

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

C 1903/67

INDIAN BRANCH

---  
Report for June 1934.

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> ... ..	1-19
2.	<u>Conditions of Labour.</u> ...	
	(a) Hours of work in Jute Mills; Working Time Agreements in 1933. ... ..	20-21
	(b) Factory Administration in Burma, 1933. ...	21-24
	(c) Wages and Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry; Findings in Bombay Labour Office Report. ... ..	24-30
	(d) General Wages in the Bombay Presidency; Details of Government Enquiry. ..	31
	(e) Railway Labour Supervisor; Post made permanent. ...	32
	(f) Wages in Unrationalised Occupations; Minimum Rates Fixed by Bombay Millowners' Association. ...	33-34
	(g) Textile Strikes. ...	35-36
3.	<u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
	<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
	(a) Auditing of Trade Union Funds; Punjab Government's Free Audit Scheme. ...	37-38
	(b) 8th Half-Yearly Meeting of A.I.R.F. with the Railway Board, 12 and 13-7-1934; Items on the Agenda. ...	38
	(c) Congress and A.I. Socialist Party; Congress Repudiates Class War Idea. ...	39
4.	<u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
	(a) All India Crop-Planning Conference; Simla, June 1934. ...	40-43
	(b) Rationalisation of Indian Railways; Pope-Committee's Second Report. ...	43-44
	(c) Working of the C.P. Debt Conciliation Act during 1933-34. ...	45-46
	(d) Progress of Joint Stock Companies in India, 1930-31. ...	46-48
	(e) Large Industrial Establishments in India, 1931. ...	49
	(f) Ceylon Banking Enquiry Commission; Questionnaire Issued. ...	50-51
	(g) Economic Survey of Ceylon; Scheme Contemplated. ...	51
	(h) 6th Conference of Departments of Industries; Items on the Agenda. ...	52-53

5.	<u>Employment and Unemployment.</u>	
	Relief of Rural Indebtedness and Unemployment; Bengal Government's Scheme.	54-56
6.	<u>Public Health.</u>	
	Leprosy in Bengal Jute Mill Areas; Action by Indian Jute Mills Association.	57-58
7.	<u>Women and Children.</u>	
	Training in Reformatory Schools, Bombay Presidency, 1932-33. ...	59-60
8.	<u>Education.</u>	
	(a) Progress of Education in India, 1927-32.	61-66
	(b) Vocational Bias to be given to Education in Baroda; Recommendations in Littlehales Report.	67
9.	<u>Agriculture.</u>	
	(a) Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1930-31.	68-71
	(b) Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1932-33.	71-75
	(c) Development of Indian Sugar Industry; Central Sugar Research Institute to be Established at Cawnpore.	75-77
	(d) Impetus to Indian Dairy Industry; Institute to be Established at Bangalore.	77
	(e) Marketing Problems of India; Scheme Drawn up by I.C.A.R.	78-79
10.	<u>Migration.</u>	
	Indian Emigration to Malaya and Ceylon, 1933.	80-84.

References to the I. L. O. ✓

The Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce for the year 1933 publishes at pages 185-189 the correspondence of the Chamber with the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India and the Government of India on the question of the communiques issued by the Government of India on 26-9-33 and on 6-12-33 on the items on the agenda of the 18th I.L.Conference and calling for recommendations regarding nominations of non-government delegates to the Conference. The Chamber recommended that no delegate should be sent by the Government of India in view of the existing financial stringency.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 1-6-34, the May 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, and the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 16-6-1934, publish the views of the Employers' Federation of India on the items on the agenda of the last I.L.Conference. Their views were communicated by Mr. H.P.Mody, President of the Federation, to Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian employers' delegate to the Conference.

(For a list of other papers which published the views of the Federation, vide page 7 of our May 1934 report).

\* \* \*

The May 1934 issue of the H.E.H.the N.S.Railway Employees' Bulletin publishes a communique issued by this Office on 9-5-1934 on the Blue Report on Reduction of Hours of Work.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique vide pages 5-6 of our May 1934 report).

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 1-6-34 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 26-5-34 on the Report of the Director to the 18th I.L.Conference (For a list of other papers which published the communique vide page 6 of our May 1934 report).

\* \* \*

The Hindu, the Hindustan Times and the National Call of 8-6-34, the Statesman, the Times of India and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 9-6-34, the Leader of 10-6-34 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 10-6-1934 publish a Reuter's cable dated 7-6-34 from Geneva to the effect that Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Indian Employers' Delegate to the last I.L.Conference, declared that a 40-hour week was impracticable in India and that Mr. Jannadas Mehta replied to the effect that India should be the first country to which the Convention should be applied and ~~be the first country~~ that such reduction <sup>in hours</sup> would not adversely affect industrial conditions in India.

The Indian Labour Journal of 17-6-1934 publishes an editorial article under the heading "Working Hours; Forty Hour Week" condemning the attitude of the employers and supporting the plea for a reduction of hours.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 13-6-34 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "Forty-Hour Week" in which it adversely comments on the statement on the subject made by Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai at the last I.L.Conference and strongly supports the plea for reducing hours of work in Indian factories.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, the Hindu and the Hindustan Times of 9-6-34, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the National Call of 10-6-34 and the Leader of 11-6-34 publish a Reuter's cable dated 8-6-34 from Geneva to the effect that the Employers' group in the last I.L.Conference, with the exception of the Italian representative, was presenting a united opposition to the 40-hour week proposal and that they declined to participate in the Committee on the question.

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 16-6-34, publishes an editorial note criticising the arguments of the employers in general and that of the Indian employers' delegate in particular against the 40-hour week and enters a strong plea for the adoption of the proposal.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 20-6-34, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-34, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 24-6-1934 and the Indian Labourer, Madras, of 28-6-1934, publish the full text of the speech of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta at the last I.L.Conference pleading for the adoption of a Convention re . 40-hour week for industries.

\* \* \*

"Commerce", Calcutta of 23-6-1934 publishes a few short notes under the caption "Forty-Hour Week", summarising the pronouncements of the Indian Employers' and workers' delegates and the report on the subject submitted by the I.L.O. to the Conference. Reference is also made in one of the notes to the speech made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta in the ~~pr~~ course of the discussion on the Director's Report, <sup>he notes</sup> ~~and~~ states that the Government of India have only recently made the

Trade Disputes Act a permanent measure, and that improvements on the present Act are contemplated. In view of these, the notes point out, Mr. Mehta's complaint loses force.

\* \* \*

"Commerce", Calcutta, of 16-6-1934, publishes a long editorial article on the "Forty Hour Week" summarising the various arguments in favour of and against the proposal and states that the proposal is impracticable in India at the present stage of its industrial development.

\* \* \*

The Times of India, the Statesman and the Hindu of 25-6-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of ~~25-6-34~~<sup>26-6-1934</sup> and the Leader of 27-6-34 publish a Reuter's cable dated 23-6-34 from Geneva to the effect that the 15th I.L. Conference concluded its session on 23-6-34 after adopting a resolution referring the 40-hour week proposal to the Governing Body for ~~the~~ inclusion in the agenda of a future Conference.

The Statesman of 26-6-34 commenting on the postponement of the 40-hour week proposal for future consideration <sup>points out</sup> states that opinion is divided on the proposal. It says:-

The chief argument at the moment, however, is that fewer hours will reduce unemployment by spreading the work among more men. And that can be fallacious unless wages are reduced proportionately. For industry in general it is truer that work makes work, that the more a man produces the more work is provided for others in consequential processes. It is for this reason chiefly that opinion is hardening against the 40-hour proposal. There is, however, the opposite point of view that the more leisure workers have the more commodities they consume, and so the better industry flourishes. If Geneva can find the maximum optimum between the different views the world will take a long step forward.

\* \* \*

The Leader of 17-6-1934 reproduces as an editorial note the following ~~six~~ editorial comments made by the Economist on the proposal for the 40-hour week:

"It is, of course, fallacious to argue that shorter hours are necessary in the long run to reduce unemployment by "sharing work". The amount of work to be shared is limited only by current maladjustments, and is in the long run indefinitely expansible. A reduction of hours would consequently mean a retardation in the rise of the world's standard of living. Nevertheless, shorter hours are socially desirable in themselves, and they may even be effective, as a short-run remedy, for reducing unemployment. But the dilemma about wages remains. If wages are reduced, the burden of providing for unemployment will simply be transferred from the taxpayer to the wage-earner, and there may even be some temporary reduction of consumers' expenditure as a result. If wages are not reduced, costs will be raised."

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 15-6-1934 publishes a long and appreciative editorial article reviewing the Director's report. Pointed attention is directed in the course of the review to the remarks of the Director on the need for economic planning and international economic co-operation.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Hindu of 15-6-1934, the Times of India and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 16-6-1934, the Leader of 17-6-1934, the ~~Karnataka~~ Labour Times of 18-6-1934, the Tamil Supplement of Labour Times, Madras, of 25-6-1934, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-1934 and the Indian Labourer, Madras, of 25-6-1934 publish a long Reuter's cable dated 14-6-1934 from Geneva giving a summary of the speech of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta on the Director's Report.

The Hindustan Times of 27-6-1934 publishes the full text of Mr. Mehta's speech.

The Times of India 18-6-1934 publishes a note from its Simla Correspondent criticising Mr. Mehta's statement that the Indian Trade Disputes Act is a dead letter. It is stated in the note that only 24 applications were received under the Trades Disputes Act and not 400 as Mr. Mehta has stated, and that the Government have to take into consideration various aspects of individual disputes which are the subjects of applications before granting or rejecting such applications and therefore the Government cannot be blamed for the large proportion of applications rejected.

The Leader of 15-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the heading "Plain Speaking at Geneva" on Mr. Jammadas Mehta's speech and characterises it as "remarkably outspoken". The article states that it is a mistake to urge India to resign her membership of the I.L.O., since the I.L.Conference provides an excellent platform for ventilating India's grievances. It says:-

"There is a class of labour leaders in India who have been expressing the opinion that India should cut off connection with the International Labour Organisation and cease to send her representatives to Geneva, which is intended to subserve western capitalist interests. Now we are by no means satisfied with the position which is allotted to India and other non-European countries at the I.L.O. We want that Indian labour should be more adequately represented on the Governing Body of the Organisation, that a larger number of Indians should be employed on the International Labour Office staff, and that colonial labour should be directly represented at the meetings of the Conference. It is a great pity that these and other demands have not been conceded, but we fail to see what purpose will be served if India, as advised by the extremist patriots, decides to boycott Geneva, where at present she is afforded an invaluable opportunity for drawing the attention of the world to the wrongs which are being inflicted upon her."

The Times of India of 16-6-1934 publishes a short editorial note criticising Mr. Mehta's speech. Characterising the speech as "unmitigated twaddle," the paper observes:

"We have been provided with tragic evidence of the travesty



of labour leadership in this country during the Bombay mill strike. Both that and Mr. Mehta's performance are symptomatic of the position as a whole".

The National Call of 16-6-1934 also comments editorially on Mr. Mehta's speech, applauding his outspoken exposition of real Indian conditions.

Federated India, Madras, of 20-6-1934 commenting editorially on Mr. Mehta's speech praises Mr. Mehta for exposing the truth fearlessly.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Hindu of 16-6-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 17-6-1934, the Times of India of 18-6-1934, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-1934, the June 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, and the Leader of 20-6-1934 publish a Reuter's message dated 15-6-1934 from Geneva summarising the speech of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian Employers' Delegate to the last I.L.Conference, in the course of the discussion on the Director's Report to the Conference.

The same message also contains the announcement that the Committee on Hours of work adopted a Convention for a 40-hour week and that the employers' delegates were not present.

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-1934 publishes an editorial note expressing satisfaction at the adoption by the Committee on Reduction of Hours of Work of the Draft Convention recommending a 40-hour week for industry. The same note condemns the opposition of the employers' group towards the measure.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, the Hindu, the Times of India and the National Call of 18-6-1934 and the Hindustan Times of 19-6-1934 publish a

Reuter's cable dated 17-6-1934 from Geneva summarising the speech made by Sir B.N.Mitra on the Director's Report, in the course of which he refutes the allegations made by Mr. Jammadas Mehta.

The Statesman of 19-6-1934 publishes an editorial note pointing out that Sir B.N.Mehta was able to prove by statistics that Mr. Jammadas Mehta's statements regarding Indian conditions were a "travesty of facts".

The Hindustan Times of 19-6-1934 publishes a cartoon regarding the exchanges between Mr. Mehta and Sir B.N.Mitra under the heading "The Boy who Spoke the Truth."

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 20-6-1934 publishes an editorial note applauding Mr. Mehta's speech in the course of which the following comment is made:

"We read enlivening stories of India's prosperity only in the speeches of Finance Members, ex-Finance Members and people of their like. But Indian economists and industrialists, many of whom have nothing to do with what is known as political agitation, have a different, and a much more doleful, tale to tell."

\* \* \*

The Leader of 21-6-1934 commenting on Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai's complaint at the last I.L.Conference regarding the difficulties experienced by British Indian manufacturers owing to non-ratification of I.L.Conventions by Indian States, says:-

"We too have drawn attention more than once in these columns to this undesirable state of affairs, and we are unable to understand on what reasonable ground the princes whose representatives have been taking such prominent parts at the deliberations of the League Assembly can object to the application of the conventions and recommendations of the Labour Conference to their territories."

The article also refers to Mr. Lalbhai's plea for increasing the number of Indians on the Staff of the I.L.O. and for appointing Indians to higher posts in the Office and asks:

"If the Geneva authorities fail to redress even such, comparatively speaking, minor grievances, what hope is there of their ability to solve the much more serious international problems confronting the world for which the League was brought into existence?"

m \* \* \*

"Commerce," Calcutta, of 23-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "Economic Planning". The article refers to Mr. Manta's speech in the course of the discussion on the Director's Report and instances the series of Conferences and enquiries which have been held recently to co-<sup>ordinate</sup>~~operate~~ the economic activities of the country, as proof of the Government's bona fides. ~~to do the best for India.~~ The article also summarises the item in the News Bulletin regarding "Planned Economy".

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 4-7-1934, the Leader of 7-7-1934 and the National Call of 9-7-1934 publish the press communique issued by this Office on the Director's speech in reply to the discussion on his Report.

(A cutting from the issue of the Hindustan Times containing the communique was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1255/34 dated 5-7-1934).

\* \* \*

The Hindu, the Hindustan Times and the National Call of 29-6-1934 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika and Leader of 30-6-34 publish a communique issued by Mr. R.R.Bakhale, General Secretary, National Trades Union Federation, to the effect that Indian and Japanese labour have secured seats in the enlarged Governing Body of the I.L.O. and that Mr. N.M.Joshi has been elected to the new Governing Body.

HHK. The Leader of 1-7-1934 publishes a long editorial article congratulating Mr. Joshi on his election, "though it took the Geneva authorities more than a decade to make up their mind to do the right thing", and deplores the fact that India is not similarly accorded a seat on the League Council.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 1-7-1934 publishes an editorial note congratulating Mr. Joshi on being elected a member of the Governing Body.

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 9-7-1934 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 6-7-1934 giving further details regarding the election of Mr. N.M. Joshi to the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 23-6-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 24-6-1934 and the Times of India and the Leader of 25-6-1934 publish a Reuter's message dated 22-6-1934 from Geneva to the effect that the I.L. Conference adopted a resolution inviting the United States to join the International Labour Organisation.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Times of India of 8-6-1934 publish a Reuter's message dated 6-6-1934 from Geneva to the effect that Lord and Lady Willingdon lunched with Mr. H.B. Butler and that Sir B.N. Mitra was giving a tea party on the 6th June in honour of Lord and Lady Willingdon.

