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Contents. Pages.

1. National Labour Legislation.-

Baluchistan:

(a) Amendments to Baluchistan Payment of Wages Rules, 1936. 1

Bengal:

(b) Amendments to Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927. 1

(c) Amendment to Bengal Payment of Wages Rules, 1939. 1

(d) The Draft Bengal Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1939. 1

Bihar:

(e) Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. 2

(f) The Draft Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1939. 2

Bombay:

(g) Draft Amendment to Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. 2

(h) Select Committee Report on Bombay Shops Bill, 1939. 2

(i) Extension of Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. 2-3

(j) The Hazardous Occupations (Petrol gas generating plants) Rules, 1939. 3

Central Provinces and Berar:

(k) The C.P. and Berar Minimum Wages Bill, 1938, defeated. 3

(l) The C.P. and Berar Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Bill, 1938, referred to Select Committee. 4

Madras:

(m) Draft Notification regarding Exemptions under the Factories Act, 1934. 4

(n) The Draft Madras Employment of Children Rules, 1939. 4

(o) Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. 5

Punjab:

(p) The Draft Punjab Trade Employees Bill, 1939. 5

(q) The Draft Punjab Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1939. 5

see also the attached minute on this report by R.K. Das, which highlights changes in attitudes towards labour legislation since establishment of provincial governments

United Provinces :

- (r) The U.P. Shop Assistants Bill: Main Provisions. 6
 (s) U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, to come into force from 1-9-1939. 6

2. Conditions of Labour.-

- (a) Institute of Industrial Fatigue and Psychology for India: Suggestion by Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee. 7
 (b) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Madras in 1938. (An) 7- 8
 (c) Regulation of Hours of Work in Shops and Commercial Establishments: Resolution carried in Cochin Legislative Council. (Du) 8
 (d) Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act in Madras, 1938. (An) 9
 X (e) Forced Labour in Bhopal: Government Decree makes Practice Illegal. 9- 10
 (f) Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act during 1938. (An) 10
 (g) Forced Labour in Orissa States: Findings of the Enquiry Committee. 11-12
 X (h) Forced Labour in Simla Hill States: Himalayan Praja Mandal to conduct Enquiry into Economic Conditions in the States. 13
 (i) Working Class Cost of Living Index numbers for various Centres in India during June 1939. 13-14
 (j) Factory Administration in Mysore, 1937-38. (An) 14-15
 (k) Working of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act in 1937-38. 15-16
 (l) Demands of Government Press Workers of Bombay: Decision to Strike postponed. (An) 16-17
 X (m) Forced Labour abolished in Suket State. 17
 (n) The Digboi Labour Dispute: Enquiry Committee commences Sittings on 1-8-1939. 17
 (p) Jamshedpur Labour Dispute: Prasad-Nehru Award. 17-18

3. Enforcement of Conventions.-

- (a) Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara, 1938. 19
 (b) Factory Administration in N.W.F.P., 1938. 19-20
 (c) Factory Administration in Madras, 1938. 20-22
 (d) Factory Administration in Bombay, 1938. 23

4. Industrial Organisation:Workers' Organisations.-

- Recognition of M. & S.R. Railway Employees' Union: question under consideration of the Agent. 24

5. Intellectual Workers.-

- Demands of Bombay Clerical Staff: Representation to Premier. 25

6. Economic Conditions.-

- (a) Regulation of Production and Marketing of Steel in India: Agreement not reached at Simla Conference. 26-27
- (b) National Planning Committee: Progress of Work Reviewed. 27
- (c) The Assam Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1939. 28
- (d) Crisis in Cotton Textile Industry: Restriction of Output. 28-29

7. Employment and Unemployment.-

- Alleviation of Unemployment in the Punjab: Recommendations of the Chhotu Ram Committee. 30

8. Social Conditions.-

- (a) Future of Criminal Tribes in Bombay: Munshi Committee's Recommendations. 31-32
- (b) Prohibition in Bihar Coal Fields: Minister discusses Scheme with Colliery Owners. 32-33

9. Public Health.-

- (a) Health of School Children in U.P.: Government's Scheme for Free Supply of Milk to Students. 34
- (b) Social Amenities for Workers: Bombay Government's Scheme: Working of the Delisle Road Recreation Centres in 1938-39. 34-36

10. Co-operation.-

- (a) Organisation of Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies in Bombay: Government of Bombay's Scheme. 37
- (b) Development of Cottage Industries in U.P.: Government Action on Enquiry Committee's Report. 38-39
- (c) Organisation of Research Institute regarding Cottage Industries: Bombay Government appoints Committee. 39

11. Education.-

- Re-organisation of Technical Education in U.P.: Government appoints Committee. 40

12. Agriculture.-

- (a) Agricultural Indebtedness in Travancore: Government appoints Enquiry Committee. 41
- (b) The U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1939. (Act No. VIII of 1939). 41

13. Maritime Affairs.-

- Indian Lascars in British Ships: American Federation of Labour alleges Exploitation. 42-43

14. Migration.-

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Indian Emigrants Abroad: Review of Conditions during 1938-39. | 44-47 |
| (b) Legislation regarding Trade Unions and Trade Disputes in Malaya: Future of Indian Emigration to Malaya. | 47-48 |
| (c) Congress Working Committee and Repatriation of Indians from Ceylon: Resolution on Nehru's Mission. | 48-49 |
| (d) Indian Emigration Problems: Discussion by Standing Emigration Committee. | 49-50 |

15. General.-

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers: Tentative List of Subjects on the Agenda. | 51 |
| (b) Conference of Premiers of Congress Provinces, Poona, 24 to 28-8-1939. Co-ordination of Labour Policy discussed. | 52-53 |

16. List of more important Publications received in this Office during August 1939.- 54-56.
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National Labour Legislation.

Attention is directed to the following:

Baluchistan:Amendments to Baluchistan Payment of Wages Rules, 1936.

The amendments make a few textual changes in the Baluchistan Payment of Wages Rules, 1936.

(Notification No. A/83(33)/Tr. 8002-G dated 8-8-1939: The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 12-8-1939, page 504).

Bengal:Amendments to Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927.

The above amendments relate to the forwarding of returns and other information to the Registrar of Trade Unions by the unions.

(Notification No. 2474-Com. Dated 9-8-1939: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 17-8-1939, pages 2021 to 2027).

Bengal:Amendment to Bengal Payment of Wages Rules, 1939.

The amendment relates to Form No. IV relating to ~~the~~ deductions from wages, appended to the Bengal Payment of Wages Rules, 1939.

(Notification No. 2652-Com. dated 24-8-1939: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 31-8-1939. Pages 2126 to 2127).

Bengal:The Draft Bengal Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1939.

The proposed rules deal with the procedure under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, for preparing applications under sub-section (2) of Section 15 of the Act.

The Draft is to be taken into consideration by 15-11-1939.

(Notification No. 2348-Com. dated 28-7-1939: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 10-8-1939, pages 1917 to 1926).

Bihar:

Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The amendment relates to the Form in which returns under the Payment of Wages Act are to be made.

(Notification No. 1013-XL-59-Com. dated 21-7-1939: The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 26-7-1939, page 713).

Bihar:

The Draft Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1939.

The above rules which the Bihar Government proposes to make under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, deal with the powers of Inspectors appointed under the Act and with the form of certificate of fitness required under it. The Rules are to apply to workshops.

(Notification No. 71-IF-62-39-Com. R. dated 24-8-1939: The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 30-8-1939, page 764).

Bombay:

Draft Amendment to Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The proposed amendment makes a textual change in the rules.

(Notification No. 9639 dated 3-8-1939: The Bombay Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 10-8-1939, pages 1297 to 1298).

Bombay:

Select Committee Report on Bombay Shops Bill, 1939.

The Select Committee's Report on the Bombay Shops Bill, 1939, is published at pages 400 to 422 of Part V of the Bombay Gazette dated 10-8-1939; at pages 423 to 425 of Part V of the Gazette dated 11-8-1939, and at pages 426 to 427 of Part V of the Gazette dated 14-8-1939.

Bombay:

Extension of Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

The Bombay Government has notified that Sections 55, 62, 63, 65, 66 and 67 relating to illegal strikes and lock-outs of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, shall (1) extend to the whole of

the Province of Bombay, (2) comes into force on 20-8-1939, and (3) apply to the cotton textile industry.

(Notification No. 2847/34 dated 20-8-1939: The Bombay Gazette Extraordinary dated 20-8-1939).

Bombay:

The Hazardous Occupations (Petrol gas generating plants) Rules, 1939.

The above rules declare all operations of generating petrol gas from petrol carried on in any factory as hazardous and prohibit the employment of women, children and adolescents, in such factories. The Rules also contain provisions for ensuring the safety of the workers in petrol gas generating factories.

(Notification No. 1220/34 dated 22-8-1939: The Bombay Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 24-8-1939, pages 1587 to 1589).

Central Provinces and Berar:

The C.P. and Berar Minimum Wages Bill, 1938, defeated.

Reference was made at page 6 of our November 1938 report to the introduction (by Mr. G.S. Page) and circulation of the C.P. and Berar Minimum Wages Bill, 1938. The Bill proposed that every male labourer shall be paid at least ten annas daily and every female labourer six annas per day, and sought to restrict hours of work to eight.

On 5-8-1939, Mr. Page's motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee was defeated by 64 votes against 24.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bharuka, Minister for Industries, opposing the Bill, said that the Government was very sympathetic to labourers, but that fixing the minimum wage for all parts of the Province would affect adversely the industries of the Province as they had to face keen competition, and if the rate of wages mentioned was applied to agriculturist labourers, the whole agricultural structure of the Province would collapse. Further, if the Bill was passed, the Government would be required to spend Rs. 4 million more on industrial labour for their work. Questions such as these, he said, called for legislation on an all-India basis.

(The Hindu, dated 6-8-1939).

Central Provinces :

The C.P. ^{and Berar} Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Bill, 1938, referred to Select Committee.

Reference was made at page 6 of our November 1938 report to the introduction (by Mr. V.R. Kalappa) and circulation of the C.P. and Berar Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Bill, 1938. Mr. Kalappa's motion of 5-8-1939 that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee was adopted on 7-8-1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bharuka, Minister for Industries, while not offering opposition to the Bill, suggested that all reference to the Public Works Department and local bodies should be omitted from its scope. The Government, he said, was not prepared to admit that employers of labour were in all cases paying low wages.

