will not be withdrawn without due cause, and without giving an opportunity to the association to show cause against such withdrawal.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the rules relating to the submission of petitions and memorials by Government servants, representations from recognised associations, whether made orally by deputation or presented in writing, may be received by Government officers subject to the observance of Rule 6, and to such further restrictions as may be imposed by

a department of the Government ■ in respect of representations which raise no question of common interest to the class represented by the association.

3. Recognition will not ordinarily be granted or continued to any association, unless it complies with the following conditions: (a) It must consist of a distinct class of Government employees; (b) all Government employees of the same class must be eligible for membership; and (c) it must be registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act.

4. The Government may require the regular submission of copies of the rules of any recognised association, of its annual accounts and of its list of members.

5. No recognised association shall maintain a political fund, except with the general or special sanction of the Government, and subject to such conditions as the Government may impose.

6. The Government may specify the channel through which representations from recognised associations shall be submitted and the authority by whom deputations may be received.

7. An officer who is empowered to grant leave to Government employees will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an employee who is a representative of a recognised association to attend duly constituted meetings of the association. The grant of such leave will be subject to the exigencies of the service, of which the officer in question shall be sole judge.

8. The Government may delegate any of its powers under the preceding rules to any authority subordinate to it.

9. These rules supersede all previous rules in respect of all associations to which they are applicable.

(The Statesman, 30-3-34).

31

Economic Conditions.

Economic Planning for India:

Discussion in Legislative Assembly. ✓

Mr. F.E. James, on behalf of the European group in the Legislative Assembly, moved in the Assembly on 8-3-1934 a token cut in the budget demand under the item "Executive Council" in order to draw the attention of the Government to the need for ~~the~~ economic planning. In moving the cut Mr. James said that the European Group agreed with the Finance Member that there was no short cut to economic recovery and that expedients tried in other countries were not necessary for India. But recovery would not come of itself. It must be planned for and the machinery of Government must be adapted to make the best possible use of future opportunities. In modern times, the disequilibrium of production had given rise to exaggerated economic nationalism and a nation not prepared to organize itself and plan its own economy was bound to go economically to the wall. The European Group, therefore, made four suggestions whereby adjustments in India's administration might enable her the better to face the new conditions. The four suggestions were: (1) redistribution of government portfolios; (2) consideration and co-ordination of customs and tariffs in force in the country and to be imposed in future; (3) formation of an Economic Advisory Council, and (4) revision of trade agreements. A brief summary of Mr. James's suggestions and the debate on the question is given below:-

(1) Re-distribution of Portfolios. - The present distribution of departments belongs to the days of individualism and departmentalism. They have little relation to the conditions of modern life.

They should be grouped as follows: A Member for Commerce and Industry and the beginnings of a Board of Trade; a Member for Communications (roads, railways, civil aviation, inland water transport, posts and telegraphs); and a Member for Agriculture and Labour. The other three portfolios may remain unchanged. Later on, if central boards of health and education are organised, an additional member may be required.

(2) Consideration and Co-ordination of Customs and Tariffs -

Four specific suggestions were made under this head: (A) The present Tariff Board should become a permanent body. Its personnel should be strengthened so as to include recent commercial and industrial and customs experience among its membership. In general tariff matters it should be the principal advisory body to Government. Its procedure should be less leisurely, ~~and~~ and its reports should be published with greater promptness. (B) An enquiry into the incidence of tariff rates on non-protected articles should be made urgently. (C) A consolidation of the tariff schedule and of the Indian Tariff Act should be effected. (D) A thorough overhaul and scientific reconstruction of railway tariffs ~~are~~ are necessary at an early date.

(3) Formation of an Economic Advisory Council. - Regarding the formation of an Economic Advisory Council, Mr. James said: "We recognise the work of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Executive Council, but it is really the Cabinet less two members. It has not the time to consider ~~the~~ problems before they come up for immediate solution. It is mainly composed of officials; commerce, industry and agriculture are not represented there. We believe that some organisation for the consideration of economic questions to be urgently needed, and recommend:

(A) The appointment of a small permanent staff of experts in economic matters (academic and practical), who will be the thinking machine on economic questions in all their aspects and ^{who will be} able to give expert and disinterested advice. But experts, however, able, must be kept in touch with practical affairs. Therefore we recommend:

(B) The organisation of an Economic Advisory Council, consisting

not of representatives of communities or special interests, but of representatives of industry, banking commerce, agriculture, labour, ^{and} transport. The Tariff Board expert staff would be the nucleus of the permanent staff of this body, and the chairman of vice-chairman might have to be a permanent official.

The Council should not be unwieldy i.e. not more than 15 at the outset. It would be an experimental organisation, which after some time might take on a permanent life in a modified form. That will grow out of experience. We do not want anything so complicated as the kind of council suggested by the Salter Report, but we do believe in the urgent need for a consultative body being organised as early as possible. Later on it may develop on the lines of something analogous to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which will do for industry what that body has done for agriculture in connection with co-ordination and research. A body such as this will be urgently necessary with the development of provincial autonomy and the provincialising of industries. In the meantime we believe that this economic staff and council will be immediately useful, and may save Government from such expensive policies as have been followed in the case of the sugar industry."