\* \* \*

The following messages regarding the activities of the I.L.O., emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies, were published

in the Indian Press (the reference here is only to Indian papers received in this Office) during June 1934.

1. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 6-6-1934 regarding the lunch given by Mr. H.B. Butler to Lord and Lady Willingdon.
2. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 7-6-1934 regarding Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai's speech against the 40-hour week at the 18th I.L. Conference.
3. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 8-6-1934 regarding the attitude of the "Employers' Group in the last I.L. Conference <sup>towards</sup> on the 40-hour week.
4. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 14-6-1934 summarising Mr. Jannadas' <sup>speech</sup> on the Director's Report.
5. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 15-6-1934 regarding Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai's speech on the Director's Report.
6. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 17-6-1934 regarding Sir B.N. Mitra's speech on the Director's Report.
7. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 22-6-1934 regarding the resolution adopted at the I.L. Conference inviting the United States of America to join the I.L.O.
8. A Reuter's message from Geneva dated 23-6-1934 regarding the postponement of consideration of the 40-hour week.

It will be noticed that, except the first message, all the messages refer to the last session of the I.L. Conference

\* \* \*

The following is a list of papers and journals which have either reproduced items from the June 1934 issue of minute No. S.429/150 dated 4-5-1934) or commented editorially on them. (The list is not exhaustive and is made only from journals received at this Office).

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 5-6-1934 reproduces the item: "The June Conference: Forecast of the Agenda".

The May 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta reproduces the items: ~~regarding~~ "Planned Economy", "Unemployment

Insurance" and "Social Insurance in 1933".

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 16-6-1934 reproduces the item: "Forecast of the Agenda".

"United Bengal", Calcutta, dated 23-6-1934 reproduces the item "Japanese Competition".

The following items were reproduced in "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 12-6-1934: "The Director's Report - A Bird's Eye-View", "Wages and Unemployment", "Planned Economy", "The Social Consequences of the Economic Crisis" and "Reduction of Hours of Work". The issue of "Commerce and Industry" dated 19-6-1934 reproduced the item "The United States and the I.L.O."

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 3-6-1934 reproduced the following items from the News Bulletin: "The International Labour Organisation; Character of Annual Conference" and "The June Conference; Forecast of the Agenda". The issue of the journal dated 10-6-1934 publishes a photograph of the Director and the following additional items: "The I.L. Conference; The Director's Report - A Bird's-Eye View" and "The Reduction of Hours of Work; Some Recent Developments."

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 1-6-1934 published an editorial article under the heading "Planning" summarising and commenting <sup>favourably</sup> on item: "Planned Economy". The issue dated 3-6-34 of the same paper publishes a short editorial note on the agenda of the last I.L. Conference and declares that there can be no solution to the unemployment problem without drastic reductions in hours of work.

The Hindu of 16-6-34 publishes a long editorial article under the heading "India and the Geneva Labour Conference" based on some

of the items <sup>in</sup> of the News Bulletin. The article gives details regarding the various items on the agenda of the Conference and states that several of the items are not of interest to India. It says:-

"We have few workers engaged in automatic sheet glass works. Cases where women work at night in India are very rare. In the maintenance of the acquired rights of workers at their transfer from one country to another we can have very little interest, for few Indian workers with such rights transfer their scene of activity to India. Even the much talked of forty-hour week, in support of which the Indian workers' delegate at the Conference, Mr. Jammadas Mehta, spoke with such warmth is not of practical interest to us in India, at any rate for the time being. Our workers may require better arrangements regarding rest and work, but in the present state of industrial organisation and progress in India it cannot be maintained that the salvation of the workers lies in the adoption of a forty-hour week. It has been felt by leaders of industry in India and by not a few labour leaders that conditions of work and life in India differ so much from those obtaining in Western countries, that methods devised to safeguard the interests of European workers will be of little avail in the matter of protecting the interests and safeguarding the welfare of Indian workers. Seth Kesharbai Lalbhai opposed the adoption of a forty-hour week on the practical ground that it will tend to reduce the emoluments of the workers; but the public will oppose it on other grounds. More often than not, measures meant to safeguard the workers in Europe only operate, when applied to Indian conditions, as a handicap on Indian industry and impair its ability successfully to compete with its European rivals. Neither the agenda of the Geneva Conference nor the discussions thereat have served to dispel the fears of the Indian public on this ground. It is eloquent of the lack of confidence of Eastern peoples in the League Conference that not long ago, leaders of Labour in the Orient resolved to form an Organisation of their own - the Asiatic Labour Congress. The proceedings of the Geneva Conference do not show that it is alive to this development."

The National Call of 4-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article, favourably commenting on the suggestions regarding "Planned Economy" contained in the Director's Report and deploring the absence of any such scheme for India.

The Times of India of 9-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the heading "Working Hours". It is argued that the problem in India is not so much one of ~~max~~ unemployment as of securing a higher standard of living for the employed. An increase

in cost of production will be entailed if hours of work are lessened and Indian industries are, due to severe competition from outside, not in a position to afford an increase in the cost of production. For these reasons the paper is of opinion that a reduction of hours of work is not practicable in India at present.

The Sind Observer, Karachi, of 3-6-1934 publishes an article contributed by Mr. Gardial Mallik under the heading "The World's Labour Parliament" describing the machinery of the I.L.Conference and giving details regarding the subjects which have been placed on the agenda of the last Conference.

The United India and Indian States, New Delhi, of 9-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the caption "International Labour Conference". The article is based on information supplied in several items included in the June 1934 issue of the News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The June 1934 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes a short note describing the main features of the recent I.L.O. publication "International Survey of Social Services".

\* \* \*

The Sunday (magazine) edition of the Hindustan Times, dated 4-6-1934, reproduces the review of the I.L.O. publication "International Survey of Social Services" published in the daily edition of the paper issued on 14-5-1934. (Cutting of the review from the Hindustan Times of 14-5-1934 was forwarded to Geneva with our Minute H.1/977/34 dated 17-5-1934).

\* \* \*

The Servant of India of 31-5-1934 publishes a long and appreciative



review, contributed by Mr. V.V.Giri, of Dr. R.K.Das's article on "Child Labour in India".

\* \* \*

Federated India, Madras, of 30-5-1934 publishes an appreciative review of Mr. H.H.Butler's article on "The Course of American Recovery" published in the January 1934 issue of <sup>the</sup> International Labour Review.

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 10-6-1934 publishes a short review of the April issue of the International Labour Review. It is remarked that "as usual it is filled with matter which is interesting in itself, though the reader sighs for a somewhat brighter appearance in the setting."

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 5-6-1934, the June 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, the "Indian Labourer", Madras, of 15-6-1934, the May and June 1934 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, and the May 1934 issue of the H.E.H.the N.S.Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, publish the proceedings of the 1st Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May last.

(For other references in the press to the Congress vide pages 1-4 of our May 1934 report).

The same issue of the Union Herald also publishes an editorial article bringing out the salient features of the Congress.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 25-5-34 publishes the statement issued to the press by the Director of this Office on the significance of the

Asiatic Labour Congress.

(For a list of other papers which published the statement, vide page 4 of our May 1934 report).

\* \* \*

The Leader of 11-6-1934 publishes an editorial article under the heading "Asiatic Labour Conference" in the course of which, after referring to the remarks on the subject in the Director's report to the last Conference, and to the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May last, it is remarked:-

"As it makes much difference whether a conference is being held under the auspices of the Geneva Organisation or some other body, Indian and other Asiatic labour leaders are most anxious that an Asiatic conference must soon be summoned by the Geneva authorities. If the Colombo conference had been held under the auspices of the I.L.O. it would have been attended not only by the representatives of the workers, as the present conference was, but also by the representatives of Governments and employers, which would have been no small gain. Greater importance would be attached to resolutions adopted by a conference composed of the representatives of all the three parties concerned than to resolutions passed by a gathering of merely workers. Why the authorities of the I.L.O. have not been able to make the necessary arrangements for summoning an Asiatic Conference we are unable to understand. It has sometimes happened that the International Labour Conference has met at Geneva twice in the course of a single year, once in May or June, and again in September. Why is it that between 1931, when the resolution was for the first time adopted recommending the convening of an Asiatic Conference, and 1934 the Geneva authorities have not been able to summon even a session of such a conference? Is it that the European powers which dominate Geneva fear that their influence will be undermined if an Asiatic Conference comes into existence? If not, why has there been so much delay in summoning the conference? At the Colombo conference also a resolution was passed urging the I.L.O. to expedite the holding of such a conference under their auspices. What action do the Geneva authorities propose to take on the resolution?"

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 3-6-1934, publishes an editorial article on the Asiatic Labour Conference which was held at Colombo in May last. In the course of the article, the paper observes:

"The League of Nations and the International Labour Office, till

recently, were preoccupied with European problems, and it is only during the last few years that the I.L.O. has recognised that the peculiar conditions of workers in Asia need special treatment."

\* \* \*

The June 1934 issue of "India and the World" publishes an article on "India and the I.L.O.; Some Aspects of the Proposed Indian Constitution" contributed anonymously from Geneva. The article reviews the provisions made in the proposed Indian Constitution for associating Indian States with India's obligations towards the I.L.O. The writer adopts an optimistic view regarding this subject and about the future of labour legislation and ratification of I.L.Conventions under the reformed constitution.

\* \* \*

The May 1934 issue of "Advance India", Madras, publishes an article on "Settlement of Industrial Disputes" contributed by Mr. A.G.Venkatachari. The article reviews the provisions in vogue in India for settling industrial disputes and complains that the I.L.O. has not so far taken any action on the resolution moved at the 11th and 12th sessions of the I.L.Conference by Dr. Michelis and Diwal Chaman Lall respectively advocating the placing of the subject of settlement of trade disputes on the agenda of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 2 and 4-6-1934 and the Servant of India, Poona, of <sup>7 and</sup> 14-6-1934 publish two articles contributed by Mr. C.W.Jenks of the I.L.Office under the heading: "Social Insurance in India" directing attention to the inadequacy of provisions on the subject

in the White Paper.

The Hindu of 4-6-1934 publishes a long editorial article commenting on Mr. Jenk's articles, in the course of which it says:-

"It is true there are advantages in giving the provinces a certain measure of freedom in the matter of the form and degree of social service they may wish to undertake, but the Constitution should see to it that this freedom does not lead to chaotic conditions in the sphere of industrial activity in the provinces. It is but fair that in order to promote harmonious and well-ordered development of the nation at large, the Central Government should be vested with powers of control over the provinces such as are necessary to enable it to ensure the co-ordination of provincial activities. There is also another reason why the future Indian Federation should be empowered to undertake social insurance legislation. There are several thousands of Indians labouring in foreign countries. It is to the interest of India that these should be guaranteed minimum standards of social insurance. This can be best done by India agreeing to the international labour conventions which she can do only if her Central Government has the authority to ratify them and enforce them by undertaking the necessary legislation. The White Paper is defective in that it has not equipped the Federal Government with adequate powers in this behalf."

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 24-6-1934, publishes an article by Walter M. Citrine under the caption "World Trade Unionism: Its significance to the workers" in the course of which it is mentioned that an important <sup>channel through</sup> ~~method~~ by which trade unions could co-operate internationally for the development of their programmes is through the I.L.O. and its annual conferences. The functions of the I.L.O. and the I.L.Conferences are also briefly described in the article.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labourer, a new Tamil bi-monthly of Madras, dated 15-6-1934 and 28-6-1934 publishes a Tamil translation of an article contributed by the Director of this Office on the subject of the "World Unemployment Problem". The article deals with the main

features of the present unemployment <sup>situation</sup> and the efforts that are being made, especially by the I.L.O., to solve the problem.

\* \* \*

The May 1934 issue of "Jamia", organ of the Urdu Academy, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, publishes the Urdu translation of an article contributed by the Director of this Office reviewing the efforts made by the I.L.O. to combat the unemployment menace.

\* \* \*

Federated India of 6-6-34 publishes a summary of the communique on the world unemployment situation issued on 4-5-34 by this Office.

(For a list of ~~the~~ other papers which published the communique vide page 8 of our May 1934 report).

\* \* \*

The Times of India of 29-6-1934 publishes in the "Readers' Views" column a letter from an anonymous contributor under the caption "Indian and Japanese Textile Industry" in which it is claimed that conditions of labour in Japan are not much better than those in India as is generally supposed and states as an instance in support of this contention, that Japanese workers' delegates have complained at the I.L.Conferences that ~~the~~ labour unions are not allowed to exist in Japan. It ~~is~~ also points out ~~that~~ Japan's refusal to ratify the Washington Conventions regarding conditions of work of women and children as significant.

\* \* \*

In the course of a speech on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the Sri Sarada Mills, Podanur, South India, Sir R.K.Shanmukham Chetty, President, Legislative Assembly, made a

a reference to his connection with the I.L.O. and said that as a result of his experiences at the various sessions of the I.L. Conference which he had attended, he was of opinion that the Indian ~~Capitalist~~ was not so hard-hearted as the Western ~~Capitalist~~.

\* \* \*

In the course of a joint statement issued to the press by Messrs N.M.Joshi and R.R.Bakhale on the recent Report of the Departmental Enquiry on "Wages and Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry", certain statements made Mr. H.B.Butler on ~~the~~ wages and purchasing power in the Report presented ~~by~~ him to the 17th I.L.Conference (page 43 of the Director's Report) are quoted.

The joint statement was published in full in the Statesman of ~~26-6-1934~~ and the Servant of India of ~~28-6-34~~. Other papers published short summaries of the statement.

\* \* \*

Hours of Work in Jute Mills.

Working Time Agreements in 1933.

Several references have been made in previous reports of this office to the various decisions taken by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, since 6-11-1928 to the close of the year 1932, with regard to hours of work in the Jute industry (vide pages 20-24 of July 1931, pages 31-33 of the August 1932 and pages 25-27 of the January 1933 reports). The crisis in the industry, which necessitated such measures, did not abate during 1933. In 1933, also, therefore, measures had to be taken for curtailment of hours of work. A brief review of the measures taken during 1933 is given below, and the information is taken from the Report for 1933 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association.

Working Agreements. - During the year under review the hours and conditions of work at the mills in the membership of the Association have been subject to three separate agreements, namely:- (1) The Indian Jute Mills Association Working Time Agreement of 6-10-1931; (2) The Terms of Settlement with the Outside Mills adopted on 27-5-1932; and (3) The Terms of Agreement with the Outside Mills adopted on 21-1-1933. In accordance with the terms of these agreements, the working arrangements throughout 1933 have been as follows:-

(a) The mills in the membership of the Association —with the exceptions mentioned below— have worked for forty hours per week with 15% of all looms sealed, the looms so sealed being hessian looms of 40" reed space or over;

(b) <sup>The</sup> Craig, Waverly, Megna and Nuddea Mills - which are members of the Association - have worked for forty hours a week but with a full complement of machinery, in accordance with the special treatment afforded to them in 1932 under Clause 7 of the "Terms of Settlement with the Outside Mills"; and Premchand Jute Mill, also a member of the Association, was accorded the privilege - given to it in 1932 - of working for fifty-four hours per week with all looms in operation;

(c) The five "Outside Mills", namely, <sup>the</sup> Adamjee, Agarpara, Gagalbhai, Ludlow and Shree Hanuman Mills, have worked for fifty-four hours per week with a full complement of machinery.