(The Times of India,
7 & 9-8-1939).

Madras :

Draft Notification regarding Exemptions under the Factories Act, 1934.

The above Draft Notification defines the classes of persons who are deemed to hold positions of supervision and management; the rules also define the classes of workers who are exempted from certain provisions of the Factories Act.

(Notification No. 561 dated
8-7-1939: The Fort St.
George Gazette, Part I,
dated 1-8-1939, pages 992
to 994).

Madras :

The Draft Madras Employment of Children Rules, 1939.

The above rules which the Madras Government proposes to make under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, deal with the powers of Inspectors appointed under the Act and with the form of certificate of fitness required under it. The rules are to apply to minor ports and railways and to workshops in which any of the processes set forth in the schedule of the Act is carried on.

(Notification No. 575 dated
20-7-1939: The Fort St.
George Gazette, Part I, dated
1-8-1939, page 991).

Madras :Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The proposed amendment relates to Form IV relating to returns regarding deductions from wages, appended to the rules.

(Notification No. 625 dated 31-7-1939: Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 8-8-1939, page 1014).

Punjab:The Draft Punjab Trade Employees Bill, 1939.

The Gazette (Extraordinary), Punjab, dated 5-8-1939 publishes at pages 145 to 148 the draft of the Trade Employees Bill, 1939, which the Punjab Government intends introducing in the local Legislative Assembly. The statement of objects and reasons points out that there is at present no law to protect the rights and regulate the working conditions of persons employed in shops and commercial houses. This Bill is designed to limit hours of employment and secure rest intervals, holidays, leave with pay and prompt payment of wages. Some of its principal features are: (1) Employment of children under 14 years of age is prohibited. (2) A maximum of 61 working hours per week and 11 hours per day is prescribed. (3) All shops and commercial houses, with a few exceptions noted in the Bill, are to be closed on Sundays and all public holidays. (4) Wages are to be paid for holidays if the employee has continuous service of 15 days or more. (5) An employee with one year's continuous service is to be entitled to leave for 14 days with full pay. (6) Deductions from wages by way of penalty shall not exceed 3 pies per rupee and the proceeds shall be credited to a fund which should be used to promote the welfare of the employees generally.

Contravention of the provisions of the Bill involves a penalty of Rs. 50 for the first offence and a penalty of Rs. 75 to Rs. 250 for every subsequent offence. The Bill applies to the whole of the Province; but in the first instance its provisions will be enforced only within the municipal and cantonment limits of Lahore, Amritsar, Multan, Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Lyallpur.

Punjab:The Draft Punjab Employment of Children (Workshops) Rules, 1939.

The proposed rules relate to the powers of Inspectors appointed under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and to the form of certificate of fitness required under the Act.

(Notification No. 4970-I & L-39/26577 dated 12-8-1939: The Punjab Gazette, Part I, dated 18-8-1939, pages 1163 to 1164).

United Provinces:

The U.P. Shop Assistants Bill: Main Provisions.

It is understood that the Government of the United Provinces has drafted a Shop Assistants Bill which it proposes to introduce in the next session of the local Legislature. According to the special Lucknow correspondent of the Statesman, the Bill is modelled on the Bombay Shop legislation, with the difference that hotels and restaurants are not to be included in the U.P. Legislation. The Bill will apply to shops and commercial houses and will, in the first instance, be confined in its application to large towns having a population of over 100,000. A particularly important provision in the Bill is the ban on the employment of children in shops.

(The Statesman,
dated 2-8-1939).

United Provinces:

U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, to come into force from 1-9-1939.

The Government has notified 1-9-1939 as the date on which the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act is to come into force.

Mr. J. Nigam, I.C.S., Director of Industries and Labour Commissioner, United Provinces, has been appointed Labour Commissioner under the Act.

(Notifications Nos. 3774/XVIII-239 and 3774(1)/XVIII-239 dated 7-8-1939: U.P. Gazette, Part I, dated 12-8-1939, page 551). +

Conditions of Labour.Institute of Industrial Fatigue and Psychology for
India: Suggestion by Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee.

The Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee is considering the desirability of establishing an Institute of Industrial Fatigue and Psychology in India on the same lines as, although ~~on~~ on a smaller scale than, the Industrial Health Research Board and the National Institute of Industrial Psychology in England. The Institute is to be devoted to research on subjects of great practical value both to the industry and the worker such as the most suitable arrangement of hours of work and rest, reduction of fatigue, incentives to work and personal factors in accident causation. It has been felt that business men in India have no scientific data in regard to these matters to guide their own methods and practices. Whatever scientific data is available relates to other countries. The Bihar Labour Committee is therefore of the opinion that such an Institute would serve a very useful purpose and before coming to any conclusions have enquired of employers' organisations whether they would be willing to provide a small grant towards the expenses of the Institute which were not likely to be considerable.

After referring the matter to ^{its} the Labour Sub-Committee, the ~~Committee~~ ^{of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce} has expressed the view that it did not favour the establishment of this Institute with the information at present at its disposal, and in any case, would not agree to the provision of any grant.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during June 1939).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in Madras in 1938.*

Returns were called for from 3,031 establishments. The number of returns received was 2,927. ~~As usual, action will be taken against the defaulters and the results embodied in the report for the next year.~~ Accidents were reported in 243 returns. 34 cases of death, 76 cases of permanent disablement and 1,799 cases of temporary disablement were reported in these returns as against 35 cases of death, 65

* Government of Madras, Development Department - G.O. No. 1509, 12th June 1939: Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 — Working — 1938 Report.

cases of permanent disablement and 1,512 cases of temporary disablement reported last year. The compensation reported to have been paid in cases of death, permanent disablement and temporary disablement was Rs. 20,960, Rs. 16,123-4-4 and Rs. 14,105-7-9 respectively. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 16,670, Rs. 19,452-12-2 and Rs. 13,385-1-9. Only one accident resulted in permanent disablement to a minor, and in respect of this Rs. 60 were paid as compensation; 5 minors were involved in minor accidents. *

True

Regulation of Hours of Work in Shops and Commercial
Establishments: Resolution carried in Cochin
Legislative Council. *

A non-official resolution was moved by Mr. P. Atchyutha Menon in the Cochin State Legislative Council on 31-7-1939 urging the State Government to regulate hours of work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, etc. Several speakers draw attention to the need for leisure for workers and the harmful nature of the present system of uncontrolled employment.

Dewan against Legislation.- Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, the Chief Minister of the State, pointed out that there were no fixed hours of work for shops and commercial establishments even in progressive European countries, and referred to the serious difficulties of enforcing such legislation, especially in view of the lack of uniformity in the starting and closing hours of the different classes of trading establishments and the large inspection staff needed for enforcement. "So far as I know", continued Sir Shanmukham, "even the International Labour Office of the League of Nations at Geneva has not succeeded in introducing any such legislative measures owing to the inherent difficulty in arriving at any uniformity in such a matter."

Resolution Adopted.- The resolution was pressed to a division and carried by 17 votes to 16, the Government members voting against the resolution.

(The Hindu,
1 & 3-8-1939). *

9
Am

Working of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act
in Madras, 1938*.

Extent of Application of the Act.- The application of this Act is restricted to women employed in the non-seasonal factories. On 31st December 1938 there were 1,332 factories in which the Act applied, but only 1,290 factories were in commission during the year. Of those that were in commission only 922 employed women labour. 56 factories did not submit the return. The average daily number of women employed in those factories was 38,070 as against 37,954 in 1937.

Number of Claims and Amount paid.- During the year 1,715 claims were made as against 928 in 1937. Of the 1,715 claims, 1,210 were fully paid to the women concerned and in one case to the nominee of the women who died in child birth indicating a low mortality rate due to confinement among working-class women. The total amount paid was Rs. 27,807-12-3 as against Rs. 21,253-15-6 paid in 1937. The increase in the number of claims was perhaps due to the better understanding of the provisions of the Act by the women employees.

Although the Act is not applicable to women employed in the plantations, the planters in the Anamalais paid a bonus to the women employees confined and in several cases arranged free feeding for six weeks.

Inspection.- Inspections under the Act were made along with the inspections under the Factories Act. 138 ~~fa~~ inspections were also made by the Additional Inspectors. The full-time Factory Inspectors during their inspections checked every case of the benefit claimed and refused under the Act. ←

9.31

Forced Labour in Bhopal.

Government Decree makes Practice Illegal. ←

The Government of the Bhopal State has published in the Bhopal Gazette Extraordinary a Decree to supplement the Special Order of the Nawab issued in 1929 abolishing the system of forced labour called "Corvee" prevalent in the State. Under this system the public were required to furnish compulsory labour in the rural parts of the State.

As recent investigations proved the continuance of the system

* Government of Madras, Development Department - G.O. No. 1588, 22nd June 1939 - Factories -- Administration Report, 1938.

despite the Order of 1929, the new decree has been issued under which begar in any form is made a cognisable offence, punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to two years or with fine or with both. In cases where cognisance is not taken of the offence by the police, a representation might be made by the complainant direct to the Government or to any officer authorised by the Government to entertain such complaints.

(The Times of India,
21-8-1939).*

Am

Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act
during 1938.* †

Returns were received from all except 12 of 536 working factories employing women and amenable to the Act. The average number of women employed daily was 52,400. The number of women who claimed maternity benefits was 4,333 of whom 3,861 were paid benefits for actual births. The total amount of benefit paid during the year was Rs. 96,556-1-0. The number of claims paid in 1938 per 100 women employed was 7.41 as against 7.47 in 1937. The number of cases in which pre-maternity benefits were paid was ~~1,947~~ 1,947.

The report points out that it has been suggested that women in Bombay are afraid to claim the benefit. The mills have been generous and have assisted ~~the~~ women to prosecute their claims. Besides, leave is regulated and applied for so that a woman absenting herself for maternity purposes gives the correct reason for her leave application. The fact appears to be that owing to a variety of reasons fewer children are born ~~in~~ the Bombay women than in other centres.

* Annual Factory Report - Bombay Province, 1938 (including Notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Bombay: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery. 1939. Price - Annas 2 or 3d.