^{matter of} (4) Revision of Trade Agreements. - India should move in ^{the} negotiating trade agreements with other countries similar to the one she has concluded recently with Japan. Her commercial relations with some of her customers are out of date. These old treaties should be revised in the light of recent developments. If India is not in a position rapidly to alter the conditions on which she is willing to deal with other countries, she cannot adequately protect her trade against discrimination and against bargains injurious to her interests. As regards agreements and treaties with Indian States pertaining to customs which affect not only treaty rights but State sovereignty, ^{the} a policy of drift and sentimentalism should be abandoned and the States should be made to recognise that throughout the world, by treaty and agreement, sovereign countries, were, in the face of economic necessity, shedding some of their sovereignty.

Mr. N.M.Joshi's Views. - Mr. N.M.Joshi remarked that the economic machinery of the world had become very complex owing to the recent tendency of countries to rationalise industries. No country could recover economic prosperity by following haphazard methods. To operate any industrial plan for production it must be considered whether increased production could be consumed. Another problem was the question of distribution of national wealth and income. At present it appeared that nine-tenths of the wealth of the world was concentrated in the hands of one-tenth of the people. So far as Mr. James's motion went, his suggestion for economic plan^{ning} would find support on all sides, but he feared when they went into the details for the proper distribution of wealth, the time for the parting of the ways between the European Community and the rest might set in. Proceeding, Mr. Joshi put in a special plea for labour. He thought labour legislation in India would be hampered if that legislation did not apply to all India, including the States. Following the recommendation of the Royal Commission, Government should start an Industrial Council on which States also would be represented. He should particularly urge international co-operation in these matters and complained that the Government was tardy in giving effect to I.L.Conventions. In his opinion no plan would be satisfactory if they did not take into consideration plans in other parts of the world. He concluded by saying that Labour itself was important to have a separate Department of the Government of India.

Government Policy. - Sir Joseph Bhore explained ~~the~~ Government policy regarding trade treaties and the Tariff Board. As regards trade treaties, he said that the mere fact that they were old did not justify revision. As regards the trade treaty with Japan and other treaties now under negotiation, he said, "The case of Japan will not be the only Treaty which conditions now, or in the near future, may render necessary for us to have. We are in communication with the Irish Free State and Canada for negotiations which might shortly begin. There has been a reorientation of our policy in regard to our trade agreements. Until recently, our ideas were to keep trade agreements as simple as

possible, but in future, I think, simple agreements will have to give place to more complicated and more compact Treaties, securing to Indian goods the most-favoured-nation treatment." As for railway rates, Sir Joseph Bhore stated that the Government were collecting detailed and comprehensive data and as soon as this was completed there would be an examination of them when the assistance of non-official representatives of trade and commerce would be ~~consulted~~ ^{obtained}. Regarding the Tariff Board, Sir Joseph Bhore said that he was keeping an open mind about its composition and functions.

Sir George Schuster winding up the debate said that the Tariff Board had been a remarkably successful piece of machinery and some of the Dominions had made it clear at the Ottawa Conference that that was a piece of machinery they would like to have. As regards redistribution of portfolios, he said that that would not meet the requirements of changed conditions and that what was really needed was more Executive Councillors. Regarding the consideration of economic problems, Sir George said that the Government had made a great advance recently in the method of dealing with the difficult economic problems that had arisen. Previously it had not been easy to get opportunities of discussion between departments in matters still in an undeveloped stage, but in view of the need for such discussion and consideration of each problem as a whole as it arose they had started the Economic Sub-Committee of the Executive Council. Another difficulty was the division of authority between the Central and Provincial Governments. One of the dangers of the future was that with the growth of provincial autonomy problems might not be considered from the point of view of India as a whole. There was a strong centrifugal tendency already apparent, but that must be guarded against if India was to have a planned economic policy. He also said that there was a move to place in the hands of one member all subjects dealing with transport and communications affecting the centre and the provinces.

Turning to the Economic Advisory Council, Sir George pointed

out that in the United Kingdom the Economic Advisory Council had not yet held a single meeting since it was set up in 1931, but, if the Council had not proved of value, its permanent Secretariat had been used a great deal. That had been the experience of other countries that had ~~had~~ started ~~one~~ of these Councils, and the cause for this failure was that in taking up important questions in the economic field one came up against questions of policy which must be decided by the Government itself. If the Council tendered advice in conflict with Government's policy, Government must reject it and no Council could perform a useful function unless its advice was always taken. Therefore such a Council must either be ^{in the nature of an} "eyewash" or there must be relinquishment by Government of most important responsibilities. Sir George Schuster recognized the advantage of some sort of Economic Advisory Council in the sense of a body that would satisfy the public. His view was that as a first step it would be valuable if Provincial Governments would set up Economic Advisory Councils. The task was easier for them and the Government of Bengal had already taken that step. When valuable experience had been gained, out of the personnel of the Provincial Committees an All-India Advisory Council might be instituted.

At the end of the debate Mr. James withdrew the cut motion.

(Summarised from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 8-3-1934).