Association's Current Working Time Agreement. - The terms of the arrangement entered into with the outside mills are subsidiary and supplementary to the Association's Current Working Time Agreement.

BHK.2 21

Agreement dated 6th October 1931, and apart from those relating to working hours. The principal provisions of the arrangement are as follows:- (1) The Agreement came into ~~max~~ operation from 1-7-1933 and is to remain in operation for an indefinite period and is to be terminated by six months' notice which may not be given prior to 30-6-1934 (2) The Association is empowered, on a majority votes of members, to release from seal gradually, after giving adequate notice, the looms under seal. (3) There is to be no increase in productive machinery on the part either of the Association mills or of the outside mills. The total number of working looms represented by the Association is 48,856, giving a total of 52,317 looms working subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement. (4) Inspection of the mills regarding productive machinery and hours of work by the inspecting staff either of the Association or of the Factories Department of the Government of Bengal.

Hessian Looms. -Towards the close of the year under review the suggestion was made to the Committee that, having regard to the existing stock position, steps should be taken under the provisions of this clause to release from seal a percentage of hessian looms and to seal up in their place a corresponding number of sacking looms. The Committee decided that for the present no change should be made, and it will be a matter for the incoming Committee immediately they assume office to review the position in the light of the stock figures as at 31st January 1934.

(Summarised from pages 24-28 of the Report for 1933 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta).

#### Factory Administration in Burma, 1933.\* ✓

Number of Factories.- According to the Annual Report on the Working of the Factories Act in Burma in 1933 the number of establishments registered as factories under the Act in Burma, including the Northern Shan States, at the end of the year 1933 was 1,010 as against 1,073 in 1932. The decrease was the result of a careful scrutiny of the registers from which all factories which seemed unlikely to reopen were deleted. The number of factories working during the year was 942 approximately the same as in the previous year in spite of the continued depression. Of these 942 factories 253 have been classified as perennial and 689 as seasonal. During the year 11 new factories were registered and 74 deleted.

Number of Operatives. - The total number of persons employed in factories, as obtained from the annual returns sent in by

---

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1933. - Rangoon: Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Burma 1934 - Price Rs.2 = 3s. - pp.2+ 32.



occupiers, was 86,433 as against 90,578 in 1932, the most important decreases being under the heads of engineering and rice mills. The decrease under engineering was mainly due to the closing of one of the large engineering and shipbuilding works in Rangoon, while the decrease under Rice mills may be attributed to the more extended season which resulted in work being carried on at less pressure. The total number of women employed in factories during the year was returned at 10,277 as against 10,251 in 1932. More than half were employed in rice-mills which for the purpose of this report are treated as seasonal factories. The only other industries in which the employment of women is of importance are the textile industry, including hosiery, and match-making. Female factory labour in Burma is predominantly Burmese, but male labour is mainly Indian. Child-labour in Burma is unimportant as according to the returns <sup>only</sup> less than 300 are employed in the Province.

**Housing of Industrial Labour, Sanitation and Health.** - Housing conditions are reported to have showed little change during the year. Few factories have been working at a profit and little money has been available for improvements or extensions; the general sanitary conditions of the lines have however been maintained. Sanitary conditions in factories remained fair on the whole. The dust nuisance in rice-mills has not yet been overcome and as many of the mills appear to be working at a loss it has not been possible to press for extensive alterations.

The report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Burma Corporation shows a satisfactory state of affairs as regards lead-poisoning at Nantu. No cases of lead-intoxication or lead-impregnation came to light and only 287 cases of lead-absorption.

**Wages and General Conditions.** - Wages have dropped still further during the year than it did in 1932 as is evident from the following table of wages for operatives in certain selected occupations:-

Trade	1932		1933.	
	per month.		per month.	
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
<b>Rice and Saw Mills -</b>				
Engine drivers ..	24 0	to 58 8	21 0	to 54 0
Fire and oilmen ..	18 0	to 28 0	14 0	to 25 0
Beltmen ..	19 0	to 36 0	17 0	to 27 0
Mill-hands (semi-skilled)	15 0	to 103 8*	15 0	to 19 0*
Stone dressers. ..	20 0	to 47 0	20 0	to 42 0
Sawyers and planers..	18 0	to 45 0	14 8	to 30 0
Coolies ..	13 8	to 38 8	9 0	to 30 0
<b>General Engineering -</b>				
Mechanics ..	30 0	to 85 0	30 0	to 75 0
Fitters & Turners...	25 0	to 135 0	15 0	to 228 0
Blacksmiths ...	37 8	to 150 0	30 0	to 105 0
Moulders ..	20 0	to 100 0	20 0	to 80 0

\*The Report for 1933 points out that the high wage figure shown in the tables for 1932 is to be ascribed to mis-classification.

General Engineering - (contd).	1932		1933.	
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Boiler platers ...	40 0	to 75 0	32 0	to 72 0
Electrical wiremen..	30 0	to 105 0	30 0	to 90 0
Carpenters. ..	45 0	to 120 0	30 0	to 96 0
<u>Miscellaneous. -</u>				
Book-binders ..	12 0	to 50 0	12 0	to 50 0
Pressmen ..	15 0	to 45 0	15 0	to 40 0
Compositors ..	18 0	to 60 0	20 0	to 60 0
Painters ..	30 0	to 75 0	22 8	to 87 0
Tinsmiths ..	45 0	to 90 0	43 0	to 80 0
Polishers ..	45 0	to 60 0	36 0	to 72 0
Masons ..	37 0	to 105 0	33 0	to 96 0

Fencing of Machinery. - According to the report, maintenance by managers of factories of adequate fencing was very slack. Due to the limited number of inspecting staff, cases could not be promptly detected. So far as was possible managers and attending operatives have been impressed with the necessity of maintaining adequate fencing.

New Rules. - The rules relating to white-washing and to latrines were revised during the year and an improvement in the general cleanliness of factories may be expected. The Match Factories Rules were under revision but the alterations were not gazetted in the year under report. A good deal of time was spent on drafting rules for the manufacture of ethyl petrol but as under the Factories Bill now before the Legislative Assembly rules for dangerous trades will be made by the Central Government it is unlikely that the drafts will be proceeded with in the form of local rules.

Accidents and Prosecutions. - The total number of workers killed or injured by accidents during the year was 1,497 as against 1,668 in 1932. Perennial factories accounted for 1,436 injured persons including 9 deaths and seasonal factories for 61 injured persons with 10 deaths. The difference in the ratios of fatal to non-fatal accidents in perennial and seasonal factories seems extraordinary but agrees with the results of previous years. To some extent the difference has been accounted for by the fact that contract labour is largely employed in rice-mills and accidents - if not fatal - may easily escape the notice of the manager.

XX. -  
During the year 14 convictions were obtained as the result of 14 prosecutions, as against 19 convictions as the result of 23 prosecutions in 1932.

Recommendations of the Whitley Commission. - Further time has been spent on examining these recommendations, although no more draft rules arising out of them have been gazetted for criticism. It is remarked that it has not been found possible to take action on all the recommendations of the Commission. Lack of money

has in some cases stood in the way. In other cases it would appear premature to legislate since only few people would be affected and more important matters require attention.

Inspection. - Due to lack of adequate staff only 328 factories out of a total 942 were inspected during the year. A suggestion to amalgamate the Factory and Boiler Inspection Departments was considered, but found, in its original form, impracticable; it may however be possible to make use of the Boiler Inspectors as Additional Inspectors of Factories and this proposal is under examination. The appointment of selected Health Officers as Additional Inspectors is reported to have worked well and there has been noticed an improvement in the sanitary condition of factories in districts where these officers have been so appointed.

White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Act of 1923. - No irregularities under this Act came to light during the year.

(Factory Administration in Burma during 1931 is reviewed at pages 23-24 of the June 1932 report and for 1932 at pages 19-20 of the July 1933 report of this Office).

Wages & Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry; Findings in Labour Office Report.\* ✓

References were made at pages 20-21 of February 1934, pages 16-17 of March 1934 and page 23 of May 1934 reports of this Office to the special enquiry into wages and unemployment conditions prevailing in the cotton textile industry of Bombay Presidency ordered by the Government of Bombay. The enquiry was conducted by the Labour Office, Bombay, and the report submitted by the Office has recently been published by the Government. The report makes no specific recommendations as the enquiry was confined only to collection of facts and figures regarding wages and unemployment. The report is divided into six parts; Part I gives a brief review

\* Labour Office - Government of Bombay - Wages and Unemployment in the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry - Report of the Departmental Enquiry - Bombay; Printed at the Govt. Central Press. 1934. - Price Rs.1-3 or 2s. - pp.220.

of conditions in the textile industry of the Presidency since 1926 and is followed in Parts II, III, IV and V by a detailed examination of the present wage and unemployment position in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and in other textile centres of the Presidency, while the last part summarises the conclusions arrived at by the Labour Office as the result of the enquiry. Abundant statistical data, among others, regard (1) changes in the basic rates and allowances in individual cotton mills in Bombay City, (2) average earnings of cotton mill workers in the different centres and (3) working class family budgets in the different textile centres of the presidency, are also included. A brief summary of the wages and employment conditions in Bombay City, Ahmedabad and Sholapur is given below:

**Progress of Industry Since 1926.** - In the past eight years the centre of gravity of the textile industry in the Bombay Presidency has tended to shift from Bombay to Ahmedabad and other parts of the Presidency. This is apparent, not only as regards the number of mills but also as regards the number of operatives employed in them. In Bombay City the unit is very much larger than elsewhere, except in Sholapur. In 1926 Bombay had 78 mills working, employing on an average over 140,000 operatives daily. In Ahmedabad during the same year nearly 50,000 persons were employed and in other centres over 41,000, making a total for centres outside Bombay of nearly 97,000 or over 51,000 fewer than in Bombay. The number of mills working in the other centres was 84. In 1933 the number of working mills in Bombay had dropped to 66 employing about 105,000 hands. The figure for Ahmedabad had risen to 75 mills employing over 82,000 hands and in other centres the number of mills was 32 employing 45,500 hands. That is to say, the number of cotton mill workers outside Bombay was actually 22,000 more than in Bombay City as compared with 51,000 in favour of Bombay in 1926. In the same period the number of working mills in Bombay had fallen from 78 to 66. In Ahmedabad the increase was from 59 to 75 and in other centres from 25 to 32. That is to say, Bombay City had 12 fewer mills working, Ahmedabad had 16 more and other centres 7 more. In March 1934 when this enquiry was started, Bombay's position had worsened still further. Only 55 mills employing 95,637 hands were working as compared with 79 in Ahmedabad, employing 80,866 and 32 in other

centres, employing 42,216. In other words, 27,455 more people were working in cotton mills outside Bombay City than in Bombay City as compared with the 51, 306 difference in favour of Bombay in 1926.

Findings of the Committee. - Below are given the findings upon the terms of reference. The following general remarks are made;

" Perhaps the most important feature of the enquiry is the wide variation in conditions in the different centres. The cotton textile industry in the Bombay Presidency is composed of different units which, so far as we can ascertain, do not act together in any particular, except, perhaps, in their demand for protection. There is no common labour policy and therefore no wage policy; still less is there any common sales policy, and goods produced in one centre are sold in another although the same article is being made locally. Both men and methods differ in a striking way and each centre has its own characteristics. In fact, it is difficult to find any one matter in connection with this industry upon which it is possible to generalise, so that a consideration of the Textile Industry, from whatever aspect, must be by centres, each of which must be considered separately - a circumstance which obviously involves difficulties when the needs of the industry have to be considered from the point of view of public policy."

(a) Wage-Cuts. - As regards wage cuts, these have been most numerous and greater in extent in Bombay City. Next comes Sholapur, then the Southern Mahratta centres, followed by Khandesh. Ahmedabad stands out as compared to 1926, by showing an all-round average increase of just over 5 per cent. This centre, however, differs from the others in that there was a post-war wage cut of  $15\frac{2}{3}$  per cent in this centre in 1923. The cut in wages has not been uniform as between centre and centre, nor has it been uniform as between different units in the same centre. This result is bound to occur because wages are not standardized in any centre of the industry except in the case of spinners in Ahmedabad. The result is that we find wide disparities between the wages paid for the same kind of

work in the same industry in the same town and in the same province, enjoying the same protection and to a large extent serving the same markets.

(b) Rationalisation. - As might be expected, rationalization has followed an equally irregular path. It has made the greatest progress in the centre where the biggest cuts in wages have been made, but where rationalization has not been accompanied by wage cuts, the workers today are earning 50 per cent more than they did in 1926. In other cases rationalization has meant more effort but not more pay. These remarks apply to the system of rationalization which has taken the form of employing fewer men for the same number of machines. Where rationalization has mainly taken the form of speeding up machinery, introducing new types and increasing the efficiency of the machine, the tendency has been for the employers to get the greater part of the monetary benefit. The net result of rationalization on the employment situation has been practically nil, because reduction in complements due to rationalization has been off-set by some mills working double shifts and thus absorbing the displaced labour.

(c) Employment Situation. - The period from 1926 to 1933 has been noteworthy for the decline of Bombay as the principal cotton textile centre and the rise of Ahmedabad, and the establishment of new mills in the mofussil. The employment position in the industry has not materially deteriorated, although the progress has not been as steady as might have been expected, even allowing for the general trade depression.

(d) Wages and Labour Costs. - There appears, however, to be no definite relationship between low wages and low labour costs, for although Ahmedabad is paying the highest wages, the labour cost per 1,000 spindles and per 100 looms would appear to be less there than in Bombay City.

1. The Extent of the Reduction in Wages of Workpeople Employed in the Cotton Mills in the Bombay Presidency since 1st January 1926.-  
In Bombay City and in most other centres except Ahmedabad and Sholapur, reductions in wages have taken the form of cutting down the dearness allowance, which has been in existence for a good many years and in Bombay took the form of an addition to basic rates of 70 per cent for time-workers and 80 per cent for piece-workers. The effects of these reductions are as follows:-

(a) In the case of Bombay City wages were lower by 16.94 per cent in December 1933 as compared with July 1926 and by 21 per cent in April 1934.

(b) In the case of Ahmedabad there has been no reduction; on the contrary, there has been an increase of from 5 to 6 per cent owing to increases of 8 per cent and 5 per cent respectively given to spinners and weavers in 1930.

(c) In the case of Sholapur the reduction has been about 17 per cent including the 12½ per cent cut in wages from January 1st, 1934.

In other centres, owing to the absence of comparative wages for 1926 and 1933 it is not possible to give an all round percentage figure of increase or decrease. Details of wage changes are given in the report for each centre.

2. Whether These Reductions have been Uniform in the Cotton Mills at each Centre of the Industry. - No, except in the case of Shelapur. In Ahmedabad any reductions have been more or less uniform in mills affiliated to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, but not as regards non-Association mills. In Bombay the reduction has not been uniform, even among mills belonging to the Bombay Millowners' Association, because the Association permitted its members to make such reductions as individual mills considered necessary.

3. Whether the Cost of Living of the Working Classes has Fallen during this Period and to what Extent. - The cost of living of the working classes has fallen during this period in all the centres covered by our enquiry. As regards Bombay, the cost of living index number in December 1933, as compared with July 1926=100, was 72 and in April 1934, 71 a fall of 28 and 29 per cent respectively.

In Ahmedabad the cost of living index, on base August 1926=100, was 69 in December 1933, a fall of 31 per cent.