11
131

Forced Labour in Orissa States: Findings of
the Enquiry Committee.*

The second session of the Orissa States People's Conference held in June 1937 appointed a Committee with Mr. Harekrishna Mahtab, Member, All India Congress Working Committee, as Chairman, to enquire into the prevalence of various illegalities and of repression in the Orissa States. The report which has recently been published contains details for each State regarding the condition of the peasantry, (including various forms of illegal exactions, like forced labour), systems of taxation, appropriation of revenues to the Rulers' privy purse, nation-building and social services, and civil and judicial administration. The salient facts of the report are summarised below:

Details regarding Orissa States.- The following table gives the names of the more important of the Orissa States and area, population and annual income of each:

<u>Name of State.</u>	<u>Area</u> <u>Square Miles.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Annual Income</u> <u>in Rs.</u>
Dhenkanal	1,436	284,328	531,000
Nilgiri	284	68,598	173,000
Talcher	399	69,702	294,000
Nayagarh	590	142,399	396,000
Rairakhol	833	35,710	87,000
Athgarh	168	50,148	148,000
Pallahara	452	27,975	79,000
Gangpur	2,492	356,388	508,000
Rampur	203	47,713	71,000
Hindol	312	48,897	126,000
Bamra	1,988	151,259	424,000
Daspalla	568	42,650	120,000
Sonepur	906	237,945	492,000
Khandpara	244	77,930	148,000
Athmalik	730	64,276	217,000
Baudh	1,264	135,248	321,000
Bonai	1,296	80,144	176,000
Baramba	142	46,689	97,000
Narsingpur	199	40,882	111,000
Kalahandi	3,745	513,716	625,000
Seraikele	449	138,671	334,000
Keonjhar	3,096	460,647	979,000
Patna	2,511	566,924	907,000
Mayurbhanj	4,243	889,603	2,941,000

* Report of the Enquiry Committee, Orissa States. Published by the Secretary, Orissa States People's Conference. Cuttack: Orissa Mission Press. 1939. Price Rs. 5/=/. pp 290.

General Condition of People.- In all the Orissa States, the general condition of the people is reported to be bad. Besides heavy taxation, lack of adequate civil rights, the people are subjected to various forms of forced labour and illegal exactions, the nature of which is described below:

"Bethi".- A peasant in these States spends over 100 days in the year in doing "bethi" (forced labour) for the States and the Officials. He is liable to be called to do it any time by day or night and refusal invariably means corporal punishment — beating or imprisonment — or fines. The report points out that in spite of the undertaking of the Government of India to abolish forced labour in India as a result of the I.L. Convention on the subject, the systems of forced labour in the States flourish unchecked. The Political Officers of the Paramount Power are reported to have not only taken no steps to secure the abolition of forced labour in the States, but to have sanctioned the exaction of such labour. The Committee found that a set of rules regulating bethi and providing punishment for default have been sanctioned for the States of Athgarh, Baramba and Narasingpur by Mr. Scott, the Political Agent and Commissioner in 1930.

Some of the Governments of these States declared the abolition of "bethi", but the practice is still prevalent in spite of the announcement.

"Rasad".- This system relates to the compulsory supply of provisions to officers on tour. Though some States have made rules providing for payment for the provisions at current market rates, evidence goes to show that no payment is made. The report quotes the following rules sanctioned by Mr. Scott, the Political Agent, for the three States of Baramba, Athgarh and Narsingpur:

"Rasad shall be supplied to officers named in the schedule attached to these rules and their camp staff in the qualities indicated therein and at current market rates

"Failure to render bethi, begar, or to supply rasad in accordance with these rules shall render a tenant liable to ejection from his holding"

"Magan".- (Forced requisition of money on ceremonial occasions) The tenants have to pay about one-fourth of their annual land rent on several ceremonies such as the marriages, thread and ear-piercing ceremonies of the Raja, heir-apparent and the eldest daughter. Sometimes, as in the case of Dhenkanal it has also meant contributions to the Jubilee Fund of the King Emperor and the trip to Europe of the first brother of the Ruler. This extra taxation prevails in almost all the Orissa States.

"Suniya Bheti".- (New Year presents).- People are asked to contribute about Re. 0-0-6 in the rupee of land rent to the Sarbarakars who present the amount to the Raja on the New Year Day, and such other occasions. Originally this kind of present was supposed to be voluntary, but now it has assumed a compulsory character. The forced contribution is reported to exist all over the Orissa States.

(The Secretary, Orissa States People's Enquiry Committee has informed this Office that a copy of the Report has been sent direct to the Editor, International Labour Review, Geneva). +

Forced Labour in Simla Hill States: Himalayan
Praja Mandal to conduct Enquiry into
Economic Conditions in the States. +

According to the special correspondent of the Times of India at Simla, the Himalayan Praja Mandal (Simla States' People's Organisation) has started an enquiry into conditions of life in the Simla States in which there have been recently political troubles. The enquiry is to be conducted by Mr. Shanti Dhawan, Director, Research Bureau, All-India States People's Conference, and will begin in September 1939.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has drawn attention to the prevalence of forced labour in these States and has advised the people of the States to concentrate first on the abolition of systems of forced labour and then on the reduction of land revenue and other taxes. In view of the enquiry to be conducted by the Praja Mandal, Pandit Nehru has sent suggestions for an exhaustive questionnaire into the economic position of the Hill States. The questionnaire seeks to elicit details of the land revenue system and of the alleged use of begar or forced labour; it asks if the Princes enforce purveyance and exact contributions in kind from their people. Questions are put about the forestry and grazing laws, the medical and sanitary rules, the activities of the Political Department, vis-a-vis the durbars, education, ~~and the~~ methods of justice, and systems of public relief.

(The Times of India,
22-8-1939). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers
for various Centres in India during June 1939. +

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during June 1939 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in June 1939 rose by 1 point to 104. The average for 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during June 1939 rose by 1 point to 72. The average for 1938 was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during June 1939 advanced by 1 point to 74. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in June 1939 increased by 1 point to 60.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in June 1939 rose by 2 points to 57.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during June 1939 remained stationary at 99.

(Extracted from the June 1939 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India). -

Factory Administration in Mysore, 1937-38.* +

Number of Factories.- There were 216 factories on the register of factories at the beginning of the year. 38 factories were newly brought on the register, of which 4 were notified as factories under section 5(1) of the Act. One factory which was closed down during the previous year was brought into operation. 5 factories were struck off the register during the year. The total number of factories at work at the end of the year was therefore 250 of which 48 were seasonal and rest perennial.

Number of Workers.- The total average number of workmen employed daily in all the 364 larger industrial establishments in the State employing 10 persons or more per day was 58,450 during the calendar year ending 1937. Of the above number 25,526 worked in 250 concerns notified as factories under the Mysore Factories Act, 23,455 worked in 5 mines and the remaining 9,469 labourers worked in 109 minor concerns, some of them using power and the others not using power.

Of the 25,526 workers in factories, 4,581 were women, 449 were adolescents and 1,087 were children.

Inspection and Prosecutions.- During the year, 229 factories were inspected by the officers of the Inspection Department. Of the above, 168 were inspected once, 46 twice, 12 thrice and 3 factories more than three times. In addition to this, surprise visits to 35 factories were paid at odd hours including late hours in the nights. Prosecution proceedings were instituted against the owners of two factories for employing women during nights and children below 15 years in contravention of the provisions of the Act, in spite of repeated warnings. These cases were pending trial at the end of the year.

* Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year 1937-38, with the Government Review thereon. Bangalore: Superintendent, Government Press. 1939. pp. V+125.

Working of the Mysore Maternity Benefit Act in 1937-38.*

Provisions of the Act.- The Mysore Maternity Benefit Act III of 1937, which is modelled on the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, (as modified up to 1st May 1935) provides for the payment of maternity benefit to every woman working in a factory at the rate of her average daily wages or 8 annas per day, whichever is less, for the actual days of her absence immediately preceding the confinement and for four weeks thereafter, the maximum period for which the above benefit is permitted being eight weeks. The rules under the Act were brought into force with effect from 29th July 1937 and ~~the~~ Inspectors of Factories under the Factories Act were appointed ex-officio Inspectors for administering the provisions of the Act in their respective jurisdictions.

Administration of the Act.- In view of the fact that the above Act has been recently introduced in the State, necessary action has been taken during the year under report to bring the existence of the Act to the notice of the public by publishing the salient features of the Act and the Rules issued thereunder, in the form of a Press Communiqué, both in Kannada and in English. In the course of the inspection of factories, ~~the~~ employers of labour were also acquainted in person by the Inspectors with the provisions of the Act.

During the year under report, a sum of Rs. 2,682-6-6 was paid as maternity benefit to women employees in the State. +

Working of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act
in 1937-38.* +

Of the 220 cases that were for disposal before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in Mysore, 191 cases were disposed of during the year. Of these, 57 related to accidents which proved fatal, 67 to non-fatal accidents and remaining 67 cases related to the registration of Memorandum of Agreements. The number of claims in respect of accidents in the mining industry disposed of during the year was 188 as against 221 in 1936-37. Compensation amounting to Rs. 44,366-7-0 was deposited with the Commissioners during the year and a sum of Rs. 8,248-6-0 was pending distribution at the commencement of the year. Of this amount, Rs. 27,739-2-0 was distri-

* Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year 1937-1938, with the Government Review thereon. Bangalore: Superintendent, Government Press. 1939. pp. v+125.

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buted among the dependents of the deceased, Rs. 3,763-2-0 among the claimants in non-fatal cases and a sum of Rs. 3,482-8-0 was returned to the depositors, leaving a balance of Rs. 17,630-1-0 pending ~~and~~ distribution at the end of the year.

A sum of Rs. 11,220-9-9 remained in deposit in the Government Savings Bank for the benefit of ~~the~~ minors at the beginning of the year and a sum of Rs. 6,032-7-0 was invested during the year bringing the total investment at the end of the year to Rs. 17,253-0-9. Of this, a sum of Rs. 3,230-8-1 was withdrawn, leaving a balance of Rs. 14,022-8-8 in deposit at the end of the year. +

Demands of Government Press Workers of Bombay:
Decision to Strike postponed. +

C. S. Joshi

The general strike by the workers of the Government Central Press, Bombay, fixed for 15-8-1939 has, it is understood, been put off by one month. The decision to postpone the strike was taken by the Union, following receipt by its President, Mr. Joshi, of a communication from the Government of Bombay, which stated that the Government had fixed one month as the period during which it would complete its examination of the questions now remaining for settlement in connection with the grievances of the workers and announce its decision.