Textile Industry of Bombay;
Further Details of Mr. Bakhale's Proposal
for Nationalisation. ✓

At pages 53-54 of the Report of this Office for February 1934 a brief reference was made to the plea entered by Mr. R.R.Bakhale in the Bombay Legislative Council on 21-2-1934 to nationalise the textile industry of Bombay. Fuller details regarding Mr. Bakhale's speech, made in the course of the general discussion of the Budget, are given below.

Mr. Bakhale traced the history of protection given to the textile industry of the country, and of Bombay in particular, at various periods and declared that, due to the grant of protection, the industry has expanded rapidly and is meeting the textile needs of the country. But the conditions of the workers have not improved and, as a result of the present textile crisis, nearly 30 mills of Bombay City have been closed rendering 4 60,000 labourers unemployed in Bombay City alone. Ahmedabad, by declaring ~~the~~ a cut of 25% in the wages to be enforced at an early date, is also heading for ^a crisis. Moreover, in Bombay, wage cuts have been effected in several mills and the extent of the cuts range from 7 per cent to 30.5 per cent. It cannot be said, as long as such conditions prevail, that the textile industry is in a satisfactory state, and since it has been recognised that unless the textile industry improves the finances of the province cannot improve, it behoves the government to set about in earnest

to improve conditions in the ~~m~~ industry. Having regard to the continuous clamour of the millowners for protection, which now stands at 75 per cent, having regard to the bad results that have accrued by the grant of this protection, having regard to the fact that other textile centres have improved at the cost of Bombay and ^{Port} Bombay is going down every day, the only method by which the industry can be improved is for the Government to nationalise the city's textile industry.

Sir Ghulam Hussain, Finance Member with the Bombay Government, interrupted, saying that local Governments have no power to nationalise industries and that the Legislative Assembly should be moved in the matter. Mr. Bakhale said, in answer to the Finance Member:

"I do not know whether it is so, but I do feel that the welfare of Labour and the finances of this presidency are matters within the competence of this legislature, and as I happen to represent Labour interests, and also as I am a member of this House, I am entitled to express my view and to suggest ways and means which I consider best to meet the ^{present} ~~situation in the present circumstances.~~ And I believe, Sir, that nationalisation of the textile industry in Bombay particularly is the only remedy to get out the textile industry from its present difficult position and also to improve the finances of this presidency. It is a bold step, I do recognise, and therefore I do not suggest to them that they should immediately proceed with that work. All that I suggest is that they should make an announcement, in the manner in which the Government of India announced that all the railways in India shall be nationalised within a reasonable period of time."

Referring to the difficulty of getting millowners to agree to the proposal, Mr. Bakhale said:

"You will have to make the Millowners agree. Even the railway companies which had sunk their capital in India did not agree to the railways being nationalised, and yet the Government of India took ~~up~~ that step and announced that the railways shall be nationalised within a certain time. In the meantime, I am placing

an alternative before them, an alternative which is being seriously considered in Great Britain today. That alternative is to put a sort of control over the textile industry by the appointment of something like a cotton control board. If the honourable member wants any further information, I am prepared to give it to him so far as this point is concerned. I should like to say that Great Britain has been seriously considering the possibility of controlling the production, of controlling the distribution and of controlling everything that is connected with the mill industry in Lancashire today. That is the policy that the Labour party, in consultation with the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain, has declared and has announced. A reference for the details may be made to "Industrial and Labour Information", published by the International Labour Organisation of Geneva."

(Summarised from the Bombay Legislative Council Debates of 21-2-34, Vol. XXXIX. - Part 3 pages 214-218).

Industrial Development in U.P.: Recommendations of
Enquiry Committee for Reorganisation of Industries
Department. ✓

Reference was made at page 54 of our December 1932 report to the appointment by the Government of the United Provinces of a Committee, presided over by Mr. J.P. Srivastava, Minister of Industries, to enquire into the working of the Industries Department of the Province and to make suggestions for the reorganisation of the Department so as to make it possible to pay ~~an~~ greater attention to the development of provincial industries than has been possible hitherto. Far-reaching recommendations for the overhauling of the Industries Department and ^{for} industrialising the Province are furnished in the report of the Committee, which

4

has been released for publication recently. The following are the more important recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee regarding industrial development of the Province.

A Five-Year Plan Suggested. - The Committee have set out a five-year plan, the aim of which is the systematic correlation of the various branches of the work in order to achieve certain definite results. For this purpose the Committee propose that for the present the activities of the department should be concentrated on three items, namely:

(1) an all round development of the sugar, oil, glass and leather industries; (2) the marketing of the products of selected minor and cottage industries and (3) helping educated young men of the middle classes to set up ~~an~~ industry or business or, failing that, to find employment therein.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the U.P. Legislative Council accepted a resolution on 9-12-1933, calling upon the Government to adopt a five-year plan of economic development in the province (for details vide pages 63-64 of our December 1933 report).