In the case of Shelapur, on base February 1927=100, the cost of living index in December 1933 was 71, a fall of 29 per cent, and in February 1934 was 72, a fall of 28 per cent.

For the other centres, for which ~~any~~ cost of living index numbers are not available, we are not in a position to say to what extent the cost of living has fallen as compared with the year 1926.

4. What has been the average Rise or Fall in Real Wages during this Period in the Various Centres of the Industry. - Owing to the absence of cost of living index numbers for several of the centres, we can only give real wage figures for Bombay, Ahmedabad and Shelapur. In Bombay City in February 1933, the month before the cuts in wages started, it was 131; in December 1933, 115; in April 1934, 111. That is to say, the real wage index at these different dates was 31 per cent, 15 per cent 11 per cent higher than in July 1926. In Ahmedabad the real wage index in December 1933 stood at 154, an increase of 54 per cent as compared with August 1926. In Shelapur, as compared with February 1927, the real wages index was 130 in December 1933 and 115 in February 1934, an increase of 30 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. In the case of Ahmedabad, where a minimum standard of living appears to have been accepted as one of the principles underlying the fixation of wages, we find that the minimum budget accepted by the Umpire in 1930, which at that time cost Rs.49-13-6, would at the present level of prices cost Rs.39-15-5

5. Where Wage Reductions have been effected or Are Contemplated, the Reasons therefor. - The reason most generally given was trade depression. Other reasons varied with the centres. In Bombay it was stated that it was necessary to reduce the cost of production, and labour costs were those most capable of reduction, as the fall in the cost of living would enable the workers to maintain the standard of life they had in 1926, even after wages were reduced. As regards Ahmedabad, while there has been no general reduction in wages, such a reduction is contemplated, the principal reasons given being reduction in wages in other centres, and diminished profits. In other centres, wages have been reduced because Bombay and Sholapur reduced wages and at one centre the reductions have been effected in view of the probable coming into operation of the 54-hour week.

6. The Extent to which Rationalization, for Example, Efficiency Schemes have been Introduced in the Cotton Mills of the Bombay Presidency and the Effects such Schemes have had upon Wages and the Conditions of Work of the operatives. - We find that that method of rationalization which takes the form of asking operatives to mind more machines than formerly has made the greatest progress in Bombay City. In Ahmedabad rationalization has been particularly directed towards improving the efficiency and types of machines used. The effect of rationalization on earnings varies from mill to mill. In the few cases where rationalization has not been accompanied by wage cuts, the workers today are getting about 50 per cent more than they did before rationalization was introduced. Where rationalization has been accompanied by wage cuts, the workers are not earning any more, the effect of the extra rates given for minding more machines having been neutralized by reductions in wages, usually in the form of cuts in the dearness allowance. The effects of rationalization on the conditions of work have been beneficial either because the operatives are working a shorter day or because their work has been rendered easier. In Bombay, one of the rationalization methods is giving a weaver four looms instead of two. In Ahmedabad this system has not been adopted, but double side working in the Frame Department is developing, and better mixings and the production of finer cloth has progressed rapidly. Where operatives are attending more machines than formerly, the workers have usually been given 35 to 60 per cent more wages in ring spinning, and 50 to 75 per cent more on the speed frame. But some benefit from the increased efficiency of the plant has been passed on to some workers in the form of higher earnings on those machines. In other centres there have been very few changes in machinery or methods. The general effect of rationalization, in so far as one is able to generalise, has been beneficial to the workers.

7. What is the Extent of Unemployment in the Cotton Mill Industry and What are its causes. - As there is no agency, official or non-official, which collects statistics of unemployment, we find it difficult to arrive at any estimate of the total number of unemployed in the cotton mills of the Bombay Presidency. We have, therefore, had to restrict our enquiries to the investigation of the number of



operatives who have been displaced owing to the total or partial closing of mills, setting off against this figure those employed on night shift. On that basis we find that about 28,000 persons have lost their employment in Bombay City.

As regards Ahmedabad the volume of employment in the industry has considerably increased since 1926, and in 1933, 26,551 more operatives were employed than in 1926. In Sholapur the employment situation has been practically stationary, although 389 fewer persons were employed in 1933 than in 1926. In two centres in Gajarath and in two in the Southern Mahratta country, we find that there was a scarcity of labour; while in Poona, owing to a fire which practically destroyed the mill there, about 1,500 persons were thrown out of employment.

Seen after the publication of the Report Messrs. N.<sup>M</sup>.Joshi and R.R.Bakhale jointly issued a long statement on the report in which it is shown that the Enquiry Report proves the workers' contention of uncalled for wage cuts etc. and suggests to the Bombay Government to appoint a Committee to formulate specific remedies and recommendations in regard to wage cuts and other matters dealt with in the Labour Office Report. It is understood that the Local Government is studying the Report with a view to taking early decisions on the subject. In this connection much significance is attached to a recent visit made by Sir Frank Noyce to Bombay and to the talks he has had at Bombay with the representatives of various industrial interests. According to a confidential letter received in this Office from Mr. N.M.Joshi dated ~~6-7-1934~~ <sup>dated 6-7-34</sup>, the Bombay Government is not willing to appoint a Committee to make definite recommendations on the Labour Office report, but is considering the appointment of an officer as a sort of Protector of Labour.

General Wages in the Bombay Presidency:Details of Government Enquiry. ✓

Reference was made at page 20 of our February 1934 report to the decision of the Government of Bombay to hold in 1934 a general wage census covering all factories in the Bombay Presidency excluding Sind. It is now understood that the co-operation of the Bombay and Ahmedabad Millowners' Associations, the Bombay Engineer Employers' Federation and all the factories themselves has been secured, and officers of the Labour Office have visited every perennial factory in the Presidency since the beginning of the year.

The number of factories to be covered is 750 and the number of persons employed is over a million throughout the Presidency, owing to the strike in textile mills in Bombay and Sholapur it has not been found possible to cover the mills in these centres for May 1934, which was the month selected for the census. With regard to these centres the census has been postponed to a later date. The sugar factories, mostly closed in the middle of May, and for them the month is March 1934, and the same month has been taken for census purposes for the match factories, which were closed in April. The Census information is expected to be available by the end of this year.

After the completion of this inquiry, it is understood, the Labour Office will take up similar ones in connection with seasonal factories and later on with regard to wages paid in non-industrial occupations.

(The Times of India, 25-6-1934).

Railway Labour Supervisor:Post Made Permanent. ✓

Reference was made at page 15 of our February 1934 report to the sanction accorded by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways to the proposal of the Railway Board for making permanent the temporary posts of employment officers in certain Indian Railways. At a meeting of the Standing Committee held on ~~15-6-1934~~ 15-6-1934, the Committee sanctioned the proposal of the Railway Board to make permanent the present temporary post of the Supervisor of Railway Labour, and also special staff for the preparation of a manual of rules on establishment matters applicable to the railway staff.

The Committee was informed that a Supervisor of Railway Labour was necessary to give effect to the I.L.O. Conventions regarding hours of work and weekly rest. The Hours of Employment Regulations which implement the Conventions have so far been extended only to North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. It is expected that the Regulations will be extended to other Railways in due course. One of the duties of the Supervisor of Railway Labour is to submit an annual Report on the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations. The latest issue of the Report was reviewed at pages 26-31 of our April 1934 report.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1934).

Wages for Unrationalised Occupations; Minimum Rates  
Fixed by Bombay Millowners Association.

Decisions safeguarding time-workers in the Bombay and Coerla mills against any decrease in wages on the introduction of the 54-hour week, and increasing the wages of a large number of time-workers in various occupations are announced in a statement to the Press issued in the first week of July 1934, by the Secretary of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The following is a summary of the statement:-

Two months before the commencement of the last strike in Bombay, the Government of Bombay had instructed the Labour Office to undertake a departmental inquiry into the cotton mill wages throughout the Presidency, (For summary of the Report see pages of this Report) and the Millowners' Association, Bombay had promised their fullest co-operation and assistance. Statistical and other information similar to that submitted by mills to the Labour Office was also collected by the Association from all the Bombay mills, and a special sub-committee was appointed by the Association to examine the data and to report on the matter, so that the Association might be in a position to deal with the Labour Office Report with the least delay after its publication.

The 54-hour Week and Wages. - The strike intervened before the Labour Office had concluded its examination of the problem, but in order that the findings of the Labour Office should not be vitiated by any further adjustments in wages, the Association gave an undertaking to the Government of Bombay on behalf of its members that no change would be made in conditions of work and wages in member mills until the report of the departmental investigation had been published. The report of the Labour Office was published on 21st June 1934. The Committee of the Association have carefully considered the report in conjunction with the recommendations made by their own sub-committee, and taking into consideration the imminent introduction of the shorter working week, have come to the following ~~main~~ decisions in so far as members of the Association in Bombay City and Island and Coerla are concerned.

Wages of Time-workers. - (a) Wages of time-workers in all unrationalised occupations in all mills shall be consolidated.

(b) The consolidated scales of pay for time-workers in all unrationalised occupations in all Bombay and Coerla mills shall not be less than the wages specified for such occupations by the ~~Association~~ Association.

(c) Where the wages now paid by any mill for particular occupations are below those specified by the Association, they shall be raised to those specified in the schedule and given effect to from July 1.

(d) Wages not lower than those specified in the schedule shall continue to be paid in unrationalised occupations in all member mills in Bombay even after the introduction of the 9-hour day.

Wages of Piece-workers-- (a) In the case of piece-workers in unrationalised occupations, the dear food allowances to be paid by all mills from July 1, shall not be less than 35 per cent.

(b) As and from the date of the introduction of the 54-hour week, the dear food allowances to be paid to piece-workers in unrationalised occupations shall not be less than 40 per cent.

Effect of the Decisions. - The effect of these decisions will be that time-workers will be safeguarded against any decrease in wages on the introduction of the 54-hour week, and in addition, wages of large numbers of time-workers in various occupations will immediately be raised in a number of mills. As regards piece-workers the effect of the decisions of the Association will be that the dear food allowance will be immediately increased in a number of mills, and that number will be substantially increased if and when the 54-hour week is introduced. Briefly, the position will be that the new scales will remove to a material extent the present disparities, ensure consolidated rates of pay for time-workers and an increase in the dear food allowances for piece-workers, and lay down standards of wages below which Bombay and Coorla members of the Association will not be permitted to go.

Wages in Rationalised Occupations. - A special sub-committee of the Association has been appointed to consider the position as regards rationalised occupations.

(The Statesman, 10-7-1934)

Textile Strikes.

At pages 34-37 of our April 1934 and pages 25-28 of May 1934 reports were given details regarding the progress of the Bombay textile labour strike (which was started on 23-4-1934) till the last week of May 1934. On 30-5-1934, the threatened lock-out by the employers was started by three mills belonging to the Sassoon group which were working with a partial complement of workers. During the last week of May, the moderate labour group of Bombay, led by Messrs. N.M. Joshi and R.R. Bakhale, offered to co-operate on certain conditions with the Joint Strike Committee in the matter of carrying on the strike. One section (the representatives of the Girni Kamgar Union) favoured the inclusion of Mr. Joshi's group in the Committee, while the communists of the Young Workers' League, who were in a majority, <sup>were</sup> ~~opposed it~~ to it. After heated discussion, the resolution recommending the admission of Mr. Joshi's group was rejected. In addition a resolution was passed against importing moderate opinion into the Committee (Times of India, 2-6-1934).

A meeting of the Strike Committee was held on 3-6-1934 to reconsider the decision but it terminated in a free fight between the two sections of the Committee. (Times of India, 5-6-1934). In view of the controversy which their proposal had occasioned, Messrs. Joshi and Bakhale withdrew their offer of co-operation. Soon after some leaders of the Indian National Congress, notably Messrs. Bhulabhai Desai and K.F. Nariman, began to interest themselves in the settlement of the strike. Mahatma Gandhi also sent an enquiry to Mr. H.P. Mody regarding the situation at that time. In the meanwhile a sub-committee appointed by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, and the Mayor of Bombay, started negotiations for a settlement.

While these peace efforts were going on, picketing of mills and arrest of workers went on unabated, but from the last few days of May the newspapers began to note a daily increase in the number of workers who attended the mills until, on 6-6-1934 the number ~~had~~ increased <sup>from</sup> 29,000 on 31-5-1934 to 37,400. On the strength of this indication Mr. H.P. Mody is said to have declared that the strike was fizzling out. Mr. Mody's remark caused a great deal of resentment to the strike leaders who refused to lend their support to the peace negotiations, declaring that it was their intention to prolong the strike till the millowners granted all their demands. In spite of this threat and of sporadic acts of violence and intense picketing, mill attendance rose steadily and on 13-6-1934 the figure stood at 60,500. On 11-6-1934 the split in the Joint Strike Committee was further widened by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union deciding to secede from the Strike Committee and to organise a strike committee of its own. Two days later the "Roy group" (followers of Mr. M.N. Roy, the Indian Communist) in the Committee also resigned, forming themselves into a "Militant Workers' League". An effort was made on 16-6-1934 to compose the differences between the various groups and to reconstitute the Joint Strike Committee. This meeting was attended by Mr. N.M. Joshi, but all efforts proved futile and on 23-6-1934 the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union decided to call off the strike as from that date. The strike in the Bombay textile mills thus virtually ended on 23-6-1934.

The same day Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour Department with the Government of India, visited Bombay and had informal talks with representatives of employers and labour and with Government officials. It is understood the topic under discussion was the Bombay textile strike and that the Government are contemplating the setting up of a Board of Enquiry into the question of wage cuts. (The Hindu, 26-6-1934).

Workers' Organisations.Auditing of Trade Union Funds; Punjab Government's Free  
Audit Scheme. ✓

In the course of ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> report, the Royal Commission on Labour in India pointed out that at present registered trade unions have to meet the cost of the obligatory annual audit, and the qualifications of the auditors are prescribed by Government. It was remarked that it was not possible for the smaller unions to meet the cost of employing properly qualified auditors and, as a result, Government has had to permit their accounts to be audited by persons with no qualifications in accountancy. The Commission recommended that all unions should be able to secure free of charge the conduct of their audit by officials of Government. Government has already accepted responsibility for the audit of the accounts of co-operative societies in some provinces. The provision of auditors for trade unions, it was pointed out, should cost little to Government, while it will relieve registered trade unions of a considerable charge on their funds. At present the larger unions are required to employ auditors who are authorised to audit the accounts of companies under the Companies Act, and any union which desires to employ such an auditor should remain at liberty to do so. But unions which do not desire, or are unable to engage, auditors of this class should be given the alternative of having an official audit rather than of employing other persons as auditors. The reports of the official auditor on trade union audits and investigations should be made available for the public as well as for the union. (vide page 331 of the Whitley Report).



The Punjab Government have recently announced that they have, in accordance with the above recommendations of the Whitley Commission, made arrangements, as an experimental measure for three years to start with, for the audit without charge of such trade unions in the Punjab as may apply for it to the Registrar of Trade Unions <sup>of</sup> with the province.

(The Hindu, 28-5-1934).

8th Half-Yearly Meeting of A.I.R.F. with the  
Railway Board, 12 & 13-7-1934; Items on the Agenda.

According to a press communiqué issued by the Assistant Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, the 8th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation will be held on 12th and 13th July 1934 in Simla. The following subjects have been placed on the agenda of the meeting:-

- (1) Revision of Leave Rules affecting daily-rated and inferior service staff;
- (2) Enquiry Procedure required before imposing punishments;
- (3) Housing allowance or Free Quarters for low-paid staff;
- (4) Concession in wage-cuts for those who have already suffered loss in their earnings due to retrenchment;
- (5) Wrong classification of certain staff as "menials" for exclusion from Provident Fund.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 26-6-1934).