Demands of the Workers.- The decision to go on strike is the culmination of a dispute between the Union and the Government with regard to certain demands of the workers for which they have been agitating since 1935. These demands are: fixation of a minimum wage of Rs. 30; ^{per month} graded scales of pay for technical staff; casual leave for 20 days; ^{per annum} for piece and task workers; payment for idle hours for piece-workers; fixed pay for the confidential section on average basis; filling of vacancies in technical establishment by men of the same section; and lastly, yearly promotion to piece-workers. In the event of the demands not being granted, the Union requested Government to appoint a Conciliation Board to settle the dispute.

Action taken.- These demands were discussed at a joint meeting of representatives of the Union ~~and~~ and the Superintendent

7.11.

of the Press, at which the Labour Commissioner was also present. As a result of the discussions, three of the minor demands were granted with slight modifications; the demand for casual leave was rejected; while the question of minimum wage and graded scales of pay was left over for consideration by Government.

(The Times of India,
16-8-1939).+

Forced Labour abolished in Suket State.

In connection with his birthday celebrations, the Ruler of Suket State (Punjab) has announced the complete prohibition of "Begar" (forced labour) in the State.

(The Hindustan Times,
22-8-1939).+

The Digboi Labour Dispute: Enquiry Committee commences sittings on 1-8-1939.

Reference was made at pages 13 to 14 of our July 1939 report to the appointment of an Enquiry Committee with Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji as Chairman. The Committee commenced its sittings from 7-8-1939 at Dibrugarh.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
11-8-1939).+

Jamshedpur Labour Dispute: Prasad — Nehru Award.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Congress President) and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in their arbitration award (published in the second week of August, 1939) in the dispute referred to them by the Tata Iron & Steel Company and the Tata Workers' Union, refer to the history of the trouble between labour and capital at Jamshedpur and to their desire to remove the tension. The terms of reference consisted of five points submitted by the Company and nine points submitted by

the Union. The following is a brief summary of the principal findings:

Main Findings of Award.- The award classes several of these points as relatively unimportant and points out that as the more important points regarding employer — employee relationships in the Province are being dealt with by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee, (the report of which will soon be published), it (the award) will concern itself only with points of more immediate interest.

Dealing with the conflicts between rival trade unions at Jamshedpur the charge that "the Company was not averse to these conflicts between rival unions and even encouraged them", the award finds that there is some truth in these allegations. Dealing with labour unrest, the award points out that the Jamshedpur workers' standards of behaviour have ~~been~~ considerably deteriorated and that there was discernible a tendency to unduly attribute motives to the employers. The boycott of the Founders' Day celebrations by the Tata Workers' Union under the leadership of Professor Abdul pari was unjustified whatever might be the grievances of the workers. The award also condemns the minor stoppages of work on 1-3-59 and subsequent days as unjustified and says that they amounted to a breach of discipline.

Regarding the Tata Workers' Union's demand that it should be the only Union recognised by the Company, (at present the Company also recognises the Jamshedpur Labour Federation); the award favours the recognition of one union only and that the stronger. The question of departmental bonuses and the categories of workers eligible for them was left to be decided by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee for final decision. The award endorsed the demand made by the Company and the Union for the appointment of a Government Labour Officer living in Jamshedpur permanently to deal immediately with labour troubles as and when they arise.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
9-8-1959) .+

19

Enforcement of Conventions.

Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara, 1938.* +

Number of Factories.- The year 1938 opened with 49 factories operating under the Factories Act. No factory was brought on the register during the year but one factory was removed from the register as it ceased to employ 20 persons simultaneously. Of the 48 registered factories, 35 actually worked and 13 remained closed throughout the year.

Number of Workers.- The total number of operatives in all factories was 13,886 as compared with 13,699 in 1937 — the net increase being 187. Of the 13,886 operatives, 12,619 were males, 1,048 females and 219 child workers as compared with 12,207 males, 1,251 females and 241 child workers in 1937.

Inspection.- Of the 35 factories which worked during the year, 6 were inspected once, 14 twice and 15 three times. The total number of inspections, therefore, was 79 as compared with 89 in the previous year.

Prosecutions.- No prosecution was instituted during the year under report. +

Factories Administration in N.W.F.P., 1938.*1

Number of Factories and Workers.- During the year under report the total number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 30 to 31. Of the 31 registered factories, 30 worked during the year and one remained closed.

The total number of operatives employed in all factories during the year 1938 was 1,181 as compared with 1,371 in 1937. The decrease of 190 operatives was due to the fact that cotton ginning and oil pressing factories experienced a comparatively dull year. Of the 1,181 workers employed in factories, 1,151 were males and 30 females as compared with 1,355 and 16 respectively in the previous year. Two adolescents and 5 children were employed in the factories during the year under report as compared with 14 adolescents and 5 children during the previous year.

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1938. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1939. pp. 16.

*1 Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1938. Peshawar: Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P. 1939. Price Re. 1-0-0 or £ 0-1-6. pp 6 + viii.

Inspections.- Of the 30 factories which worked during the year under report, 17 were inspected once and 6 twice, 7 factories remained uninspected as they were found closed at the time of the Inspector's visits. The total number of inspections carried out was 29 as compared with 30 in 1937. In addition to the inspections undertaken, a number of visits were paid to unregistered workshops with a view to bringing them on the factory register.

Hours of Work.- Perennial factories mostly found a 48 hour week sufficient for their needs. The military factories at Bannu worked a full 9 hour day over a period of from 2 to 3 months during the year. The Government Printing Press, Peshawar, was kept busy throughout the year, working 9 hours a day and on 12 occasions found it necessary to apply for exemption from the hours of work clauses of the Act in order to be able to deal with an exceptional press of work. Cotton ginning factories took full advantage of a 60 hours week, permitted to seasonal factories, for two months of the year during which they operated.

Prosecutions.- Five cases were instituted against the occupier and manager of one factory during the year, for contravening the provisions relating to hours of work and rest periods, safety and sanitary arrangements. The occupier and manager were convicted of all these offences and fines Rs. 5 in each case, a total of Rs. 25 being realized. +

Factory Administration in Madras, 1938.* +

Number of Factories.- At the end of the year 1938 there were 1,900 factories on the registers as against 1,876 in 1937. During the year under review 209 were brought on the registers and 185 were removed from the registers. The number of factories which were in commission during the year was 1,818 of which 1,290 were non-seasonal and 528 seasonal.

Number of Workers.- The average daily number of operatives employed in 1,818 factories that were in commission during the year was 194,335 as against 186,630 in 1937. Of these 5,325 in non-seasonal and 7 in seasonal were employed in Government and Local Fund factories and the rest in private factories.

Inspections.- Of the 1,818 factories that were in commission during the year, 528 were inspected once, 714 twice, 408 thrice and 114 more than three times. The total number of inspections by all inspectors was 3,656 as against 3,210 in the previous year. 54 factories were not inspected by the departmental officers. †

* Government of Madras, Development Department - G.O. No. 1588, 22nd June 1939 - Factories — Administration Report, 1938.

200 unregistered factories were inspected by the full-time Inspectors. Instructions, wherever necessary, were issued for fencing and guarding dangerous parts of machinery.

The Chief Inspector points out that the work of the factory inspection staff has increased to such an extent that it engendered a feeling that inspections were no longer as effective as they ought to be. In view of this and in consideration of the fact that for financial reasons Government were unable to increase the regular factory inspection staff, the number of additional inspectors and their scope of inspection were increased. Further, it was made incumbent upon the additional inspectors to inspect every factory in their jurisdiction in respect of all aspects of factory work except such as were specifically excluded from the scope of their inspection. Also Government had under consideration a proposal to appoint Honorary Inspectors of Factories to assist the regular staff.

Inspectors were in touch with Trade Union officials and complaints preferred by the Union officials were investigated and action taken.

Rest Intervals and Weekly Holiday.- The rest interval of one hour was observed in 1,566 factories. Five factories gave two rest intervals of half an hour each. Exemptions applicable to the majority of operatives was availed of by 119 factories on the condition that sufficient time, though not a fixed period, was allowed for meals.

Sundays were observed as holidays in the case of 762 factories. Substituted holidays were granted to 789 factories in lieu of Sundays worked. Exemption was availed of in 139 factories subject to the condition that no person would be allowed to work for more than 13 days without a holiday for a whole day.

Hours of Work: (a) Perennial Factories.- The number of non-seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 42 was 108 for men and 158 for women; above 42 and not above 48 was 210 for men and 92 for women; above 48 was 871 for men and 633 for women. The 30-hour week for children was observed in 215 factories.

(b) Seasonal Factories.- The number of seasonal factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 42 was 34 for men and 66 for women; above 48 and not above 54 was 80 for men and 73 for women; above 54 was 367 for men and 344 for women. The 30-hour week for children was observed in 5 factories.

Prosecutions.- Occupiers and Managers of 138 factories involving 213 persons were prosecuted during the year. Convictions were obtained against 108 factories involving 188 persons. The accused in the case of one factory was acquitted; prosecutions against the remaining 29 factories were pending trial at the close of the year. Convictions were obtained in all on 384 counts, fines ranging from one pie to Rs. 100 per count. The total amount of fines realised

was Rs. 9,872-0-1, giving an average of Rs. 25-11-0 per count. The Chief Inspector remarks that in certain cases it is found that the fines imposed are not deterrent. "The amount of fine imposed should be commensurate with the gravity of the offence committed and should not be less than the profit made by the employer out of the offence." In view of the inadequate fines, it was suggested to Government to amend the Factories Act so as to vest the Commissioner of Labour with powers to compound offences as is done under the Madras Abkari Act. But the Government did not accept the proposal.

Holidays with Pay.- Sundays, local festival and other commercial holidays were allowed to workers generally with pay in well-established concerns and in smaller factories wages were paid only for the actual days of employment. Casual or privilege leave were ~~were~~ given with pay in a few factories.