Development of Major Industries: - Dealing with the major industries of the Province the Committee says that the United Provinces occupies a position of more than average importance in the factory-scale industrial system of ^{in India} ~~made in~~ India, its most important five industries being textiles, sugar, oil, glass and leather and leather working. After laying down the requirements for a fuller development of each of these industries, the Committee recommends that a few promising industries, after selection, should be assisted intensively in every practicable manner. The three major industries which the Committee have suggested for selection are: Sugar, Oil and Glass.

Development of Sugar Industry. - In regard to sugar the Committee says that the United Provinces accounts for more than half the sugarcane grown in India and that a large proportion of the cane produced is of improved varieties. There are as many as sixty regulated sugar factories operating on vacuum pan process in the U.P. Among the most important problems of sugar are:-

- (1) ~~the~~ securing to the cane grower of a fair price for his cane;
- (2) ~~the~~ industrial utilization of molasses and other bye-products;
- (3) ~~the~~ improvement of the open-pan process so as to secure a higher yield of sugar;
- (4) ~~the~~ supply of properly trained sugar chemists and engineers;
- (5) co-ordination, as regards marketing, so that cut-throat competition may be avoided without at the same time exposing the industry to the risk of stagnation;
- (6) co-ordination among factories so as to secure credit on easier terms and
- (7) assistance in establishing a special engineering industry in the province so that all the simpler ^{parts} ~~parts~~ of sugar machinery could be made and prepared locally.

Development of Cottage Industries. - Among the minor industries for selection and encouragement mentioned are open pan sugar factories, oils and soaps, engineering, hardware and electroplating, gold and silver thread manufacture, textiles, fountain pen manufacture and woodwork. The Committee divides cottage industries into artistic and non-artistic and, after a careful and exhaustive survey of their present position and needs, recommends that both minor industries and cottage industries should be helped in certain specified directions, primarily, (1) in marketing, (2) by giving them expert advice and (3) by carrying on experimental and research work on their behalf with a fixed plan.

Marketing of Industrial Products. - The Committee devotes a special chapter to the problem of marketing and suggests that the proper development of marketing facilities should receive more attention and more money should be spent for this purpose. The Arts and Crafts Emporium should continue on its present basis as a state-owned institution for marketing ^{business} articles produced by cottage industries, working partly as a ^{business} concern, and partly as an agency for publicity and propaganda. Its primary aim should be to find or create markets and secure orders.

In regard to cottage workers who make non-art goods, the Committee proposes that they should be taught to specialise in the manufacture of articles which do not compete with factory products, popular designs and patterns being introduced, and such articles should be standardised. A commercial museum is suggested to be established, which would secure orders by carrying on propaganda activities. A sole agent is also recommended to be appointed, if possible, and subsidised, if necessary, for taking over all the handloom textiles produced by co-operative societies in the first instance. The Committee also proposes that the possibility of establishing a joint stock co-operation, ^{or organisation} suitably aided by Government and called the United Provinces Marketing Association (or Board), ~~should be set up~~ for establishing stores in important towns should be examined.

Expert Advice and Research. - The Committee also recommends that an expert should be attached to the department of each of the three selected major industries, who could give technical and commercial assistance to the industry concerned and carry on research on its behalf on specific problems referred to him by the industry. In addition to this there should be in the department an Industrial Engineer and commercial expert. The department should also take up, on a systematised basis, the collection, compilation and dissemination of commercial intelligence. Steps should also be taken to build up detailed monographs for the industries selected for intensive development. A survey of consumption is also proposed.

Financial ^{Aid} to Industries. - The Committee makes detailed recommendations for granting financial aid to industries. At the

outset they propose that the Board of Loan Commissioners should be abolished and large loans exceeding Rs.10,000 each needed by industrialists should not be granted. For this purpose the Committee suggests that Government should examine the question of establishing a financing ~~co-operation~~ ^{corporation} aided by Government on the lines recommended by the Central Banking Committee or of an industrial branch of an existing commercial bank. As for small loans the Committee proposes that they should be advanced by Government on recommendation of the Board of Industries. The examination of the feasibility of supplying machinery on the hire-purchase system either directly by Government or through the industrial financing ~~co-operation~~ ^{corporation} is also suggested.

Technical Education. - Alluding to industrial and technical education, the Committee holds that on the whole the schools in the province do not cater sufficiently for the needs of the artisans nor are they successful in helping to set up middle class young men in business. In fact, the training imparted was largely divorced from commercial practice and was neither of sufficient use to students nor to the industry. The existence of these schools did not seem to have resulted in any notable progress of industry. It recommends that the quality of training imparted and number of men trained should be closely correlated to the needs of the various industries. The objects of technical and industrial education should be (1) to train artisans in improved methods and technique; (2) to enable middle class young men to set up in business; (3) to help middle class young men to secure employment in industries; and (4) to supply industries with trained men. To suit these different needs the Committee recommends three different types of schools namely (a) central vocational institutions, (b) elementary schools, some of which might serve as feeders to central schools and (c) tutorial or instructional classes for artisans.

A regular system of apprenticeships is also recommended.

(The Hindu, 9-3-1934)

Rural Indebtedness in Bengal: Question referred to

Board of Economic Enquiry. ✓

Full details regarding the Board of Economic Enquiry for Bengal, the setting up of which was decided on in December 1933 by the Government of Bengal, were given at pages 52-54 of our

December 1933 report. The Board has very recently been constituted and the Chairman is Mr. F.A.Sachse, Member, Board of Revenue.