Congress and A.I.Socialist Party:

Congress Repudiates Class War Idea.

Details regarding the programme and policy of the All India Socialist Conference which was inaugurated at Patna on 17-5-1934 were given at pages 44-46 of our May 1934 report. The programme of the organisation was discussed at a meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, held at Bombay on 19-6-1934, and the following resolution was passed by the Committee defining its attitude towards the policy of violence advocated by the socialists;

"Whilst the Working Committee welcomes the formation of groups representing different schools of thought, it is necessary, in view of the loose talk about the confiscation of private property and necessity of class war, to remind Congressmen that the Karachi Resolution as finally settled by the A.I.C.C. at Bombay in August, 1931, which lays down certain principles, neither contemplates confiscation of private property without just cause or compensation, nor advocacy of class war. The Working Committee is further of opinion that confiscation and class war are contrary to the Congress creed of non-violence. At the same time, the Working Committee is of the opinion that the Congress does contemplate wiser and juster use of private property so as to prevent it from exploiting the landless poor." (The Statesman, 20-6-1934).

In the course of a press statement, Mahatma Gandhi while welcoming the rise of the Socialist Party in the Congress, declared that he could not agree with the programme of the Party. He said;

"It seems to me to ignore Indian conditions and I do not like the assumptions underlying many of its propositions which go to show that there is necessarily antagonism between classes and masses and between labourers and capitalists such that they can never work for mutual good. My own experience covering a fairly long period is to the contrary. What is necessary is that labourers or workers should know their rights and should also know how to assert them. And since there has never been any right without corresponding duty, in my opinion the manifesto is incomplete without emphasising the necessity of performance of duty".

(The Hindustan Times, 15-6-1934).

Economic Conditions.

All India Crop-Planning Conference, Simla, June 1934. ✓

Reference was made at page 63 of <sup>the</sup> our April 1934 report of this Office to the decision of the Government of India to hold a Conference of provincial officials in June 1934 with the object of discussing questions relating to crop planning in order to adjust production of agricultural produce to demand. The conference is the result of the Provincial Economic Conference, which was held in New Delhi in April last. The Central Government, in a resolution published on May 5 (vide pages 52-53 of our April 1934 report for a summary of the Resolution), after outlining the steps to be taken to improve the marketing of Indian produce, observed that an essential complement of any programme of marketing must be the regulation of production in adjustment to the demand. Hence they considered that steps should be taken to coordinate a plan of agricultural production for India as a whole and announced that they were, therefore, proposing to <sup>hold at</sup> the earliest possible date, ~~there should be~~ a conference of the provincial Directors of Agriculture and land revenue officers to discuss what measures can be taken in this direction. The All India Crop Planning Conference was held at Simla on 8 and 9-6-1934 under the presidency of Sir Fazli-Hussain, Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands of the Government of India. This Conference represents the first attempt made in this country towards adopting a co-ordinated plan of agricultural production for India as a whole.

Some of the subjects of the agenda of the Conference were: (1) consideration of the question whether there was ~~an~~ over-production of rice and wheat in India; if so, the remedies therefor; (2) a general

review of cotton, sugarcane and jute production, and (3) development of oil-seeds and oil-crushing industries. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference.

Rice. - Representatives of Madras, Bengal, Bombay, Behar and Orissa, ~~The~~ United Provinces and Assam said that there was no over-production in their respective provinces and that they were actually importing rice, chiefly from Burma; members from the Punjab and Sind said that they were not interested in rice which was a luxury crop for them, while those of the Central Provinces said that their province was self-supporting and that there was very little over-production. As regards Burma it ~~transferred~~ <sup>transferred</sup> that the province produced about 7,000,000 tons of rice per annum and exported, chiefly to India, about half of that amount. Restriction of the area under rice in Burma, it was said, was not possible for want of good substitute crops, but that, in view of the very low price of rice, efforts are being made to bring part of the area now under rice cultivation, under sugar crop. A resolution on the subject, to the effect that in view of the present world conditions in the matter of rice production no provincial government should ordinarily offer any stimulus ~~be~~ <sup>to</sup> an increase in the present area under rice, was discussed by the Conference. In view of the divergent opinions which were expressed by the various provincial representatives, ~~Sir Paul-i-Bassain~~ <sup>Sir Paul-i-Bassain</sup> suggested a modified formula that present world conditions in the matter of rice production should be borne in mind by provincial governments which may be contemplating an increase in the present area under rice. This modified proposal was carried by a majority of representatives.

Provincial representatives interested in the subject also suggested the removal of the present export duty on rice as seen as financial circumstances permitted, but no definite conclusion was arrived at on this point. The Railway Board agreed to consider the lowering of railway freights of certain agricultural commodities including rice.

Wheat. - On the question of wheat it was admitted by the wheat growing provinces that there was over-production, but it was declared that it was not possible to curtail production for want of suitable substitute crops. After a heated discussion the Conference adopted the president's formula "that the present world conditions in the matter of wheat production and that the Wheat Import Duty Act is an annual-measure (not permanent) should be borne in mind by provincial governments which contemplate schemes involving extension of the wheat area". The conference further recommended the creation of a Standing Committee on Wheat of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Cotton. - The Agricultural Expert with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research explained that the Central Cotton Committee had appointed a sub-committee to deal with the question of an increase in the total area and selection of varieties to be cultivated. That sub-committee had recommended extension of a certain type of cotton which was grown in the C.P. and which had proved successful both in

Indian mills and in those of the United Kingdom. The C. P. Agricultural Department had adopted the scheme and were pushing it this year. A second suggestion was that Sind should grow long staple cotton with a view to replacing the foreign cotton imported by Indian mills. Sind could produce all the 150,000 bales needed for the purpose. Sind had already made considerable progress in that direction.

Jute. - As regards jute, the conference left the matter untouched as it did not concern other provinces and has already been under inquiry by a special committee in Bengal.

Linseed and Groundnuts. - Discussion on the question of groundnuts centred round the proposition that there was room for cautious expansion. As regards linseed it was pointed out that there was a great export market for linseed and that two million acres more could be brought under linseed crop. The Conference approved of the proposals that the British Government should be approached with a proposal to impose an import duty on all foreign fats, oils and oil-seeds which compete with oilseeds produced in the Empire.

Sugarcane. - As regards sugarcane, the representatives of the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa maintained that their provinces were the chief sugar producing ones and that others should not launch extensively on sugar cultivation. Representatives from the other provinces did not agree with this suggestion. No specific recommendation was adopted by the Conference.

Tobacco. - The opinion was expressed that it was necessary to develop a light variety of tobacco suitable for cigarettes and it was decided to increase the acreage of tobacco by 30,000 acres.

Dairy Produce. - The animal husbandry expert with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research said that India produced 5,000 to 6,000 millions of Rupees worth of dairy-products and imported about Rs.10 millions worth from abroad. The amount imported could also be supplied in India, as India had ample dairy products if only they could be transported to big cities by some organisation. He said that the exchange made it practically free entry for Australia and New Zealand. Some dairy products were dumped into India at uneconomic prices; further India used only a 5 per cent area for fodder crops as against 30 per cent in the United Kingdom. After further discussion it was agreed that the Conference should recommend that the question of a protective duty on all imports of dairy products should be examined by the Tariff Board.

Other Suggestions. - Among the other suggestions adopted by the Conference were that Madras could increase the area under Cambodia cotton by 50,000 acres and put another 50,000 acres under sugarcane in three or four years so as to be self-supporting in regard to sugar. Madras, which had already increased the area under fruit by 14 per cent could further increase it if transport facilities were granted by the railways. Bombay could increase the area under sugarcane, mangoes, plantains and pineapples. Bengal had further scope for sugarcane production and could also increase the area under fodder

crops. The United Provinces had room for a high quality of barley suitable for malting and could also increase the area under linseed with proper rust-resisting varieties. As for the Punjab a suitable substitute crop was the soya bean and an experimental consignment of suitable soya beans should be sent to England. Sugarcane was the only alternative crop for Burma which could increase its area under this crop to 100,000 acres. Bihar and Orissa could increase the sugarcane area and could expand linseed and fodder crop. The Central Provinces could increase the acreage under linseed, groundnuts and sesamum. Sind should have a programme of expansion of cotton, rice and linseed.

( The Statesman, 9-6-1934)

( The Statesman, 10-6-1934)

### Rationalisation of Indian Railways:

#### Pope Committee's Second Report. ✓

References have been made in the previous reports of this Office to the Government of India's obtaining the services of Mr. F.A. Pope, an officer of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, during 1932 in order to hold an enquiry into possible economies in the working of Indian Railways (vide pages 54-55 of December 1932, pages 32-35 of May 1933, page 62 of December 1933 and pages 43-45 of February 1934 reports of this Office). Mr. Pope held the enquiry along with a few officers of Indian Railways from December 1932 to February 1933 and presented a report in February 1933 (vide pages 54-55 of our May 1933 report for Summary) in which the main recommendation referred to carrying out of "Job Analysis" in each railway system. In view of the ~~the~~ satisfactory results obtained, Mr. Pope's services were again secured during the winter season 1933-34 to carry out with his former colleagues a more detailed investigation into possible economies in the State-managed railway systems. He has recently submitted his second report in which recommendations have been made, the adoption

of which are expected to effect a saving of Rs. 4.3 millions annually.

Co-ordination and Co-operation of Activities to be Effected. - Mr. Pope in the course of his report criticises the extent to which parallel and consequently redundant organisations are maintained by different railways at points of contact where the companies could pool their resources and co-operate. Instances ~~are~~ given are the running of separate printing presses and the maintenance by the B.B. and C.I. and G.I.P. Railways of parallel working shops in one and the same locality. "Economy by reduction of staff and enlarging the field for mechanical electrical appliances would undoubtedly result if certain large blocks of clerical staff engaged on routine work in the Chief Accountants' Offices of the two State railways in Calcutta were amalgamated." Similarly it is suggested that there should be increased amalgamation of the booking, parcels and information offices run by different railways in various parts of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi. The committee is dissatisfied with the present organisation of the Railway Accounting Branch and stresses the importance of hastening the formation of a Railway Accounts Service.

Development of Commercial Side of Railway Administration. - The Committee thinks that sufficient importance is not always attributed to the commercial side of railway administration. Efficiency in operation has perhaps overshadowed efficiency on the business side. The importance of salesmanship, commercial research and advertising and publicity is stressed and a number of proposals for increasing earnings are put forward. Under the heading "Rates and Fares", the Committee comments on the existing basis of passenger fares in the lower classes and suggests an alteration. The possibility of increasing certain freight rates is also referred to. The Committee recommends that the commercial organisation and personnel of each railway should be overhauled and that an intensive campaign should be organised to attract traffic to the railways, bearing in mind the well proven principle that "facilities beget traffic". The Committee also recommends that a commercial research unit should be formed on each railway and that railways should be associated with the economic investigations now being carried out under the auspices of the Central and Provincial Governments.

Development of Industries as Help to Railways. - The Committee suggests that "any Government policy or organisation which will assist industries in India to develop, or which will assist traders to find markets for produce requiring transport, will be amply repaid by the increased railway revenue payable to the State."

(The Statesman, 14-6-1934).

45

Working of the C.P. Debt Conciliation Act during 1933-34. ✓

The main features of the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act, 1933, were given at pages 45-46 of the January 1934 report of this Office. In order that an idea may be obtained of the practical results achieved by the Act and of the extent of relief secured for debtors, a summary is appended below of the Government review on the working of the Act during 1933, published in the Central Provinces Gazette dated 29-6-1934:

The Debt Conciliation Act was passed in January 1933. It was decided to begin with two boards only in areas where indebtedness was heavy and the chances of settlement were favourable. One board was accordingly established at Khurai in the Saugor district on the 3rd July 1933, and the other at Seeni of the Ghindwara district on the 21st July 1933. Later a third board was established at Balaghat and a fourth has recently been started at Narsinghpur. Two boards have also started work in Berar during June 1934. It is remarked that it is too early to form any opinion on the working of the last four boards, but reports have been submitted for the period ending the 31st March 1934 by the chairmen of the Khurai and Seeni boards. The suggestions made by them for improving the law and procedure are under consideration .

Khurai Board. - The board worked for 192 days. The number of applications received was 1,970, involving debts amounting to Rs. 2,362,600. Of these, 178 applications involving Rs. 156,800, were dismissed under section 7(1) of the Act either in default of the applicants or for non-payment of process-fees or for other minor reasons. 265 applications involving Rs. 390,500 were also dismissed under section 14, as no settlement could be arrived at with the creditors. Certificates under section 15(1) declaring that the creditors had unreasonably refused amicable settlement were issued in 208 cases, involving claims amounting to Rs. 408,255. Agreements under section 12(1) were executed in 498 cases for debts aggregating to Rs. 440,579. These were conciliated for a sum of Rs. 239,711, which works out to 54.5 per cent of the demand. 1,042 cases involving



Rs.1,360,000 were pending on the 31st March 1934. Many fresh applications are not now expected. In the settlements by this board the principal has generally been allowed and reduction made in the interest. An instalment does not generally exceed the annual rent paid by the debtor and the total number of instalments does not exceed twenty.

**Second Board.** - This board worked for 167 days. The number of applications presented was 1,402, involving debts to the amount of Rs.1,894,700. Of these, 69 applications, involving Rs.318,500, were dismissed under section 7(1), and 27, involving Rs.72,800, under section 14. Certificates under section 15(1) were issued in respect of Rs.42,000 in 29 cases. Agreements were executed in 317 cases for debts amounting to Rs.359,400. These were conciliated for Rs.234,600 or 65 per cent. A number of cases conciliated by this board included mortgage or decretal claims. 989 cases, involving Rs. 1,190,500, were pending at the close of the period under review. There has been a falling off in the number of fresh applications towards the close of the period under review. Easy instalments have been fixed, and, except in a few cases, no interest is to be paid.

**Remarks of the Government.** - The boards have not been at work long enough to enable Government to arrive at definite conclusions as to the value of the Act in its present form. It still remains to be seen how the instalments fixed are paid up by debtors and what reactions will follow on the grant of fresh credit to those who have entered into agreements. It has been found, however, that creditors are in many cases apathetic, particularly those whose debts are secured, and who can afford, therefore, to refuse to listen to any compromise. A large number of debtors in the Khurai area is reported to have refrained from applying, owing partly to the impression that the board with its limited powers would be unable to help them effectively and partly to fear of retaliation by creditors and the stoppage of further credit. It has accordingly been suggested in some quarters that no distinction should be made between secured and unsecured debts and that the voluntary principle on which the Act is based should be replaced by one introducing an element of compulsion. Government is not yet prepared to abandon the voluntary principle after so short a trial and would prefer to gain further experience before taking action in this direction.

Progress of Joint Stock Companies in India, 1930-31.\* ✓

**Main Features of 1930-31.**- In the year under review the number of newly registered companies (both public and private) decreased

\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. - Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Indore and Travancore 1930-31. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Delhi; Manager of Publications 1934 - Price Rs.2-10 or 4s.9d.- pp.xi+165

by 12.9 per cent as compared with the previous year. The authorised capital of the newly registered companies, as compared with the preceding year, also decreased by 65.5 per cent and the paid-up capital by 65.4 per cent. The number of private Companies registered in 1930-31 was 366 as against 301 in 1929-30.