Sickness Statistics.- A novel feature of the report is the inclusion of statistics relating to the number of days lost due to sickness. It was found that 296,172 man-days were lost due to sickness. Some factories could not furnish these particulars as no records were available with them. ~~The Government Orders available with them.~~ The Government Orders confirming rule 138-A for the maintenance of these particulars were issued late in the year.

Average Monthly Earnings of Workers.- Another new feature of the report under review which should in due course prove of great value is an account of the minimum, maximum and average monthly wages earned by different classes of workers in several important industries in the Presidency, given in Appendix IV of the report. The Government considers that for a full and proper appreciation of the mass of details collected concerning wages, it is desirable to incorporate a short statistical interpretation of these figures in future reports.

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers.- A third interesting feature of the report is the reproduction of the working class cost of living numbers index for Madras City compiled by the Director of Industries and Commerce for the period June 1938 to January 1939.

(A copy of the Madras Factories Administration Report for 1938 was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/1428/39, dated 17-8-1939).+

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1938* +

Number of Factories.- The number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 2,108 to 2,810 (including 769 concerns to which the Act has been extended under Section 5. These concerns are referred to as "N" concerns in the report). 874 (179 + 695 "N") factories were added to the register whilst 172 (74 + 98 "N") were removed. There was thus a net increase of 702 (105 + 597 "N"). The number of factories that actually worked was 1,741 + 754 "N" compared with 1,625 + 171 "N" in the previous year. Of the former, 1,080 + 688 "N" were perennial concerns whilst 661 + 66 "N" were connected with seasonal processes.

Number of Workers.- The number of operatives employed in the factories that submitted returns, and including a weighted average of the operatives working on the night shifts in the cotton textile mills, was 467,568 + 11,535 "N" compared with 432,056 + 3,151 "N" last year. Returns could not be received from many "N" factories but statistics from these do not represent any index of increased employment. Approximately 25,000 more persons were employed in the cotton mills in which 100,343,781 adult shifts were worked compared with 90,781,151 last year. There was thus an increase of approximately 11 per cent. in textile employment in the large mills.

Inspection.- 1,133 factories were inspected once, 716 twice, 229 thrice, and 289 more than thrice while 128 were not inspected. The total number of inspections made by whole-time and ex-officio inspectors was 2,495.

Accidents.- 10,262 persons were involved in accidents of whom 44 died, 2,445 severely injured, while 7,773 sustained minor injuries. The incidence of accidents on the average was 2.14 per 100 operatives employed daily against the 1937 average of 1.89. The increase is reported to be due to better reporting, great activity and a change in the nature of the industry. The "machinery" accidents in the textile industry increased from 1,919 to 2,336 — an increase of 21.7 per cent. This is greater than the increase in activity of 11 per cent. and may be attributed to better reporting, to the influx of untrained persons into industry and to a deterioration in general supervision caused by the night shifts.

Prosecutions.- 562 cases were instituted against 148 factories by the full-time staff. Convictions were secured in 464 cases against 130 factories, whilst 83 cases against 18 factories are undecided. A sum of Rs. 13,322 was imposed as fines. No cases were instituted by the ex-officio inspectors.

* Annual Factory Report, Bombay Province, 1938 (including Notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Bombay: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery. 1939. Price As. 2 or 3d.

Recognition of M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union:

Question under consideration of the Agent. +

The Agent and Central Manager of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway recently appointed a committee of senior railway officers to confer with the representatives of the M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Union to consider the terms and conditions of recognition which might be acceptable to both parties and also to frame a constitution for the operation of the Union. The Committee and the representatives of the Union submitted an agreed report to the Agent and General Manager, who is considering the proposals. The President of the Union is to meet the Agent and General Manager on 4-9-1939 when a further discussion is to take place.

(The Times of India, 29-8-1939) +

Intellectual Workers.

Demands of Bombay Clerical Staff: Representation
to Premier. +

The General Secretary, Bombay Clerks' Association, has recently submitted a representation to the Prime Minister, Bombay, on the grievances of the clerical employees in Bombay City. It is pointed out that this category of workers constitutes an important section of wage-earners of the City, but that it has not hitherto received adequate attention either from the Government or from the Municipal Corporation. As yet conditions of work of clerks are not regulated by law, with the result that there are thousands of well educated clerks who are treated worse than manual labourers.

Standard of Living of Clerical Staff.- The standard of life of the clerical population at present is far below the standard of life to which they are accustomed. Ever since the economic depression set in in 1929 their condition has been getting worse day by day and, though the economic depression vanished long ago, there has been no improvement in the conditions of the clerical population.

Salary Rates of Clerks.- Starting salaries have been fixed at disgracefully low figures, unconscionable cuts are effected in the existing salaries, the services of the higher paid staff have been dispensed with and the vacancies thus created filled up with men on starvation wages. This process has been going on for the past ten years, so much so that at present, educated men even with academic qualifications are started on Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per month and the old and experienced hands do not get even 50 per cent. of what they were drawing ten years back.

Insecurity of Service.- Insecurity of service is another major grievance of the clerical population. Their services may be dispensed with at any moment without regard to previous service, efficiency and other considerations.

Absence of any provision for old age is conspicuous in the service conditions obtaining in commercial establishments and industrial concerns. A clerk when he retires from service leaves his office empty-handed.

The Union urges the Government to adopt legislation to regulate hours of work, leisure, holidays, leave, salary, security of service, provident funds, etc.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
26-7-1939). +

Regulation of Production and Marketing of Steel in India:
Agreement not reached at Simla Conference. †

Reference was made at page 28 of our July 1939 report to the Conference of various steel interests in India scheduled to be held at Simla on 16-8-1939 under the auspices of the Government of India to arrive at an agreement between the large steel producers and smaller rolling mills with regard to the regulation of production, division of markets and other cognate subjects. The Conference was opened by Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member with the Government of India, and presided over by Sir Alan Lloyd, Additional Secretary, Commerce Department. A brief review of the proceedings of the Conference which was held on 16 and 17-8-1939, is given below:

Circumstances leading to the Conference.- Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar in his speech opening the proceedings, stated that ~~representations were being received during the last three years from a re-rolling mill in Southern India, stating that it was meeting with grave difficulties in carrying out its business, and in particular alleging that these difficulties were largely due to unfair competition and price cutting on the part of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.~~ Recently the Madras Government backed up the representations of the Company and suggested that a scheme of rationalisation (involving fixing of quotas, division of markets and fixation of price levels) should be evolved.

Attitude of the Government of India.- The Government of India decided to convene the Conference principally because of two factors. In the first place, the Tata Iron and Steel Co., when consulted as to the allegations, emphasised the all-India aspect of the question and urged the convening of an all-India Conference of steel interests by the Government of India. Secondly, Government envisaged the possibility of the emergence of a monopoly through unfair competition, a state of affairs which will ultimately affect consumers adversely.

Over-production in Industry.- According to a Press Note issued on the proceedings, discussions on the first day revealed the existence of a considerable measure of excess production capacity in the country. The first day was devoted to examining the general information as to the technical and economic position of that part of the Indian iron and steel industry which is engaged in manufacturing those materials that form the output of the re-rolling mills.

Agreement found Impossible.- The Press Note on the proceedings of the second day of the Conference points out that it was found impossible to reach an agreement because the views of different interests as to what was the proper definition of the expression "unfair competition" in connection with the industry could not be reconciled. It was, therefore, impossible to find a basis for drawing up any concrete

proposals for action, but the chairman undertook to see that a full record of the discussions and in particular of the difficulties experienced by the smaller rolling mills would be laid before the Government.

(The Statesman, 17 and 18-8-1939) +

National Planning Committee:

Progress of Work Reviewed. +

A meeting of the National Planning Committee was held at Allahabad on 13-8-1939 under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Progress of Work-- The General Secretary informed the members of the work done by the various sub-committees, chiefly by the labour, manufacturing industries, crop-planning, insurance and animal husbandry sub-committees.

Development of Basic Industries.- Six basic industries to which special attention is to be paid in the first instance are the heavy engineering industry, the machine-making, automobile, heavy chemicals, metal production and industries connected with power generation and supply. The sub-committees dealing with these industries have been asked to submit their reports as soon as possible to expedite the general plan and enable the various provincial Governments to co-operate in establishing these industries. It is considered likely that each province will draw up its own plan and all the provincial plans will then be co-ordinated.

Cottage Industries and Education.- General discussion at the meeting related to cottage industries and education. Among the sub-committees whose work was considered were the soil observation, communications, mining, metallurgy, technical education, rural marketing, finance and population sub-committees.

Decisions.- The following decisions were arrived at: (1) the minutes of each sub-committee should be circulated among other sub-committees through the central office; (2) each sub-committee should send a brief preliminary report of its method of work and objectives by the end of September to enable better co-ordination among the various sub-committees; (3) sub-committees dealing with allied subjects might hold joint meetings.

("Commerce and Industry", Delhi, 23-8-1939.) +

The Assam Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1939.

Attention is directed to pages 25 to 44 of Part IV of the Assam Gazette dated 23-8-1939 where is published the Assam Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1939, which empowers the Government to levy agricultural tax at the rates specified in the annual Assam Finance Acts.

The Assam Finance Act, 1939, published at page 45 of Part IV of the Assam Gazette dated 23-8-1939, prescribed the following rates for agricultural incomes.

	Rate
1. On the first Rs. 1500 of total income	nil.
2. " " next Rs. 3500 " " "	9 pies in the rupee.
3. " " " Rs. 5000 " " "	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ annas " " .
4. " " " Rs. 5000 " " "	2 annas " " .
5. On the balance of total income.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas " " .

Crisis in Cotton Textile Industry:

Restriction of Output. †

Reference was made at pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for July 1939 to the crisis due to over-production in the Indian textile industry. During August, the situation worsened. As a result of the Bombay and Ahmedabad Millowners Associations' efforts to restrict output, night-shifts have been stopped in several mills and the wage-cuts are being contemplated. As the result of a communication addressed by the Government of Bombay to the two Millowners' Associations, the Millowners' Association, Bombay, has issued a circular to its member mills recommending them not to make any reduction in wage rates until the report of the Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee is published by Government. (The report is expected to be published in October 1939) ("Times of India", 17-8-1939).