The first meeting of the Board was held on 14-3-1934 when H.E. the Governor of Bengal addressing the Board announced that the problem of rural indebtedness is to be the first subject to be tackled by the Board. He said that although they would be asked to consider the rural problem in the first instance their functions would not be limited. ^{to} It would range over the whole of the economic life of the province. His Excellency also invited the support of public opinion and said, "You are, so far as I am aware, the first body of its kind to be set up in India. I venture to predict that it will not be long before this example is followed by other parts of India".

It is understood that the meeting discussed the question of rural indebtedness and formed different sub-committees to go into the subject and find out means of relieving rural indebtedness by suggesting, if possible, a rise in the price of agricultural commodities.

As was recently announced, (vide pages 65-69 of our February 1934 report) the Commissioner for Rural Reconstruction will work under the Board of Revenue in the sense that much of what he does will be material for the Board to study and pronounce upon.

(The Hindu, 15-3-1934).

Employment & Unemployment.

Problem of Unemployment in Assam: Enquiry Committee's Report.

Reference was made at page 60 of our September 1933 report to the appointment of a committee by the Assam Government to enquire into the unemployment problems of Assam and to devise schemes for solving them. ~~problems created by unemployment.~~

According to the report of the Committee, which has recently been published, the problem of unemployment in Assam is not yet so acute as it is in some other provinces, but unless adequate steps are taken in time the situation may become unmanageable with the limited resources of a small province like Assam. The following is a brief summary of the recommendations made by the Committee:

Overhauling of Educational System. - The Committee ~~examined~~ recommended investigation ~~up to~~ the present system of education in Assam with a view to recasting it and giving due weight to practical and vocational training, and consideration of the advisability of establishing a separate university for Assam. They further recommend the revision of the standard of matriculation, reduction in the number of students going up for higher education, compulsory vocational training in all schools, with stress on agriculture, since 75 per cent of the people of the Province depend on it, entertainment of teachers with training in agriculture, and part payment of primary teachers out of the sale products of articles which they are able to produce with the help of their boys.

Rural Development. - As regards rural development, the Committee urge co-ordination and intensification of the activities of nation building departments, such as the Public Health, Co-operative, Agriculture and Industries Departments, by entrusting these to the Director of Industries until a wholetime Development Officer can be appointed. Considering the financial difficulties of Assam, the Committee suggest that the experiment should, for the present, be confined to one or two subdivisions so as to explore the possibilities of co-ordination.

Economic Survey of the Province. - The Committee recommend an economic survey of the Province which should comprehend its natural resources, its existing large-scale industries and its cottage industries with reference to their present condition and the possibilities of development. The survey should consider the possibilities of starting new industries and expansion of the existing marketing facilities. An intensive survey of a few

villages should also be undertaken. In view of the large sums of money spent by the Government in purchasing articles which are available or can be manufactured in the Province, the Committee suggest that steps should be taken at an early date to establish an Assam Stores Department to meet the Government's demands, as far as possible. This would give employment to indigenous workers and encourage private enterprise.

Establishment of Agricultural Colonies. - A suggestion is also made ~~in~~ for the establishment of agricultural colonies on two plots of suitable land, one in each Valley, with an area of at least a thousand acres for the settlement of educated young men, and also for the establishment of two training farms within these areas to give the necessary preliminary training in agriculture. After proper training each boy should be given 50 bighas of land for settlement at concession rates — free of land revenue for five years, at half rates for two years and at full rates from the eighth year. A loan of Rs.250 to each student is recommended to enable him to start work on his plot. This loan may be given through a co-operative society organized for financing settlers.

Training of Youths in Government and Other Concerns. - The Committee suggests training of printers in the Government Press and employment of youths in various concerns, such as the railways, oil and coal companies, tea gardens and insurance companies.

(The Statesman, 9-3-1934).

Unemployed-Day Demonstrations in India on 4-3-1934. ✓

At the 13th session of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Cawnpore from 23rd to 25th December 1933 (for a short summary of the proceedings of the session, vide pages 33-37 of our December 1933 report) ^a resolution was passed advocating the organisation of demonstrations by unemployed workers throughout the country. In pursuance of this resolution, the Executive Council of the A.I.T.U.C., at a meeting held at Bombay on 27 & 28-1-1934, fixed 4-3-1934 as the All India Unemployed Day and appealed to workers throughout the country to make demonstrations

on that day by holding mass meetings, leading processions etc . Accordingly demonstrations were held in several important industrial centres, notably in Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Karachi, Delhi, Lahore, Nagpur, Poona, Sholapur and Jubbulpore. In Bombay a large number of unemployed workers are reported to have taken part in the demonstrations, shouting slogans like "Give us bread or give us work" and "~~We~~ too have a right to live!" Violent speeches were made by Communist leaders who addressed the meetings. The following is the substance of a typical resolution moved in one of the Bombay meetings.