Total of Companies up to 1930-31. - The total number of companies limited by shares, which were incorporated in India up to 1930-31 under the laws relating to the registration of companies, was 16,100. Of these, 7,328 companies or 45.5 per cent of the total number registered were working at the end of the year 1930-31; the remainder were either wound up or discontinued, or never commenced business. All the companies registered in India have a rupee capital. The number of companies at work and the capital invested in them stood as follows at the end of each of the last three years:-

		1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
Companies	(Number)	6,330	6,919	7,328
Authorised capital	(R.1,000)	6,414,010	6,699,800	6,596,330
Paid-up capital	(R.1,000)	2,793,081	2,863,358	2,826,847

Changes during the Year. - The principal changes during the year were:-

(1) 751 new companies, with an authorised capital of R.215.6 millions and a paid up capital of R. 8.3 millions were registered; 1 company with an authorised capital of Rs. 100,000 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 14,000 was restored.

(2) 292 companies, with an authorised capital of R.378.4 millions and a paid-up capital of R.111.2 millions ceased to do business and 32 companies with an authorised capital of R. 6.5 millions and paid-up capital of R. 1 million ceased to do business in previous years but reported during the year under review.

(3) The authorised capital of 73 companies was raised by R. 68.8 millions and that of 28 companies was reduced by R. 13.2 millions while the paid-up capital of 1,247 companies was increased by R. 112.8 millions and that of 148 companies was reduced by R. 45.5 millions.

Provincial Distribution. - The provincial distribution of the 7,328 companies at work during 1930-31 is given below. The figures in brackets show the paid-up capital in thousands:-

Madras - 800 (Rs. 149,833); Bombay - 959 (Rs. 977,426); Bengal - 3,652 (Rs.1,115,918); United Provinces - 224 (Rs.114,776); Punjab - 285 (Rs. 36,656); Burma - 288 (Rs. 265,549); Bihar and Orissa - 97 (Rs. 15,503); Central Provinces and Berar - 54 (Rs.10,593); Assam - 166 (Rs.9,716); North West Frontier Province - 6 (Rs.1,046); Baluchistan - 1 (Rs. ...); Ajmer-Merwara - 22 (Rs. 3,616); Delhi - 108 (Rs.10,662); Bangalore (Civil & Military Station) - 8 (Rs.1,226); Coorg - 5 (Rs.181); Hyderabad State - 40 (Rs.17,528); Mysore State -

121(Rs.14,762); Baroda State - 42(Rs.15,241); Gwalior State - 36(Rs. 31,089); Indore State - 11(Rs. 18,714); and Travancore State - 403 (Rs.16,555).

Total Companies - 7,328

Total Paid-up Capital - Rs.2,863,358.

Distribution According to Class of Companies:- Banking, Loan and Insurance. - The total paid-up capital invested in banking, loan, investment and trust, nidhis and chit associations and insurance companies amounted to Rs.280 millions, of which 36 per cent was in companies registered in the Bengal Presidency, 25 per cent in the Bombay Presidency, 15 per cent in the Madras Presidency and 7 per cent in the Gwalior State. There is a striking contrast between the authorised and the paid-up capital of insurance companies.

Transit and Transport. - Transit and transport companies accounted for a paid-up capital of over Rs.210 millions, of which Rs. 150 millions, or 70 per cent, were invested in railways and tramways. Bombay contributed about Rs.83.4 millions or 55 per cent and Bengal Rs. 65.5 millions or 44 per cent, of the total capital invested in railways and tramways.

Trading and Manufacturing. - Trading and manufacturing companies accounted for a paid-up capital of Rs. 980 millions, of which Rs. 166.3 millions or about 17 per cent, were invested in public service companies; Rs. 75.5 millions in agencies; Rs. 49 millions in clay, stone, cement, lime and other building and constructing materials; Rs. 44.2 millions in engineering; Rs. 43.3 millions in tobacco (sigars, etc.) ; Rs. 31.9 millions in iron, steel and shipbuilding; Rs. 29.8 millions in printing, publishing and stationery and Rs. 23 millions in chemicals and allied trades.

Mills and Presses. - Nearly one-fourth (Rs.677.3 millions) of the aggregate paid-up capital was invested in mills and presses, chiefly for working or pressing cotton, jute, wool and silk. Bombay had nearly 42 per cent (Rs. 282.3 millions) of the total investments under this head, most of it being employed in cotton mills, silk and woollen mills and presses and Bengal about 36 per cent (Rs.244.4 millions) mostly invested in jute and cotton mills and presses.

Planting. - In tea, coffee, and other plantations, a paid-up capital of Rs.155.5 millions was invested, and of this amount Rs.113.9 millions were held in Bengal, the majority of the tea companies owning gardens in north-eastern India being registered in Calcutta.

Mining and Quarrying. - The paid-up capital of mining and quarrying companies was Rs.388.1 millions of which 24 per cent (Rs.94.3 millions) was invested in companies registered in Bengal, most of it representing capital invested in coal mines. Paid-up capital amounting to Rs. 106.9 millions was invested in iron ore and Rs. 28.2 millions in petroleum companies, the former working mainly in Bombay and the latter in Burma.

(The Report on the Joint Stock Companies in British India during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 46-49 of our January 1933 report).

Large Industrial Establishments in India, 1931.\*

The following table shows the number of establishments and the operatives employed in each industry in British India and Indian States (including French Settlements) during 1931:-

British India		Grand Total for British India & Indian States.		
No. of industrial establishments.	No. of persons	No. of industrial establishments.	No. of persons	
Textiles ..	469	653,028	561	714,677
Engineering..	715	210,646	770	221,162
Minerals & Metals.	91	47,352	103	52,157
Food, Drink & Tobacco	2,524	173,578	2,657	178,175
Chemicals, Dyss etc.	399	47,204	468	55,268
Paper & Printing.	365	42,642	394	44,995
Processes relating to wood, stone & glass.	329	35,443	440	68,114
Processes connected with skins & hides.	29	5,030	60	7,671
Lins & Presses	2,019	154,195	2,778	209,546
Miscellaneous	123	30,895	173	44,652
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,063</b>	<b>1,400,003</b>	<b>8,404</b>	<b>1,596,417</b>

\* Department of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, India - Large Industrial Establishments in India, 1931 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1934 - Price Rs. 3-10 or 6s. 3d. pp. xi+129

Ceylon Banking Enquiry Commission.

Questionnaire Issued. ✓

Recently the Ceylon Government appointed a Banking Commission with Sir S.N.Pochkhanwala, Managing Director, Central Bank of India, Bombay, as the Chairman with the following terms of reference:

To inquire into and report upon the existing conditions of banking and credit in Ceylon and to consider the steps, if any, that are feasible and desirable in respect of the provision of banking and credit facilities for:

(a) Agriculture, (b) Industry, (c) Trade; and also to make recommendations regarding the desirability of establishing a State-aided Bank and sound local banks."

The Commission has issued a questionnaire which covers a wide range of subjects, including: (1) Banks and Credit Facilities for trade and main industries, (2) A State <sup>or</sup> State-aided bank. (3) Banking Regulations. (4) Savings and investments. (5) Banking Education, (6) Finance and Currency, (7) Co-operative Credit Banks and Land Mortgage Banks, (8) Agricultural Finance, and (9) small industries and retail trade.

Industries and Banks. - The Commission particularly seeks information to ascertain the approximate amount of local and foreign capital invested in Ceylon in tea, rubber and coconuts, and other important industries and what the principal industries in Ceylon owned or run by Ceylonese and non-Ceylonese are which suffer at present for want of credit facilities. The Commission further wishes to know what special credit facilities should be provided for pioneer industrial undertakings such as cement, soap, sugar, bricks, tiles, paper, matches, biscuits, plumbago, cigars and cigarettes, canning and food preservation and wood distillation and industrial alcohol.

Co-operation and Rural Indebtedness. - The questionnaire refers to the Co-operative Credit Banks and land mortgage banks and enquires in minutes detail so as to see how far it would be possible to lighten the burden of rural indebtedness and how far the cultivator could be saved from the clutches of the money-lender. The Commission also tries to ascertain whether any substantial advance for financing schemes for improving waste lands for cultivation is needed and what should be the period of such loans, whether it is necessary that Government should conduct rural economic surveys and if so on what lines.

(The Hindu, 25-6-1934).

Economic Survey of Ceylon: Scheme Contemplated. ✓

It is understood that an economic survey, covering the whole of Ceylon, on lines similar to the India survey by Dr. Bowley and Mr. Robertson, will be undertaken as soon as the Banking Commission to which reference has been made in the previous item has finished its task. It is expected that the survey will supplement and round off the work of the Banking Commission. Enquiry is being made in England and India to find a suitable officer to take charge of operations.

(The Hindu, 25-6-1934)

6th Conference of Departments of Industries:

Items on the Agenda. ✓

A Conference of Directors of Industries of Provincial Governments in India is to be held on 9-7-1934 and is expected to last for three days. The Conference has been convened at the instance of the Provincial Governments and is intended to review how far the general conclusions arrived at the 5th Conference held in July 1933 (vide page 42-43 of our July 1933 report) have been worked out by the respective Provinces. The other items on the agenda of the Conference are (1) the establishment of a Central Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau; (2) the utilisation of the annual grant of Rs. 100,000 for giving effect to approved schemes of sericultural research; and (3) the utilisation by distribution among the provinces which put forward acceptable schemes, of the annual grant of about Rs.500,000 for the development of the handloom industry.

It is proposed to start the Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau by November of this year <sup>which</sup> ~~and~~ is to be placed under <sup>and it</sup> the Indian Stores Department. The idea of affiliating the contemplated Research Bureau with the Stores Department seems to have originated from the belief that the Stores Department, being the biggest composite customer of Indian manufactured goods, is the fittest body to give such scientific help and advice as will be sought by the industrial concerns ~~and~~ for cheaper production and increased consumption of their articles.

It is believed that the Conference will draw up a general scheme for the proposed Bureau in its broad outlines, leaving the details to the Executive, which will be recruited from England. It is understood that the selection of the staff has already been made, subject to the final approval of the Government of India.

(The Statesman, 20 & 24-6-1934).



Employment and Unemployment.Relief of Rural Indebtedness and Unemployment:Bengal Government's Scheme. ✓

According to a press note issued by the Government of Bengal early this month, they have worked out an elaborate programme of rural reconstruction. The setting up of the Board of Economic Enquiry and the appointment of the Rural Development Commissioner to which references were made at pages 52-54 of our December 1933 and pages 68-69 of our February 1934 reports, are only parts of this elaborate plan. The <sup>more</sup> most important amongst the problems which have been engaging the attention of Government are the incidence of rural indebtedness, middle-class unemployment and the revival of the cottage industries. Though the activities of the Government in this behalf will mainly be directed by the Rural Development Commissioner acting under the guidance of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Provincial Cabinet, each department of Government will contribute their quota to the success of this plan of reconstruction. Accordingly, the nation-building departments have each under consideration how they can, by their activities, further the economic recovery of the province.

Rural Indebtedness. - Consolidation of the Co-operative movement in the province and the establishment of land mortgage banks, will, it is expected, go a long way towards the solution of these problems. Simple methods of rural insolvency and debt liquidation, consistent with the interests of all economic units, are also under consideration. It is being felt that in an agricultural country like Bengal, these alone will not give the peasant

the staying power which he so much needs in the economic struggle of today unless he is shown better ways of agriculture. Accordingly, important researches in agriculture are being carried on under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in District Agricultural Farms. To popularise the improved varieties of crops, seeds are being distributed from the District Agricultural Farms. Attempts are being made simultaneously to improve the breed of cattle.

Middle Class Unemployment and Cottage Industries. - In the Industries Department, attempts are being made to tackle the problem of the middle-class unemployment through a revival of cottage industries. It is felt that in attacking this problem, two of the existing factors should be taken into consideration, namely, the paucity of capital and opportunities on the one hand, and the paucity of and hence the demand for skilled labour, in the cottage industries on the other. Accordingly, while ambitious schemes will be beyond existing resources, the revival of cottage industries provides the best alternative. An attempt is being made to make it possible for young men with small capital to take to these industries, and so earn a decent living, the State Aid to Industries Act making available to them whatever further capital they may require to supplement their own resources or to give them a start when they have no resources of their own. At the same time, researches are being carried on in the Industrial Research Laboratory for discovering improved methods of manufacture. Important results in tanning, pottery, manufacture of bell-metal wares, soap-making and umbrella making have already been obtained. To make available to the young men the results of these researches and to show them how small

industries on these lines can be started, demonstration parties are being sent out into the interior. Classes in these industries have been opened and the results are reported to be very encouraging.

Extensive propaganda is being made also through cinema parties, lectures, exhibitions, etc, to popularise the results of researches already made. A touring exhibition van which had just completed its tour of the four districts in the Burdwan Division also did valuable propaganda, its exhibitions being attended by more than <sup>100,000</sup> a-lakh of people.

Other Programmes. - The Local Self-Government Department have a five years' programme of road development and it is hoped that with a short time, the facilities <sup>for</sup> of transport and communication in the province will be considerably increased. The Public Health Department have ~~xx~~ divided the province into 600 health circles with their equipment of preventive workers through which they mean to work to rid the province of malaria, cholera and smallpox and other preventible diseases. Recently, the Irrigation Department, in collaboration with the Public Health Department, had flood irrigation done in some areas of Midnapore District. As the results seem to have brought down the incidence of malaria in these places, this is going to be tried extensively in other districts. In the sphere of education, attempts are soon <sup>to</sup> be made to extend the educational facilities to the rural people in as large ~~xx~~ a measure as possible.

(The Hindu, 4-6-1934)

HK.

50  
57

Public Health.

Leprosy in Bengal Jute Mill Areas;

Action by Indian Jute Mills Association. ✓

In the Annual Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for the year 1932 (reviewed at pages 58-59 of our January 1933 report), it was mentioned that on the advice of the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, leprosy clinics had been started in most of the jute mills in the membership of the Association and that Dr. B.N.Ghosh, M.B. - the Leprosy Propaganda Officer who was responsible under the direction of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for carrying out the leprosy survey of the jute mill areas during 1930-1931 - would visit these clinics, when they had been provided with a suitable supply of medicines and appliances, to start off treatment where it had not already been begun and to demonstrate practically to the mill doctors the methods of treatment to be adopted. Dr. Ghosh duly carried out his proposed tour of the jute mill leprosy clinics during June and July 1933 and he submitted a report dated 5-9-1933 which contained suggestions, both general and detailed, for the improvement of the present methods in use for combating leprosy in the jute mill areas. In the course of correspondence exchanged between the Committee and the mills with regard to Dr. Ghosh's visits, the suggestion was put forward that Government should participate in this work by commencing treatment in Municipal and other dispensaries and by co-operating with the Association in the formulation of a complete and detailed scheme to be followed by all mills. In this connection Dr. E.Muir, the Honorary Secretary of

the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, in inviting the jute mills to appoint a representative to serve on the Committee of that body, made a similar suggestion, namely, that a meeting between the representatives of Government, the jute mills and other interested parties should be called to discuss the points raised by the mills. On a review of the whole position in the light of Dr. Ghosh's report and of the various suggestions mentioned above, the Committee agreed that before taking any action in the matter, these points should, in the first place, be discussed with the Association's representative at the next ensuing meeting of the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. At the close of the year no information as to any further action having been taken by that Association had been received.