In Ahmedabad, a cleavage has occurred among millowners, and Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, President, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, who deprecates wage cuts and other forms of direct action

by millowners, has resigned. It is anticipated that under the new President, the Association will adopt a stiffer attitude towards labour ("Bombay Chronicle", 17-8-1939). The Committee of the Association decided on 18-8-1939 to recommend to the Association to restrict production as a measure of immediate relief from depression. It was also decided to register the Millowners' Association and recognise the Labour Association under the Trade Disputes Act.

In Madras Presidency, the Coimbatore Millowners' Association decided on 5-8-1939 to reduce output by one-third for one month from 7th August. In its discussions with the Government of Madras, the Association has stressed the immediate necessity of the Provincial Government moving the Central Government to take urgent measures to stop the import of Japanese and Chinese yarn and also to remove the additional half-anna duty on imported cotton.

G. Employment and Unemployment. †

Alleviation of Unemployment in the Punjab: Recommendations
of the Chhotu Ram Committee. †

An advance summary of the recommendations of the Punjab Unemployment Enquiry Committee, presided over by the Hon. Sir Chhotu Ram, Minister for Development, Punjab, was given at pages 29-30 of our June 1939 report. The Report of the Committee, together with ϕ four dissenting minutes, was published in the first week of August, 1939. (Copies of the Report have been asked for; when received, a copy will be sent to Geneva).

The more important recommendations of the Committee are:

Utilisation of land alongside canals for planting fruit gardens by unemployed educated men; control on movement of labour from Indian States to British territory; dress reform for college boys; spreading of medical aid in rural areas by subsidising private practitioners; appointment of qualified Hakims and Vaidis (indigenous doctors) as an experiment; establishment of at least one major State industry in each division of the Province; appointment of a committee to survey establishment of small scale industries; legislation to secure 75 per cent. representation for Punjabees among factory operatives; employment of Punjabee labour by contractors; all Government servants who have either attained the age of 55 years or completed 25 years pensionable service to be retired; imposition of a ten per cent. cut in the emoluments of Government and Board servants, except menials and low-paid servants and also retired Indian soldiers; and propaganda to educate public opinion on the subject of birth control.

(The Tribune, 8-8-1939). †

(A copy of the Report of the Punjab Unemployment Enquiry Committee was forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D.1/1534/39 dated 6-9-1939).

Social Conditions.Future of ~~the~~ Criminal Tribes in Bombay: Munshi
Committee's Recommendations.

The Bombay Government appointed on 5-10-1939 a Committee with the Hon'ble Mr. K.M. Munshi as Chairman with the following terms of reference:

(a) To investigate and report on the changes necessary to be introduced in the policy and law relating to Criminal Tribes.

(b) To investigate and report on the grievances of the members of the Criminal Tribes Settlements; and

(c) To consider and report on such other matters as may be germane to the above.

The report of the Committee has recently been published; a brief summary of the more important recommendations is given below:

Re-classification of the Tribes.- The four parts of the administration, viz., notification, registration, restriction and internment in settlement require critical examination. The Committee has recommended the de-notification of certain tribes, examination of data relating to certain others, and as regards the rest of the "tribes", has recommended that a proper and thorough investigation should be carried out, and as and when the incidence of criminality falls below the standard laid down by them they should be denotified.

Even after "tribes" are de-notified it would be necessary and desirable to deal with individual habitual or confirmed criminals. The Committee thinks that legislation on the lines of the Punjab Habitual Offenders Act should be introduced in the Province.

Improvement in Rules regarding Registration.- In the matter of registration though the rules in the Province, as compared to those in others, are more calculated to prevent indiscriminate registration, they are capable of improvement. The rule about exempting children in certain cases should be liberalised and reasonably suspected persons given the same safeguards as recommended when discussing the question of notification. Offences of a trivial nature should not be considered for registration if the convicting or registering authority does not consider it desirable to do so.

Rules regarding Restriction to be relaxed.- In respect of the 'restrictions' imposed under the Act considerable relaxation is necessary. This is essential as not only are they severe in themselves, but they and, in particular, the 'hazri' system, are also capable of being used and have been used as means of oppression on the part of those administering the Act in the villages. There is need also, on the same account, to make the rules, as far as possible, of automatic application, providing at the same time for further discretionary

relaxation as at present.

Administration of Settlements.- In respect of settlement administration, distinctive treatment should be provided, as far as possible, for the wandering tribes and the rest. The size and location of settlements should be governed by mainly economic considerations. To be manageable, a settlement should not be larger than that of a medium size village. Industrial settlements will, of necessity, have to be located near industrial towns and the scope for agricultural settlements is little. Where outside contacts have an undesirable influence from the point of view of discipline and reformation, it would be necessary to organise industries within the settlements and the advice of the Department of Industries should be taken for the organisation and co-ordination of industries in industrial and reformatory settlements. It would be desirable to give a share in the management to well-behaved settlers. The system of discharge from settlements also requires to be liberalised.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
9-8-1939). +

Prohibition in Bihar Coal Fields: Minister
discusses Scheme with Colliery Owners. +

During the second week of August 1939, the Hon'ble Mr. Jaglal Chaudhury, Minister for Excise and Public Health, Bihar, visited Jharia and held consultations with colliery proprietors and managers to enlist their co-operation with the Government's prohibition scheme. The following is a summary of the points discussed:

Prohibition Propaganda in Colliery Area.- Colliery proprietors, when asked to give facilities to the prohibition staff of the Government to carry on propaganda among the workers, expressed the apprehension that under cover of prohibition propaganda, unhealthy labour agitation also will be carried on. The Minister pointed out that the Government staff would engage itself only in prohibition propaganda and that a monthly programme of visits of members of the staff would be sent to colliery managements. The proprietors agreed to provide reasonable facilities for such propaganda.

Provision of Recreation Facilities.- Another proposal was that each colliery or group of collieries should provide recreation centres, where adult education also could be conducted. The managements agreed to do all that they could to establish these centres.

Controlling Indebtedness of Workers.- It was suggested that attempts should be made to tackle the problem of indebtedness of the workers and that steps to organise co-operative stores and thrift societies should be taken. The colliery managements pointed out the difficulties of action along these lines on account of the migratory nature of the labour force and other difficulties.

This problem will be tackled by the Bihar Labour Enquiry Commit-

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tee also.

Advisory Committee on Prohibition.- It was ~~in~~ then decided to form an Advisory Committee of colliery managers and prominent local citizens to promote prohibition in the colliery area.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
14-8-1939). +

Health of School Children in U.P.: Government's
Scheme for Free Supply of Milk to Students.

With a view to improve the general health and physique of school children in the United Provinces, the local Government has introduced a scheme under which each pupil is to get a pound of boiled milk every day free of cost. The scheme has been started on an experimental basis in Agra District for about 500 pupils.

(The Leader, 30-7-1939).

Social Amenities for Workers: Bombay Government's
Scheme: Working of the Delisle Road Recreation
Centre in 1938-39.+

In order that the working classes may be able to spend their leisure hours in a wholesome manner, the Government of Bombay has decided to provide such social amenities to the workers and their dependents as are conducive to their general amelioration and social betterment. This purpose is to be achieved through the medium of Recreation Centres to be started in thickly populated working class areas of the three principal industrial cities of the Province, namely, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur. It is not proposed to charge any fees to the workers for the use of the centres.

Distribution of Centres.- There will be three welfare centres in the city of Bombay, one at Worli, another at Naigaum and the third at Delisle Road. In addition there will be a children's playground at Sewri. All the areas are thickly populated with mill workers and the centres are to be located in the midst of Government-owned buildings meant for housing the workers at cheap rents. There will be a welfare centre at Raipur in Ahmedabad and another at Sholapur. In addition there will be one workmen's workshop in Mechanical Engineering, Handspinning and Handicrafts ~~in~~ At Ahmedabad. It is also proposed to start welfare activities on a small scale at smaller industrial towns like Hubli, Surat, Proach, Nadiad and Viramgaum.

Working of Delisle Road Centre.- The first Recreation Centre of its kind was started at the Delisle Road labour area in Bombay towards the middle of April 1939. (vide pages 25 to 26 of our January

1939 Report) A brief review of the activities of this Centre and the amenities provided is given below:

(a) Cinema Entertainment.- The industrial labour at Delisle Road and adjoining places is entertained twice a week by free cinema shows. There are three shows on each day. The first show is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is reserved for women only. The second show is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is exclusively meant for children, and the third show is from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the mill workers and other male adults. The daily attendance for cinema shows is over 2,000. The films shown are generally educational and recreational. At times the Chicago Radio Company sends news film or recreational film but generally the films that are shown do not depict the real Indian labourer's life and activities. To eliminate this defect, the Government has undertaken a scheme for producing such films here as will have a direct bearing on the labourer's life as it is now in India.

(b) Musical Entertainment.- A radio set is installed at the Recreation Centre and it attracts a large number of people. Programmes of the local artists who are workers were organised often, and about 500 persons attended each time.

(c) Indoor and Outdoor Games.- Indoor games such as carrom, draughts, ping pong, snake and ladder, ~~table~~, etc., are organised daily in the morning and in the evening. The average daily attendance for these games is 350. Outdoor games like volley ball, basket ball, dodge ball, hutootu, atya-patya, and khokho, are the games that are played every evening under the supervision and guidance of a games teacher. Besides these, minor team games and group games are also played. Young children and adults belonging to working class spend their morning and evening in these healthy games. They come at regular hours and spend in these games their leisure time.

(d) Physical Culture.- Instructions in body building exercises are given to boys and young men. The average daily attendance is 200. There is a special instructor for these activities. Several times, talks on health subjects, such as sanitation, personal cleanliness, good food, care of eyes and teeth, were given during cinema shows. Arrangements are being made for installing a microphone and loud speakers. When these arrangements are complete, a regular programme for giving health talks and other instructive talks would be arranged.

(e) First Aid Classes.- A class for First Aid was conducted at the Centre for two months. The First Aid instructor of the Bombay City Ambulance Corps gave about 20 lectures. These were attended by a dozen students out of which five students have appeared for the First Aid examination.

(f) Educational Activities.- There is a special hall for reading. In this hall magazines, periodicals and weeklies are

provided. There are two newspaper boards and about 2,000 Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi and Urdu books in the library. The books are issued to the labourers for reading. Every day about 150 to 200 persons take advantage of the Library and Reading Room. Literacy classes in Urdu, Hindi, Gujarati and English are conducted every evening which are attended by adults and children.