Mr. Karnik, moved a resolution which stated that "capitalism ^{was} the root cause of unemployment, and that capitalists by their devices of wage cuts, retrenchment and rationalisation are daily increasing and intensifying it in the country." The resolution further urged the destruction of capitalism and imperialism and demanded the enumeration of the unemployed at Government cost, maintenance of registers of the unemployed, payment to them of an allowance at the rate of Rs.30 each per month, free housing and free land and credit for unemployed agriculturists.

(The Times of India, 6-3-34).

Similar resolutions were passed at other industrial centres by the demonstrators.

47

Social Conditions.

Measures to Control Opium Consumption;

Recommendations of Assam Enquiry Committee. ✓

The Assam Opium Enquiry Committee formed on 6-3-1933 with Ref. J.J. Nichols Roy (ex-Minister) as Chairman, to review the results of the present Opium Policy of the Government of Assam and to advise them as to the future policy to be adopted, have submitted their report. The following are their main recommendations:—

Extension of Control Policy. — 1. In the plains districts the present policy of 10 per cent cut in the rations of pass-holders under 50 years of age should continue, the rations of those over that age remaining unaffected.

2. With the consent of H.E. the Governor the above cut should be made also in backward areas.

Registration of Consumers over 45 Years Old. — 3. Registers should be re-opened for registration of consumers of the age of 45 and over. No passes should be granted unless the Civil Surgeon or the Government Assistant Surgeon or, in the case of tea gardens, a medical officer with European qualifications, certifies that opium is absolutely necessary for preservation of the applicant's health. The new passes should be permanent and subject to annual reduction in the case of consumers so long as they are under 50 years of age.

Control of Vendors. — 4. To counteract the evil of short-weight sales, negotiations should be re-opened with the Government of India for the manufacture of opium in pill or tablet form. Government should take steps to ensure that the vendor-fee is fixed at a rate which will allow opium lessees a reasonable margin of net profit and should consider the possibility of dispensing with prepayment of a two months' additional vend-fees. Vendors on fixed pay may be appointed on an experimental basis in one or two selected areas and certain Government officials, should be empowered to inspect and report on the conduct of opium shops. Lessees who are detected in the act of selling opium to non-registered consumers should be prosecuted under the Opium Act and severely punished.

Prevention of Smuggling. — 5. The attention of Magistrates should be drawn to the provisions of the Assam Opium Amendment Act

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(Act I of 1933). Government should examine the question of the applicability of the Deportation Act (Act III of 1864) to Chinese, Nepalese and Marwari smugglers.

Extension of Opium Smoking Act to Backward Areas. - 6. The Assam Opium Smoking Act of 1927, should be extended to backward areas; a section might be added to the Act making the possession of prepared opium an offence.

Finances. 7. Out of the existing revenue derived from opium an increased allotment should be made for carrying out measures which would forward the present opium policy. The balance should be applied to the creation of an Opium Replacement Fund to meet the expenditure for social and sanitary purposes.

Propaganda. - 8. Public opinion must openly declare itself against the opium habit and propaganda work among the consumers should be carried on with which Government should actively identify itself.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-3-34).

Public Health."Safety First" Association of India.Programme for 1934. ✓

References were made at pages 7-9 of our November 1931 report, pages 48-49 of December 1931 report and pages 51-52 of November 1932 report to the formation and inauguration of the Safety First Association of India, Bombay. On 28-3-1934, the Bombay Branch of the Association held its annual general meeting under the presidentship of Mr. A.S.Trollip, chairman of the Branch, at which an extensive "Safety First" programme to cover industry, the street and the home was proposed for 1934. The programme includes the issue of safety codes in the vernacular for motor drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and children, the encouragement and development of safety committees in industries, the issue of safety codes and pictorial posters covering various phases of safety in industry and the distribution of posters covering the field of safety in the home.

The report of the Association for 1933 showed that the branch had 70 members at the end of the year. As a result of the initiative taken by the Branch Association in the field of industrial safety, representatives of textile, railway, engineering and dockyard interests met under the chairmanship of the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the result that safety committees had been formed in mills, engineering workshops and dockyards. By means of publicity and propaganda the branch had contributed to awakening ~~in~~ a consciousness of the need for organised efforts

to reduce the heavy toll of preventable accidents. In proposing the adoption of the report Mr. Trollip made a spirited appeal to the members to help in furthering the cause of the Association by **actively assisting** in the enlistment of new members.

After appointing the Office-bearers for 1934, the meeting terminated.

(The Times of India, 30-3-34).

Women and Children. ✓Care of Destitute Children and Young Offenders:Recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Bombay Children's
Aid Society.

An enquiry committee was appointed last year by the Children's Aid Society, Bombay, to enquire into the care of destitute children and young offenders. This committee, which has gone thoroughly into the question, has submitted a report offering ~~eight~~ recommendations for the control, standardisation, and expansion of the work in dealing with the problem of the neglected child.

Recommendations. - Among other ^{suggestions,} things, the committee has recommended the repeal of the Apprentices' Act and the Reformatory Act so far as they affect the Bombay Presidency, extension of the application of the Bombay Children Act throughout the Presidency, establishment of juvenile courts in all urban centres and district headquarters, organisation of local societies in large urban areas for the management of a remand home, development of a probation service, establishment of certified schools and the prosecution of constructive investigation and after-care work.