Towards the end of the year there were distributed to members, at the request of the Chairman of the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, copies of a memorandum entitled "Organisation of a campaign against Leprosy in a rural area".

(Report of the Committee for the Indian Jute Mills Association for the year 1933).

Women & Children.Training in Reformatory Schools,Bombay Presidency, 1932-33.

Reformatory School, Yeravda. - At the commencement of the year there were 202 boys on the rolls of the school. During the year under report, 123 boys were admitted, one of them being readmitted from the Central Hospital for Mental Diseases, Yeravda, and 101 boys were discharged. Thus at the end of the year there were 224 boys (202+123-101) in the school. The average strength of the inmates of the school was 219 and they were distributed in the various industrial classes as follows:- 34 were taught carpentry, 19 smithy, 62 tailoring, 27 book-binding, 38 agriculture, 37 gardening, while 8 were working in the School dispensary as compounders. From the statement showing the after career of boys discharged from the school during the previous three years, appended to the report, it is ~~given~~ seen that, out of a total number of 149 boys, the number of untraceable boys is 56 and that of boys on whom reports have not been received is 14. Of the remaining 79 boys, 11 are occupied in agriculture, 10 in trades taught, 19 in trades not taught, 9 are with parents or relatives and 2 are attending schools.

David Sassoon Reformatory Institution, Matunga. - The number of admissions during the year 1932-33 was 99 as against 112 the previous year and the number discharged was 79 as against 127 in the previous year. The number of boys in the Institution on 31-3-1933

\* (1) Annual Report of the Reformatory School, Yeravda, for the year ending 31st March 1933 - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1933. Price Anna 1 or 1d. pp.12. (2) Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga, for the year 1932-33 - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1933. - Price Annas 2 or 3d. - pp.23.

was 371 as against 357 on 31-3-1932. Technical education provided during the year to the 79 discharged boys were: carpentry (9 boys), Black-smith's work (5 boys), Fitter's work (4 boys), Painting and polishing (7 boys), spinning (35 boys), gardening (3 boys), Cane - weaving (5 boys), Tailoring (5 boys) and Motor mechanic's work (6 boys). Of the 445 boys who were discharged during the<sup>4</sup> years ending 31-3-1933, 16 were in business or trade taught at the institution, 23 in business or trade not taught, 5 in schools, 149 had left for their native places, 1 was dead and 205 were sent to the Sheppard After-Care Auxiliary Home.

66

Agriculture.

Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1930-31.\* ✓

A review of the Agricultural Statistics of British India during 1930-31 was given at pages 61-65 of our August 1933 report. The corresponding information for the Indian States which is given below is taken from Vol. II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1930-31, recently issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. This volume deals with statistics for Indian States as far as reported. As in the previous issues, summary tables have been inserted to show the total figures relating to area, the classification of area, and the area under crops for each State or group of States, and the totals for all the reporting States. These statistics are defective for comparative purposes, as additions have been made in the number of reporting States from time to time. It should be noted that the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Volume I. As these States comprise one-third of the total area of India, the importance of the statistics relating to them can scarcely be over-estimated.

Area & Population of Indian States. - The total area of Indian States is 457 million acres (714,000 square miles), with a population of 81 millions according to the Census of 1931. These States are divided, for purposes of agricultural statistics, into two main classes, namely, (1) States within the jurisdiction of Local

---

\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India - Agricultural Statistics of India 1930-31 Vol. II. - Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in certain Indian States. - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Delhi; Manager of Publications 1934. Price Rs. 5-4 or 8s. 6d. - pp. v+ 364.



Governments and Administrations, and (2) States having direct political relations with the Government of India. The total area of the States coming under the first category is 90,715,000 acres, with a population of 17 millions. The agricultural statistics dealt with in this volume relate only to 31 States in the Bombay Presidency, the Punjab, and the United Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 31 States is 8,701,000 acres and the total population 2,005,000.

The total area of States coming under the second category is 366,012,000 acres with a population of 64,197,000. Returns were received from only 39 States in this category, leaving a total area of 250,947,000 acres and a population of 53,345,000. The total area of all the 70 reporting States ~~amounting~~ coming under both the categories amounts to 259,048,000 acres with a population of 55 millions. These States, therefore, contain about 57 per cent of the total area, and 68 per cent of the total population, of the Indian States. From the total area of all the 70 reporting States (259,648,000 acres), deduction must be made of 117,897,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 141,751,000 acres by professional survey or 141,930,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of Area. - The area of 141,930,000 acres is classified, for purposes of agricultural statistics, as shown in the table below:-

	Thousand acres.	Per cent.
Forests. .. ..	17,238	12.1
Not available for cultivation	26,220	18.5
Culturable waste other than fallow.	17,338	12.2
Current fallows ..	11,017	7.8
Net area sown ..	70,117	49.4
Total..	141,930	100

This net area sown, however, excludes areas sown more than once in the year. If areas sown more than once are taken as separate area for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 73,686,000 acres.

Irrigation Statistics. - The total area irrigated in the reporting States during 1930-31 was 9,854,000 acres, as against 9,763,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this, 3,163,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 961,000 acres from private canals, 1,557,000 acres from tanks, 2,432,000 acres from wells, and the remaining 1,741,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. These figures, however, do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. If areas sown more than once are counted as separate area for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops amounts to 10,244,000 acres, of which 8,714,000 acres were under food crops.

Classification of Area Sown. - The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States was about 74 million acres in 1930-31. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each, so far as details are available, are shown in the table below:-

	Thousand acres	Per cent of total.
Food-grains ... ..	50,923	69.7
Condiments and spices ...	382	0.5
Sugar ... ..	192	0.3
Fruits and vegetables ...	934	1.3
Miscellaneous food crops	1,657	2.3
Total food crops.	54,088	74.1
Oilseeds ... ..	6,187	8.5
Fibres ... ..	6,980	9.5
Dyes and tanning materials	7	---
Drugs and narcotics ...	417	0.6
Fodder crops ... ..	3,928	5.4
Miscellaneous non-food crops...	1,417	1.9
Total non-food crops.	18,936	25.9

2271

4.

Statistics of Live-Stock, Ploughs and Carts. - The total number of the live-stock of the bovine class (bulls, bullocks, cows, buffaloes and young stock, i.e. calves and buffalo calves) ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> 47,590,474; of the ovine class (sheep and goats), 32,122,397; and of horses, mules, donkeys and camels, 1,625,426. The numbers of ploughs and carts were 5,847,176 and 1,841,504 respectively.

✓  
Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1932 - 1933\* ✓

The following information about the estimate of area and yield of principal crops in India for 1932 - 33 is taken from a publication issued on the subject by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. The crops dealt with are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, jute, linseed, rape and mustard, sesamum, castor seed, groundnut, coffee and rubber. The estimates for these crops in the forecasts for earlier years did not relate to all the producing areas in India, but only to those tracts where the respective crops were grown on an extensive and commercial scale. Tracts of minor importance have been added gradually. At present the estimates for cotton, wheat, castor seed (in the case of castor seed, no estimates are framed for the mixed crop of the United Provinces), and jute, as also those for tea, coffee (in the case of coffee, estimates were hitherto framed for plantations having an area of 10 acres or more; but from 1931 -32 statistics of smaller plantations having an area between five to ten acres are also included) and rubber relate to all the tracts in India where these crops are

---

\* Thirty-Fifth Issue - Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India - Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1932 - 33; Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1934. Price Rs.1-4 or 2s. pp. 54.

grown to any extent, excluding certain unimportant outlying tracts such as Baluchistan, Kashmir, Nepal, and Sikkim. For other crops, however, the estimates relate to all the British provinces where they are grown to any considerable extent, but exclude Indian States, except certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces, the Rampur State in the United Provinces, the States in the Bombay Presidency, the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, and the Alwar and Kotah States in Rajputana in certain cases.

Rice - The provinces to which the estimates for rice now relate are Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Madras, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Bombay (including Sind), and Coorg. The Indian States for which estimates for rice are prepared are Hyderabad, Mysore, and Baroda, and the Rampur State in the United Provinces, certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces and the States in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind). These tracts comprise about 97 percent of the total rice area of India. The total area under rice in all these tracts in 1932-33 was reported as 82,518,000 acres, as compared with a record area of 84,374,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was, on the whole, fairly good. But the crop was affected in Bihar and Orissa and in the United Provinces by insufficient rains. The total yield was estimated at 31,002,000 tons, as against 33,001,000 tons in 1931-32. To this figure should be added about 1,057,000 tons in respect of other tracts (Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, Manpur Pargana, and certain Indian States) having an area of about 2,814,000 acres for which no forecasts are made.

Wheat - The provinces and States to which the estimates for this crop relate are the Punjab, the United Provinces (including ~~the~~ Rampur State), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bombay (including Sind), Bihar and Orissa, the North-West Frontier Province, Bengal, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Central India, Gwalior, Rajputana, Hyderabad, Baroda, and Mysore. These tracts contain a little over 98 per cent of the total area under wheat in India. The total area under wheat in 1932-33 was reported to be 32,973,000 acres, which is less than the area of the preceding year by 2 per cent. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield was 9,440,000 tons, which is 5 per cent greater than the yield of 1931-32. An addition of some 161,000 tons should be made to this estimated yield in respect of some other tracts (Burma, Madras, and the States of Kashmir and Benares), having an area of about 563,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sugarcane - The 2 provinces to which the reports on this crop relate are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the North-West Frontier

273

Province, Assam, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Delhi. Reports are also received from the Rampur State in the United Provinces and the States in the Bombay Presidency and from Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda. These tracts contain a little over 96 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India. The total area reported under sugarcane in 1932-33 was 3,305,000 acres, as compared with 2,971,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be good. The estimated yield amounted to 4,670,000 tons of raw sugar (gur), which exceeds the last year's record crop of 3,975,000 tons by 17 per cent. To this figure should be added approximately 147,000 tons in respect of other tracts having an area of 104,000 acres for which no separate estimates are made.

Tea. - The provinces where tea is grown are Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Tripura (Bengal), Travancore, Cochin, and Mysore. In Burma, tea is grown principally for consumption as pickles. The total area under tea in 1932 was reported to be 807,700 acres, as compared with 806,800 acres in the preceding year. The total production of manufactured tea (black and green) was calculated at 433,300 lbs., as against 394,083,500 lbs. in the preceding year.

Cotton. - Cotton is grown in all the provinces. The total reported area under cotton was 22,545,000 acres in 1932-33, as against 23,722,000 acres in 1931-32. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The total estimated outturn was 4,512,000 bales of 400lbs each, as compared with 4,007,000 bales in 1931-32, or an increase of 13 per cent. The table given below compares the estimates of yield for the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 with the sum of exports and internal consumption (in thousand of bales). The figures of mill consumption are those compiled by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay, and refer in the case of mills in British provinces to Indian cotton alone. The estimate of mill consumption in Indian States refers to all cotton.

	1931-32 (1000 bales)	1930-31 (1000 bales)
Exports ...	1,582	3,729
Mill consumption ...	2,346	2,271
Extra-factory consumption (conjectural)	750	750
Approximate crop ..	4,678	6,750
Estimated in forecast	4,007	5,226

Jute. - The provinces where it is grown are Bengal (including Cooch Behar and Tripura States), Bihar and Orissa, and Assam. It is also grown to a small extent in the Nepal State, but no reliable information is available from that State except the figures of export. The total area under jute in 1932 was 2,143,000 acres, which is 15 per cent greater than that of the preceding year, and the estimated yield 7,072,000 bales (of 400 lbs each), being about 28 per cent above than that of 1931. The area and yield of jute in 1933 are

7.

74

estimated to be 2,491,000 acres and 7,908,000 bales, an increase of 16 and 12 per cent respectively, as compared with 1932.

Linseed. - The provinces to which the estimates for linseed relate are the Central Provinces and Berar, the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab. Reports are also received from Hyderabad, Kotah (in Rajputana), the States in the Bombay Presidency, and certain Feudatory States in the Central Provinces. These tracts comprise 92 per cent of the total area under linseed in India. The total area under linseed in all the reporting tracts in 1932-33 was 3,250,000 acres, as against 3,309,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good. The total estimated yield was 405,000 tons, as against 416,000 tons last year. To this figure should be added some 34,000 tons for other tracts, having an area of 276,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Rape & Mustard. - The provinces from which reports are received are the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Bombay (including Sind), the North-West Frontier Province, the Central Provinces and Berar and Delhi. Reports are also received from the States of Alwar (Rajputana), Baroda, Hyderabad and from the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain about 96 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard in India. The total area under rape and mustard in all the reporting tracts in 1932-33 was 6,079,000 acres, as against 6,220,000 acres in the preceding year. To this figure should be added some 48,000 tons in respect of other tracts, having an area of 275,000 acres, for which no reports are made.

Sesamum. - The provinces to which the estimates for sesamum relate are Burma, the United Provinces, Madras, Bombay (including Sind), the Central Provinces and Berar, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, the Punjab, and Ajmer-Merwara. Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Kotah (Rajputana), and the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain a little over 88 per cent of the total area under sesamum in India. The total area under sesamum reported in 1932-33 was 6,025,000 acres, as against 5,639,000 acres in the preceding year. The condition of the crop was good. The total estimated yield was 547,000 tons, as against 476,000 tons in 1931-32. An addition of approximately 64,000 tons should be made to this figure in respect of other tracts containing an area of about 710,000 acres under sesamum, for which no reports are made.

Castor Seed. - The estimates for the crop relate to Madras, Bombay (including Sind), Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces and Berar and the United Provinces. Reports are also received from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and those in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts contain practically the whole area cultivated with castorseed in India. The total area sown in these tracts in 1932-33 was estimated at 1,602,000 acres and the yield at 149,000 tons, as against 1,583,000 acres with an estimated yield of 146,000 tons last year. The condition of the crop was good.

**Groundnut.** - The estimates for the groundnut crop relate to Madras, Bombay, Burma, and the Central Provinces and Berar. Estimates are also received from the Hyderabad State and the States in the Bombay Presidency. These tracts comprise about 94 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The total area under groundnut in these tracts in 1932-33 was reported to be 7,005,000 acres, which was 28 per cent greater than that of the preceding year. The estimated yield (2,934,000 tons of nuts in shell) was also 29 per cent greater than that of the preceding year. The condition of the crop was reported to be fairly good.

**Coffee.** - The crop is practically confined to southern India, comprising the Madras Presidency, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. The total area under coffee in 1931-32 was 173,200 acres, the yield of cured coffee therefrom being estimated at 33,734,500 lbs. Hitherto statistics of plantations of less than ten acres were not taken into account; but this incompleteness has to some extent been remedied by the inclusion, from 1931-32, of statistics of plantations having an area between five and ten acres.

**Rubber.** - The provinces where rubber is cultivated to an appreciable extent are Burma, Madras, Coorg, and the States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. The total area under rubber in 1932 was 180,100 acres, as against 184,200 acres in the preceding year. The total yield of dry rubber was 6,381,400 lbs, as against 20,117,100 lbs in 1931. The sharp fall in the production is attributed to the general slump in the rubber market.