Every Saturday the students in the labour locality meet and conduct a healthy debate on instructive subjects. The Students' Organisation: "Vidyarthi Vrinda", is conducting a magazine named Vidyarthi Vikas. The contributions for the magazine come from the students themselves.

(g) Separate Facilities for Women.- Following are the recreational and educational activities organised for girls and women-folk at the Delisle Road Recreational Centre:

(i) During the last three months the number of women and children attending cinema shows has gone up from 250 to 900.

(ii) Many young and grown-up girls take part in musical and dramatic activities organised for them at the centre.

(iii) Daily about 80 to 100 young girls take part in the indoor games and outdoor games organised by the Centre.

(iv) ~~The literacy class at the Centre is not as popular with women as the sewing class. About 15 to 20 women and girls attend the literacy class and during the last three months they have made some progress. On the other hand, the sewing class is well attended. During the three months the number has gone up from 15 to 30. Besides this, seventy women take advantage of the sewing machine kept at the centre, to sew their own garments.~~

(v) 250 books have been issued to women and girls that attend the Centre.

(vi) Short intervals during the cinema shows are often utilised for giving women talks on subjects that are most useful for them and the subjects on which they need some instruction and information. During the last three months about 6 talks were given—~~three~~ three on health, ~~and~~ two on home nursing and one on the Recreation Centre.

(The Public Information Series, Bombay, dated 1-8-1939).

Co-operation.

Organisation of Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies
in Bombay: Government of Bombay's Scheme. +

The co-operative movement in India started with small, simple credit societies. There has been, however, a growing feeling that the agricultural credit movement has not yielded results corresponding to the efforts invested, and that the time has arrived to broaden the basis of the primary unit. A joint report recently submitted by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bombay, and by Mr. V.L. Mehta, recommended the organisation of multi-purpose societies and suggested that where marketing facilities or suitable bazars are available in the immediate neighbourhood, a multi-purpose society for a group of villages within a radius of about five miles could be registered with the object of supplying the normal cultivation needs of its members, who, in their turn, were to execute an agreement bond binding themselves to bring all marketable produce for sale to the society. Government has accepted this recommendation and ordered that it should be impelmented in an experimental way. Accordingly, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Rural Development, Government of Bombay, have issued model bye-laws for organising co-operative multi-purpose societies.

Objects of the Societies.- The objects of the multi-purpose societies have necessarily been kept wide so as to include supply and sale. It aims at the provision of short-term finance required by its members for their normal cultivation needs. It is also intended to provide to a limited extent intermediate term finance required by members for such agricultural needs as the purchase of bullocks, carts and other implements. The society would also make advances against members' agricultural produce. The multi-purpose societies are not intended to replace all agricultural credit societies. They may, however, be considered to be a further stage of evolution of agricultural credit movement. They will also be help-mates of ordinary credit societies wherever possible. Bye-laws, therefore, provide that members of the credit societies functioning within the areas of multi-purpose societies can take advantage of the services of the latter.

(Press Note dated 28-7-1939
issued by the Public
Relations Officer, Bombay). +

Development of Cottage Industries in U.P.: Government
Action on Enquiry Committee's Report.

A resolution was moved in April 1934 in the United Provinces Legislative Council urging the Government to set up a committee to draw up a practical scheme for the development on co-operative lines of cottage industries in rural areas. A committee, appointed accordingly, submitted its report in August 1937. (Vide pages 60 of our August 1937 report). The Government of the United Provinces has now published its decisions on the recommendations.

Establishment of Cottage Industries Board.- The main recommendation of the Committee was that there should be a Cottage Industries Board to advise ^{on} the intensive development of cottage industries and a central organisation for marketing the products. The Board is to receive a grant of Rs. 150,000 for five years and undertake survey of selected cottage industries and organise production, chiefly, by supplying new designs and improved appliances, by establishing finishing centres, where necessary, and by arranging for research, experiment and designing at the central technical institutions. Further, an organisation on a co-operative basis with adequate supervisory staff to be set up at each manufacturing centre to regulate and standardise production by providing facilities for instruction by means of demonstrations and tutorial classes and by supplying new designs and appliances at cheap rates. Stores affiliated to the central marketing organisation are to be established at each of the manufacturing centres to arrange to supply raw materials, to collect the finished products and to finance the workers. The scope of activity of the United Provinces Government Arts and Crafts Emporium should be enlarged to include non-art products and it should arrange to market all the products of the manufacturing centres. The central marketing organisation should receive a commercial operation grant of Rs. 500,000 and with its help carry stocks, both for retail and wholesale, employ commercial travellers and maintain show-rooms and agencies at important consuming centres.

Government Action on the Report.- Government has already taken steps to give effect to many of these suggestions. The survey of several small-scale and village industries has been taken up and the result is awaited. Steps are being taken to introduce new designs ~~and~~ for commercial purposes at the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, with a view to bringing them to the notice of craftsmen engaged in cottage industries, such as brassware, ivory works, brocades, ornamental pottery, etc. Stores, run on a co-operative basis, have been opened at important manufacturing centres. They supply new designs and improved appliances to cottage workers free of cost or on a hire-purchase system, and also arrange to supply raw materials, collect the finished products and market them through the agency of the Arts and Crafts and the Handloom Emporia. A number of peripatetic tutorial classes under experts have been started

in rural areas to train the cottage workers in spinning and weaving, cloth printing, tanning, carpentry and oil pressing. Finishing and calendering factories at Tanda, Mau and Etawah for the cotton handloom products and a finishing factory at Najibabad for the handwoven blankets have been established. A scheme for the marketing of ~~the~~ cottage industries is under the consideration of Government, but the United Provinces Arts and Crafts and the Handloom Emporia have already a network of stores at important manufacturing centres to arrange for the marketing of the products. The suggestion to establish a Cottage Industries Board has considerable weight and is accepted by Government.

(Summarised from pages 3441
- 3442 of Part VIII of the
U.P. Government Gazette,
dated 5-8-1939). †

Organisation of Research Institute regarding
Cottage Industries: Bombay Government appoints Committee.

The Government of Bombay considers it necessary to have an institution to undertake research work into the various problems connected with cottage industries including the improvement of the methods and implements of the existing cottage industries and a study of new industries suitable for adoption in rural areas. It is proposed to open a centre for training villagers in cottage industries at Poona shortly. In the opinion of Government research work could be very effectively done by an institution working in collaboration with that centre. To examine the question of organising such a research institution and work out all the details connected with it the Government has appointed a committee with Rao Bahadur Dr. D.L. Sahasrabudhe as Chairman and Dr. N.R. Damle, M.Sc., Ph.D., Industrial Chemist, Industries Department, Government of Bombay, as Secretary.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report as early as possible.

(Press Note dated 16-8-1939
issued by the Public Relations
Officer, Bombay). †

Education.

Re-organisation of Technical Education in U.P.:

Government appoints Committee. +

The Government of the United Provinces appointed on 27-7-1939 a Committee of Enquiry with Iala Shri Ram as Chairman and the Deputy Director of Industries, U.P., as Secretary, to reorganise technical education in the Province. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follow:

(1) To enquire into the working of the Central Textile Institute, Cawnpore, the Central Weaving Institute, Benares, the Technical Institute, Lucknow, and the Technical Institute, Gorakhpur, and to ~~advise~~ advise Government as to the measures that should be adopted for making the instruction imparted in these institutions more effective and in consonance with the requirements of industry.

(2) To suggest, in particular, measures which should be adopted to ensure the highest standard of practical training for the students of these institutions in collaboration with industrial organisations.

(3) To consider whether it is justifiable to maintain the Central Textile Institute, Cawnpore, entirely from Government revenues, and to ~~consider whether it is feasible to secure any financial support from~~ the industrial organisations interested in the textile industry.

(4) To ~~consider~~ consider whether it is possible to devise a system by which students may receive theoretical training in a central institute and get the necessary practical training in factories.

(Page 3404 of Part VIII of the United Provinces Government Gazette, dated 29-7-1939). +

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Agriculture.

Agricultural Indebtedness in Travancore: Government
appoints Enquiry Committee.

It is understood that the Government of Travancore ~~had~~^{has} recently appointed a Committee with Dewan Bahadur V.S. Subramania Iyer as Chairman to go into the whole question of agricultural indebtedness in the ~~the~~ State and the proper mode of dealing with it.

The terms of reference include, among other matters, recommending the extent to which compulsion may be resorted to in scaling down and settling existing debts, the legal procedure to achieve this end and also offering suggestions to keep down the abnormal growth in the volume of future debts.

(The Commercial Review,
Alleppey, June 1939).+

The U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1939.
(Act No. VIII of 1939).

Attention is directed to pages 19 to 23 of Part VII-A of the United Provinces Gazette dated 19-8-1939 where is published the U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1939, which seeks to consolidate holdings. +

Indian lascars in British Ships: American Federation
of Labour alleges Exploitation. +

According to a News Press Service message received by the Bombay Chronicle from Washington, United States of America, a resolution was recently moved in the American Congressional Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries urging an investigation of conditions pertaining to lascar seamen in the light of charges of unfair competition with American seamen sponsored by the American Federation of Labour.

Definition of "Lascars".- The resolution is held by Mr. Cordell Hull to apply to lascars defined by the British Board of Trade as "Asiatics and East Africans employed under agreements for natives of Asia or East Africa which open and terminate in Asia." In Mr. Hall's opinion this definition includes Chinese and Malays but excludes coloured seamen from the West Coast of Africa and the West Indies.

Nature of Enquiry urged.- The resolution seeks to ascertain data on four specific points: (1) the percentage of lascar seamen requiring medical attention in American ports, (2) the number put ashore for hospital treatment, (3) whether 72 cubic feet fore-castle space is sufficient for a lascar when the minimum for seamen on American ships is 120 cubic feet, and (4) whether lascar-manned ships trading with Northern American ports are sea-worthy.