With regard to control and standardisation, the committee recommended the establishment of ^a the juvenile branch of the Backward Class Officers' department for the control of all juveniles dealt with under the Bombay Children Act and Borstal Act, the

appointment of ^a Backward Class Officer as chief inspector to carry out, with the assistance of a qualified, experienced inspector, the inspection of certified schools, control of government institutions under the Bombay Children Act and eventually under the Borstal Act, disbursement of Government grants, propaganda work in the mofussil, organisation of a system of probation, organisation of a system of after-care, advisory assistance in the organisation of juvenile court administration, and arrangement of training courses.

(The Times of India, 23-3-34)

4th Biennial Conference of National Council
of Women - Bombay - 1934.

The 4th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India met at Bombay from 13th to 17th March 1934 under the presidentship of the Maharani of Baroda. The Conference ~~was~~ discussed and adopted resolutions on a number of questions relating to the educational, industrial and social welfare of women.

The Conference adopted resolutions urging encouragement of the adult education movement, the application of the regulation of the Factories Act to unregulated industries, the raising of the minimum age of employment of children from 12 to 15 years, the passing for India of an unemployment Insurance Act and an All India Maternity Benefit Act on the lines of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act. There was lively discussion on the subject of representation of Indian women at international conferences by non-nationals.

A more detailed report of the Conference will be sent later.

employment and be left to the discretion of individual universities, it would not touch the main problem of unemployment. In view of past experience about the results of attempted investigation into the problems of unemployment, this Conference is of opinion that it is not practicable for the universities to undertake a scientific investigation of unemployment among educated Indians. A practical solution of the problem of unemployment can only be found in the radical readjustment of the present system of education in schools in such a way that a large number of pupils can be diverted at the completion of their secondary education either to occupations or to separate vocational institutions, being based on a carefully-planned scheme for the economic development of the country. This will enable the universities to improve their standard of admission. The Government should be requested to establish or help in the establishment of institutions for imparting vocational training.*

(The Statesman, 7, 8 & 9-3-1934).

Municipal Education in Bombay City;

Progress of Free Compulsory Education - 1932-33 ✓

The following information about the educational activities in 1932-33, including free and compulsory education in certain wards, undertaken by the Schools Committee of the Bombay Municipality is taken from the Administration Report for 1932-33 issued by the Municipal Commissioner, Bombay:-

Municipal Schools. - The Municipal Schools and Classes on 31st March 1933 numbered 311 and 39 respectively, the corresponding number for the previous year being 319 and 30. The year under report witnessed an increase in the number of pupils which rose from 61,196 to 62,348, i.e. by about 1,152.

Expenditure of Municipal Schools. - The total amount at the disposal of the Schools Committee came to Rs.31,75,910-15-3. Out of this amount Rs. 3,095,344-11-10 were actually spent during the year, leaving a Closing Balance of Rs.80,566-3-5. The total expenditure for the year was less than that for the previous year by Rs.64,646-14-4. The total number of pupils on rolls in

Municipal Schools on 31-3-1933, was 62,348. The total expenditure incurred by the Schools Committee from the School Fund during the year 1932-1933 was Rs. 3,095,344-11-10. Subtracting from this the expenditure on Grants-in-Aid, Public Libraries, and other items which do not form part of the direct expenditure on Municipal School children, Rs. 2,906,405-8-2 was the net expenditure on Municipal School children. Dividing the figure by the total number of children on 31-3-1933 Rs. 46.6 was the figure of expenditure per head of pupil in the year 1932-1933, which is the lowest since 1920-1921. The expenditure per pupil in the year 1930-31 was Rs. 48.3.

Distribution of Expenditure. - The following table shows the distribution of the amount expended:-

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure			Cost per pupil. Total pupils= 62,348.
	Rs.	A	P.	
1. Pay of Teachers.	1,972,898	3	9	Rs. 31.7
2. Pay of Servants.	110,479	4	0	1.3
3. Rent & Repairs.	455,916	14	5	7.3
4. Furniture.	293	7	0	--
5. Superintendents & their Establishment.	63,540	4	7	1.0
6. Medical Inspection.	36,581	5	11	0.6
7. Census	19,882	11	6	0.3
8. Pension & Provident Fund.	163,853	5	0	2.6
9. Contingencies & Miscellaneous.	82,960	0	0	1.3
Total	2,906,405	8	2	46.6

Aided Schools. - The number of pupils in aided schools on the last day of the year under report was 19,159 (12,015 boys and 7,144 girls) as against 18,897 (11,921 boys and 6,976 girls) of the previous year. The average number of rolls for the year is recorded to be 17,886 and the average attendance 13,995, i.e., 78.2. The unfortunate riots during the year had an adverse effect on the general attendance of almost all schools for about three months.

Teaching Staff in Aided Schools. - There were in all 1,092 teachers, full-time and part-time, for 178 schools with 19,159 pupils as against 1,094 teachers for 180 schools with 18,897 pupils in the previous year.