(The estimates of area and yield of principal crops in India during 1930-31 were reviewed at pages 34-37 of our April 1932 report, & during 1931-32 at pages 70-74 of our May 1933 report) and during

### Development of Indian Sugar Industry: Central Sugar

#### Research Institute to be Established at Cawnpore. ✓

An important feature in the industrial development in India during recent years is the rapid development of the Sugar industry during the last few years mainly as a result of government protection afforded to the industry. The following figures regarding the number of sugar factories and persons employed therein during 1930-<sup>to 1932</sup> will give an idea of the development of the industry:

	1930	1931	1932
No. of Factories.	48	119	166
No. of workers	15,203	18,380	34,259

It is understood that the Government of India have decided to establish very soon<sup>a</sup> Central Sugar Research Institute for India at Cawnpore. The idea of a Central Institute was mooted in 1920 by the Sugar Industry Committee, which pointed out that no progress in the matter of sugar production <sup>was possible with out an organisation,</sup> like the Central Institute in Java, with modifications suited to Indian conditions. The Tariff Board, which at the instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research examined the case <sup>for</sup> of protection for the Indian sugar industry in 1930, endorsed the view of the Sugar Committee of 1930. Acting on these recommendations, the Sugar Committee of the Council last year approved of the principle of establishing a Central Research Institute, and recommended that the Vice-Chairman of the Council should appoint a sub-committee to examine the matter. This sub-committee proposed two alternative schemes, the cheaper of which has been <sup>now</sup> accepted.

The programme of work of this Institute will include: (1) Research in Indian sugar factory problems and sugar technology, with specific reference to Indian conditions; (2) Research and utilization of the by-products of the sugar industry; (3) Provision of scientific assistance to factories, engineers and chemists; (4) The carrying out of extended tests in new varieties of cane; (5) The collection and tabulation of scientific returns from factories; (6) Advice to Indian factories where needed; (7) Constant study of the working of sugar factories and comparison of individual factory results with the results obtained in other countries; (8) Demonstration of new and



improved plants and processes; (9) Training students in all branches of sugar technology; (10) Short refresher courses for men already engaged in the sugar industry.

(Statesman, 30-5-1934).

Impetus to Indian Dairy Industry:

Institute to be Established at Bangalore.

The Government of India have recently decided to establish at an early date <sup>a</sup> dairy institute at Bangalore, Mysore State. The animal husbandry wing of the Board of Agriculture, which met in New Delhi on February, 1933, recommended the creation of a dairy institute properly staffed and equipped to deal with the problem of production of dairy products, their handling and transport. The Standing Committee on Dairying of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which met in March, 1934, emphasised the importance, from a practical point of view, of <sup>the</sup> functions which such an institute could perform. The decision of the Government of India is a result of these recommendations. Experts are of the opinion that Indian milk could yield butter and fat cheaper than the milk from <sup>some of the varieties of</sup> best imported cattle and ~~with~~, with proper development and organization the Indian dairy industry could compete with any other country.

The Government's decision is to expand the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying by the addition of a creamery and <sup>a</sup> laboratory accommodation and by <sup>the</sup> provision of a farm for dry stock ~~at a few miles distance from~~ <sup>near</sup> Bangalore. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs.400,000 with a recurring expenditure of Rs.50,000 per annum.

(The Statesman, 30-5-1934).

78

✓  
Marketing Problems of India;

Scheme Drawn up by I. C. A. R. ✓

Reference was made at pages 61-62 of our May 1934 report to the decision of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to appoint a qualified marketing expert in order to undertake the investigation of the marketing problems of India and <sup>to make</sup> ~~suggest~~ suitable recommendations. The expert has already been appointed and a draft <sup>research</sup> scheme of marketing/on the basis of central co-ordination ~~XXXXXXXX~~ drawn up. The scheme falls into two parts; (1) investigation and (2) development.

Investigation. - This work consists in the execution and compilation of marketing surveys which will present a detailed picture of existing conditions in regard to each commodity. These surveys should enable conclusions and recommendations to be made for improvements in marketing and should point to the nature and form of any organisation, or legislation which may be necessary to give effect to the desired improvements. The onus of this work, particularly so far as the compilation is concerned, will fall mainly on the central staff since the surveys will cover not only provincial trade but inter-provincial, inter-State and foreign trade as well.

Development. This is to be accomplished by demonstration, standardisations/ and organisation. Demonstration: This work will consist in practical demonstrations (at agricultural shows and other suitable places) of the conclusions and improvements suggested by the marketing surveys. Standardisation: This will consist in securing the observance by the parties concerned of any standards which may be adopted and will involve also a measure of supervision in certain cases/ even ~~although~~ the standards adopted may be purely voluntary.

(Standardisation would cover also adulteration). Organisation: This may consist in the promotion of relatively small local co-operative grading and packing stations or may be designed to secure the marketing of a product by a wider and more comprehensive form of organisation. Development work will probably in the main fall on provincial marketing officers who may however expect the fullest possible assistance from the central staff. As this stage may be reached at a comparatively early date, in the case of some commodities, it is desired that there may be no undue delay on the part of the provinces in drawing up schemes for the appointment of the necessary marketing staff to deal with development work & as it arises.

(The Hindu, 30-5-1934).

80

Migration.

Indian Emigration to Malaya & Ceylon 1933.\*

The following information regarding the migration of Indians to Malaya and Ceylon and the general conditions of labour in these countries is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, in the Madras Presidency for the year 1933, submitted to the Government of Madras by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

According to the Report, emigration for unskilled work was permitted only to Malaya and Ceylon during the year as before. Madras and Negapatam were the ports of embarkation for emigrants to Malaya, and Tuticorin and Dhanushkedi were the ports of embarkation for emigrants to Ceylon. There was no emigration through Tuticorin to Ceylon during 1933; but 27 indigent immigrants (14 males and 13 females) who were repatriated, returned by that route.

Volume of Emigration (a) to Malaya. - The suspension of Kangany recruitment and the restricted assistance to non-recruited emigrants continued throughout the year. During the year, only one emigrant and eight non-emigrants (who were dependents of labourers of Malaya) went through the port of Negapatam, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 2 and 15. 29 non-emigrants went through Madras. As a result of increase in the price of rubber, some of the estates in Malaya began tapping and all able-bodied men were retained in the estates and unhealthy and unwilling labourers were repatriated to India.

(b) To Ceylon. - There was a further fall in the number of labourers proceeding to Ceylon during the year. 9,275 emigrants and 23,623 non-emigrants went to Ceylon during 1933; whereas, in the previous year, 19,143 emigrants and 31,726 non-emigrants went to the Colony. The figures for this year are the lowest so far recorded. The decrease is attributed to acute trade depression leading to a suspension of the recruitment of labourers by the planting industry in Ceylon. There was heavy repatriation of labourers from the estates during the major portion of the year. During the latter half of the year, the price of tea showed signs of increase as a result of which, the estates wanted to strengthen their labour force. From September to December, 12,700 labourers (emigrants and non-emigrants) were despatched to the Colony.

\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1933 - Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press, and Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1934 - Price, 6 annas or 8d. - pp.18.

System of Recruitment. - There was no recruitment to Malaya during the year, while in the case of Ceylon, it was practically suspended since the beginning of the year till the middle of September. During this period, only labourers who were not new to the estates and who had credentials from the estates concerned signifying their willingness to re-employ them were assisted to emigrate. In the case of new emigrants, the arrangements made by the Emigration Commissioner with the concurrence of the Protector of Emigrants was that labourers not recruited on licences might be permitted to emigrate only in certain well defined circumstances. 2,842 recruiting licences which were current at the beginning of the year were all formally cancelled on 31-1-1933 and recruiting under licences was stopped from that date. Only five licences were endorsed in May for recruiting labourers for salt pans. 1,265 licences were endorsed since September when recruiting was resumed. There was no recruitment on 577 of these licences. During the period of 3 1/2 months during which there was recruitment, three licences were cancelled for illegal recruitment on the recommendation of the Protector of Emigrants and 64 for other reasons. Of the emigrants who went to Ceylon, 3,330 were non-recruited emigrants and the remaining labourers were recruited by the Kanganies.

Places of Accommodation (a) Madras. - The Avadi and Melpakkam depots were licensed for 6,438 and 1,056 emigrants respectively and were practically empty during the year. The Avadi depot alone was used for the reception of the assisted return emigrants prior to their despatch to their homes. The depots were kept in good sanitary condition.

(b) Nagapatam. - The depot at Nagapatam itself was the only place of accommodation licensed by the Protector of Emigrants during the year. The few labourers lodged in this depot were, as usual, inoculated with anti-cholera vaccine and were well-attended to. The assisted return emigrants were detained in the place of accommodation only for a day or for a shorter period before they were entrained to their homes. The sanitary conditions and feeding arrangements in the depot were adequate and satisfactory.

(c) Dhanashkodi. - The Ceylon Labour Commission had agencies in 19 places in the Presidency (including one in the Pudukottai State) where the emigrants were selected and registered before despatch to Mandapam. These places are not formally declared as places of accommodation under rule 18. The arrangements at the Mandapam Camp (which is the notified place of accommodation for labourers going to Ceylon under rule 31) for the reception, lodging and feeding of emigrants were efficient.

Health and Comfort of Emigrants - According to the statement showing the causes of illness and mortality in the places of accommodation at the ports of embarkation, there were on the whole 132 cases of illness at the Mandapam Camp attended by 4 deaths.

as against 190 cases of illness and 3 deaths during 1932. In the port of Dhanushkodi, the Resident Medical Officer and his assistant looked after the health of the intending emigrants. During the year, 31,459 persons were treated for hook-worm. At the instance of the Protector of Emigrants, 2,015 persons who were found ill-clad were supplied with clothes free of cost.

Transport Arrangements: Malaya. - There were only fortnightly sailings to Malaya, two steamships of the British Indian Steam Navigation Co., running as mail steamers alternatively. The number of outward voyages was 26 as in the previous year. The embarkation and disembarkation arrangements were, as usual, satisfactory. The total number of inward voyages was 26 as against 33 in the previous year.

Ceylon. - Intending emigrants to Ceylon who along with the passengers undergo quarantine at Mandapam Camp are taken by a special train from Mandapam Camp to Dhanushkodi where they embark on the South Indian Railway ferry steamer for Talaimannar (Ceylon).

Classification and Sex Ratio (a) Malaya. - In consideration of the fact that there was no recruitment and emigration of assisted labourers to Malaya, the temporary exemption of the Colony from the operation of the sex ratio rule was extended by the Government of India till the end of the year under report. ~~that~~

(b) Ceylon. - The emigrants for Ceylon were, as usual, drawn chiefly from the agricultural classes in the Tamil districts of Trichinopoly, Salem, Tanjore, Madurai, South Arcot, Ramnad, North Arcot, Chingleput, Tinnevely and the Pudukottai State. As usual, emigration to Ceylon was generally in family groups. The labourers going to work in salt pans were single men, but their emigration was only seasonal for about 4 to 5 months in the year. The percentage of females to the total number of emigrants was 37.5. It was 38.79 in 1932 and 39 in 1931.

Wages and General Conditions of Labour (a) Malaya. - The actual earnings of the labourers on the estates were satisfactory during the second half of the year, as the Labour Department in Malaya effected an increase in earnings immediately the price of rubber improved. The earnings of the labourers employed by Government departments, municipalities, and other employers of labour were consistently satisfactory throughout the year. The cost of living in Malaya for a South Indian labourer was 30 per cent lower than what it was when the standard rates of wages were prescribed in 1928. The average price of rice on the estates was \$1.76 (Straits Dollars) or Rs. 2.72 a bushel. When the price of rubber improved, some of the estates offered work for such of the old labourers as had been in Malaya who preferred the conditions in Malaya and embarked at their own expense. During the greater part of the year, the demand for and the supply of labour in the Colony were in equilibrium.

(b) Ceylon. - The minimum cash wages in Ceylon as they stood at the beginning of the year, were as under:-

	Men			Women.			Children.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Low-country estates	0	6	7	0	5	3	0	3	10
Mid-country estates	0	6	11	0	5	7	0	4	0
Up-country estates	0	8	8	0	6	11	0	5	1

Owing to continued trade depression these wages were further reduced as shown below with effect from 10th May 1933.

	Men			Women			Children		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Low-country estates	0	5	7	0	4	6	0	3	2
Mid-country estates	0	5	11	0	4	11	0	3	4
Up-country estates	0	6	7	0	5	3	0	4	0

At the same time, the cost of issue of rice was reduced from Rs.4-12-10 per bushel to Rs.4 per bushel. Those who were not satisfied with the reduced wages were given the option of free repatriation. After the resumption of recruitment in September last, some estates have increased their rates of wages from 1st November. At the end of the year the authorities have been considering the question of restoring the wages to the rates prevailing before the reduction made in May 1933.

Return Emigrants. - During the year 5,147 (2,341 men, 1,269 women and 1,537 children) fresh emigrants left for Ceylon as against 12,548 (4,517 men, 2,834 women and 5,197 children), in the previous year. The number of emigrants who left for Ceylon during the same period was 4,129 (2,227 men, 986 women and 916 children) as against 6,507 (3,488 men, 1,849 women and 1,207 children) in the previous year. The proportion of new emigrants to old emigrants returning to Ceylon during the year under review was 100:80.20.

Repatriated Emigrants. - The following are the statistics of Indian emigrants who are repatriated from the Colonies during the year 1932: From South Africa - 548 emigrants; from Fiji - 114; from Mauritius - 29; from Malaya - 9,330; and from Ceylon - 49,445.

Skilled Labour. - There was no emigration of skilled labour through the port of Madras. 72 skilled labourers emigrated through the port of Negapatam to Malaya and 279 skilled workers proceeded to Ceylon through the port of Dhamshkodi. The corresponding figures for the previous year in respect of the last two ports are 310 and 242.

Assisted Emigration from South Africa. - There was a marked fall in the number of repatriates that arrived from South Africa during the year. 559 emigrants returned to India of whom 548 landed at the port of Madras and 11 returned via Bombay. The corresponding figures for the year 1932 was 2,478. The health of the return emigrants was, on the whole, good. 17 of the emigrants were classified as decrepits due to old age mostly. There was no complaint from any one about want of attention on board the steamer. There was one birth in transit and a case of confinement on landing.

Settlement of Assisted Emigrants. - Each adult return emigrant was paid £50 on his landing and a minor £10. All were subjected to detailed enquiry regarding their plans for settlement in this country. They were paid small sums according to the needs of each case and the balance was retained in the office of the Special Officer as deposits by the emigrants. All the emigrants were provided with railway tickets to their destinations. The decrepits were sent with escorts. They were advised to apply for repayment of the money deposited by them after they found a safe investment. The investments were generally made in purchase of lands or on mortgages of lands with possession. Those who did not find any scope for such investments were advised to deposit the amounts in banks through the Special Officer. The total amount paid in the year to the return emigrants towards bonus and the savings brought by them amounted to Rs.120,130. Most of the repatriates belonging to the Madras Presidency are agricultural labourers. Out of the 540 emigrants who returned in the year, the male adults fit for work are about 210. The agricultural labourers amongst them numbering 137 with their families were settled in the villages. The number who elected to stay in the City of Madras is 14. Steps are taken to settle these people according to their profession. 59 applications for work including those from old repatriates were received and attended to by the Special Officer. Employment was secured for 48 persons.

Return to South Africa. - 60 emigrants (30 men, 13 women and 29 children) availed themselves of the concession of re-entry afforded by the scheme and returned to the Union. One old emigrant also returned under a special permit from the Union Government.

Pensions from the Union Government. - The Union Government continued to pay compassionate pensions at Rs.6-10-8 per month to decrepit repatriates recommended by the Special Officer. There were 23 pensioners in all.

(The report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act during the year 1930 is reviewed at pages 64-70 of the June 1931 report, during 1931 at 72-78 of the July 1932 report and during 1932 at pages 71-76 of our June 1933 report).