Out of the 1,092 teachers (674 men and 418 women), only 723 were full-timers and the rest 369, part-timers. A good many schools and special institutions have been maintaining a large staff of part-time teachers in place of full-time ones, in order to meet their special needs. Out of the 1,092 teachers there were 293 trained teachers —men and women— full and part-time for ordinary and special subjects. The percentage of trained teachers works out at 26.8. The Report states that it is desirable that the Managers of Aided Schools should maintain a higher percentage of trained teachers.

Expenditure of Aided Schools. - The annual Statistical Returns submitted by the Aided Schools now show that they have altogether incurred an expenditure of Rs.776,845 for the year 1932-33. Their average number of pupils for the same year being 17,886, the cost per pupil stands at Rs. 43.4 as against Rs. 42.7 for the previous year. The average cost per pupil to the Municipality for the year has come to about Rs. 9.3 per annum.

Medical Inspection. - Out of about 62,000 pupils on the rolls of all the Municipal schools, only 12,391 pupils could be examined during the year under report. Among the pupils examined, the general percentage of boys free from any disease was 53 and that of girls was 35.7. 47 per cent of the boys and 64.3 per cent of the girls were suffering from one or more defects. A comparison with the results of medical inspection in previous years shows a steady decrease in the percentages of various diseases or defects such as those of the skin and eyes, and in cases of general debility and enlargement of spleen, a result which may be attributed to the introduction of the School Clinic by the Committee.

Free and Compulsory Education. - Free and compulsory education was in force only in two wards (F & G wards) of the city. During the first quarter of the year under report, the peaceful condition of the two wards was much disturbed owing to the outbreak of riots in the City. The whole of the quarter was thus utilised in the collection of statistics of children in the two wards and the checking of the figures of Attendance Teachers' Scheme tried up to March 1932. Even though the disorders in the city had almost abated at the end of the first quarter, it was found desirable not to think of either reviving the Attendance Teachers' Scheme or even making a beginning in the direction of launching prosecutions. The normal outdoor work of visiting the localities for ascertaining particularly the details of the non-attending school children and for bringing them to schools could be resumed by the Attendance Inspectors from the beginning of July 1932. From August the annual census was taken with the help of part-time teachers enumerators and some full-time enumerators. The cost of the census came to Rs. 914-11-0. The census results revealed that there were then 4,762 non-attending children (1840 boys & 2922 girls) of compulsory age.

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Schemes for Better Attendance. - In January 1933, three schemes for bringing the non-attending children to schools were considered by the Committee and it was decided to give effect to the third scheme not in the whole of both the wards at once but as an experimental measure only in five or six suitable localities in both the wards for a period of about two months. According to the accepted scheme, some of the Marathi and Tamil Schools were to be kept closed on Saturdays and the Urdu ones on Fridays; but the teachers in these schools were to work instead in their sections or beats on Sundays or on Holidays when the parents or guardians of such children were generally found at home. Their work was to note the non-attending children, appeal to their parents or guardians to send their wards to school, explain to them the advantages of giving education to their children and tell them definitely that the Schools Committee would have no alternative but to prosecute them if they were not to do their duty by sending their children to schools. The result of this activity was to reduce the number from 4,762 to 2,654 during the year under report. The report states that the Committee will, however, have to resort to the penal measures provided in the Free and Compulsory Education Act very soon, as it is found that the number of non-attending children has scarcely gone below 2,000 in the two wards.

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Migration.

Indian Labour for Malaya; Recruitment to be resumed Shortly.

It will be remembered that the Government of India had sent a note to the Malayan Government, stipulating their terms for a scheme of reviving supply of assisted and non-recruited labour from India to the F.M.S., after consulting the Standing Committee on Emigration in the matter. (vide pages 72-73 of the February 1934 report of this Office). It is understood that the Government of the Federated Malay States have substantially accepted the conditions stipulated by the Government of India for reopening the supply of assisted and non-recruited labour and that if the arrangement is ratified, emigration to Malaya at the rate of 20,000 adults per year will be allowed in the near future. Emigration will, it is believed, begin in about six weeks' time.

(The Hindu, 14-3-34).

Control of Money Lenders in the Strait Settlements, Malaya:

A New Moneylenders' Bill to be Introduced.

Money lending in the Strait Settlements (Malaya) is stated to be a business which has grown to very large dimensions in the colony and which is carried on not only by the professional money-lender but also by others as an addition to their means of livelihood. There has been no attempt to control

money-lending in any part of the Colony except Labuan where an ordinance on the subject was passed in 1902 before it became part of the Colony.

It is reported that a new Bill is to be introduced in the Colony of Straits Settlements for the control of money-lenders who are henceforth to be licensed. The Bill follows in the main the English legislation on the subject.

According to this Bill power is given to the Governor-in-Council to exempt any money-lender from the necessity of being licensed, but money-lending transactions by such exempted persons are subject to the provisions of the Bill. A written memorandum of the contract must be given to the borrower. The rate of interest must be clearly stated. Permanent books of account must be kept. Compound interest is forbidden. Interest above three per cent per month is presumed to be excessive. Transactions deemed harsh and unconscionable may be re-opened by the Court.

(The Hindu, 19-3-34).