Allegations of Exploitation of Lascars by Britain.- Testifying before the Committee the American Federation of Labour representative declared that the wage of lascar seamen is 9 dollars a month as against 72 dollars for American seamen. He pointed out that statistics compiled by the Division of Research of the U.S. Maritime Commission reveal that in 1937, of 7,065 lascar seamen employed on European vessels which entered U.S. North Atlantic ports, 6,042 were carried on British ships; the French had 14; the Netherlands, 409; the Greeks, 10; the Germans, 400; the Italians, 29; and the Norwegians, 161.

Congressman Oliver said: "I would just like to make the observation, that it appears to me that it is the British who are guilty of the exploitation of the crews of India." Last month Haridas Mazumdar discussed the lower standard of living of Indian lascars before another House Committee and remarked: "It is the British Government and the British concerns and other European concerns who employ these poor devils at such starvation wages and give them such poor facilities, who are responsible for this unfortunate situation."

U.S. Government's Attitude.- The State Department is withholding comment on the advisability of the enactment of the resolution; the

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Department of Commerce, fearing possible retaliatory measures by aggrieved foreign nations, ~~is~~ is opposed to its adoption.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
27-8-1939). +

Migration.Indian Emigrants Abroad: Review of Conditions during
1938-39. +

Details are given in a review recently published by the Government of India of the problems which Indians settled abroad had to face in different parts of the British Empire during 1938-39; a brief summary of the review is given below:

A. South Africa: (1) Segregation Scheme.- One of the chief problems of Indians in the country was the revival of the anti-Asiatic campaign in South Africa resulting in Mr. Stuttaford's Segregation Scheme which caused the deepest concern. A deputation, preceded by a conference of the chief municipalities in the Transvaal, of the members of Parliament and of the provincial council, waited on the Minister of the Interior and urged that steps be taken to prevent further Asiatic penetration into European areas and that the terms of reference of the Transvaal Land Commission be extended to include an investigation of this problem. The Minister refused to extend the terms of reference of the Commission and also to appoint a new Commission to undertake a wider investigation as requested, but announced that he had under consideration a plan to ~~legislation~~ ^{in legislation} prohibiting the sale or hire of property to Asiatics in areas where 75 per cent. of the owners of property declared themselves opposed to such transfer. Protests were made by the local Indian community and by the Government of India against any such legislation.

(2) Mixed Marriages and Acquisition of Land Commissions.- Notwithstanding representations made by the Government of India, two Commissions were appointed in the previous year to investigate the problems of mixed marriages and the acquisition of land by Indians in areas outside the purview of the "Gold Law". The recommendations of the Transvaal Land Commission, which have been published, are generally considered to be satisfactory, but the Mixed Marriages Commission has not yet submitted its report.

B. Kenya: (1) Highlands Reservation.- The most important event affecting Indians in Kenya was the issue of the Kenya Highlands Order-in-Council, 1939, which defines the boundaries of the Highlands and constitutes a Highland Board the majority of whose members are to be appointed by the European elected members of the Legislative Council. The main function of the Board is to advise the Governor in all matters relating to the disposition of land in the Highlands. The Government of India did what was constitutionally possible to press the Indian point of view and feel disappointed at the decision, in particular, because of the preference which it accords even to non-British subjects of European race.

(2) Restriction of Immigration in Kenya.- The establishment of the Kenya Immigration Advisory Board and the Kenya Immigration Restriction Bill which both aim at preventing an influx of destitute and undesirable foreigners into the Colony were two other matters of interest to the local Indian community. There was no Indian in the Kenya Immigration Advisory Board and it was felt that the resident

Indian community which was vitally interested in the future composition of the population and the economic development of the Colony should be represented. The objection to the Kenya Immigration Restriction Bill was the apprehension that the stiffened provisions in the Bill restricting immigration might at any time be applied to Indians also. Representations were accordingly made to His Majesty's Government.

- C. Zanzibar:- A Scheme for the control of the clove trade proposed by The Government of Zanzibar evoked considerable opposition amongst the local Indian community. With the consent of the Government of Zanzibar, Mr. G.S. Bozman, I.C.S., was deputed by the Government of India to assist in a settlement. A satisfactory agreement was arrived at to which effect has been given in the Clove Decree, 1938; the agreement has so far been working smoothly.

For regulation of land alienation, also, the Zanzibar Government have prepared draft legislation which provides that the alienation is to be subject to the control of Land Alienation Boards on which Indians will be represented and defines the conditions on which consent can be refused to an application for the alienation of Arab or African land.

- D. Ceylon.- The ban on recruitment of Indian labour for Ceylon continued. The Government of India had asked the Ceylon Government for ~~the settlement of the questions~~ relating to the Village Communities Ordinance and the wages of Indian labourers as a condition precedent to the re-opening of recruitment. The Village Communities Ordinance was ~~passed~~ amended as to exclude all labourers resident on estates, whether Ceylonese or Indian, from the village committee franchise. Indian opinion in Ceylon feels that though de jure discrimination against Indians has been removed, de facto discrimination remains, as a large body of estate labourers are Indian and will in practice be excluded from village franchise while the effect upon the Ceylonese will be negligible.

An important event of the year was the publication of the Report of the Ceylon Immigration Commission.

To relieve unemployment in the Island, a proposal has been made (and since put into execution) to discontinue from service in Government Departments all non-Ceylonese daily-paid staff and to replace them by Ceylonese staff.

- D. Malaya.- In Malaya the restoration of the wages in 1937 to the figures at which they were originally fixed in 1929, viz., 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women in easily accessible areas, was short-lived. Owing to the decline in the price of rubber and the reduction in the export quota, the Malayan Governments reduced wages by 10 per cent. from 1-5-1938. The Malayan Governments did not agree to a postponement of the reduction asked for by the Government of India, but a further 10 per cent. reduction contemplated was not brought into force. The Government of India prohibited from 15-6-1938, all

assisted emigration to Malaya for unskilled work.

To solve the differences that had arisen, a delegation from Malaya visited India. The main question was that of the rates of wages of Indian labourers in Malaya, but advantage was also taken of the visit to examine other outstanding questions, in particular those relating to the status of Indians in the Malayan States and the provision of educational facilities for Indians. The Malayan delegates undertook to place before their Governments the various proposals made. Further negotiations are being continued by correspondence.

F. Burma.- Indians in Burma had tragic experience during the year. As a result of anti-Indian riots accompanied by anti-Indian agitation and systematic and organised campaign of picketing with the object of driving out Indian traders, Indian life and property in Burma became so insecure that about 11,000 Indian destitutes were repatriated to India by the shipping companies ~~and~~ by private relief committees ~~and~~ at the expense of the Government of Burma. According to the Committee which was appointed by the Government of Burma to investigate the riots, the real causes of the riots are economic, social and political, such as the unsatisfactory conditions ~~and~~ of land tenure and the resultant agrarian discontent, uneasiness as to the future course of Indian immigration and its effect, marriages of Burmese women with Indian Muslims, the activities of the Burmese Press, the Thakin organisation, etc. The Committee estimates the total number of Indians killed and injured in rioting at 164 and 711. The official figure of the damage to Indian property in Rangoon and in the districts is about Rs. 700,000 and Rs. 1,100,000 respectively, while the Indian estimate is Rs. 3,100,000 and Rs. 2,400,000 respectively. The question of the payment of compensation for loss of Indian life and property has been taken up by the Government of India.

G. Fiji.- In Fiji a change of procedure is proposed in regard to the alienation of native land which affects Indians in the Colony. In brief the proposals are:

(i) the enactment of a Native Lands Trust Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a Native Lands Trust Board in whom the control of all native lands will vest; (ii) the appointment of a local Commission to make recommendations in regard to delimitation of native reserves; and (iii) the setting up in each Province of a local Committee, on which both Indians and Fijians will be represented, mainly to make recommendations on any application for lease outside native reserves.

To assist the Indian community in safe-guarding their interests, the Government of India have been urging upon His Majesty's Government the necessity for the appointment of an Agent of the Government of India in Fiji.

Early in July, 1938, it was said that Indian retail traders were unable to obtain a renewal of their licenses. The Government of India immediately made enquiries and were informed that refusal to renew licences, which was limited to a district, was due to a misunderstanding and were assured that instructions had been issued

authorising renewal.

H. West Indies.- A Royal Commission was appointed to conduct a comprehensive survey of the social and economic problems affecting the West Indian Colonies. The question of safeguarding the interests of Indians of whom there is a large number in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana engaged the attention of the Government of India, who, with the approval of His Majesty's Government, deputed Mr. J.D. Tyson, C.B.E., I.C.S., to present their views before the Commission and to assist Indians in the preparation of their case. In Trinidad, it is understood, legislation has been enacted for the establishment of a town-planning and housing authority to carry out a far-reaching plan of slum clearance. A Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Ordinance, has also been enacted which provides machinery for conciliation in industrial disputes.

(Indian Information Series, dated 1-8-1939).*

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Legislation regarding Trade Unions and Trade Disputes in Malaya: Future of Indian Emigration to Malaya.*

It is understood that the Government of the Straits Settlements and the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States have recently published the draft of two Bills which are likely to be of considerable importance to Indian labourers in the Colony, who number nearly 700,000. The two Bills deal with trade unions and industrial disputes respectively.

The Trade Union Bill.- The Trade Union Bill is to provide for the registration and control of trade unions. In this connection what is bound to be a problem of considerable difficulty in regard to the operation of the proposed legislation is whether the estate Indian labourers will be afforded facilities for the organisation of trade unions on a regional basis, and whether "outsiders" will be allowed to lend their guidance and support to such unions.

The Trade Disputes Bill.- The other Bill provides for the constitution of a standing Industrial Court, consisting of persons appointed by the authorities. Any trade dispute, whether existing or apprehended, may be reported by either of the parties to the dispute to the Controller of Labour who may, if he thinks fit and if both parties consent, refer the matter for settlement to the Industrial Court; or refer the matter for settlement to the arbitration of one or more persons appointed by him; or refer the matter for settlement to a board of arbitration consisting of one or more persons nominated by or on behalf of the employers concerned.

and an equal number of persons nominated by or on behalf of the workmen concerned and an independent chairman nominated by the Government. For the purpose of facilitating the nomination of persons to act as members of a board of arbitration, the Government will constitute panels of persons appearing to him suitable so to act.

These Bills are consistent with the proposals made by the Government of India in their despatch to the Malayan authorities after the termination of the inconclusive Indo-Malayan talks in January 1939. (For details vide pages 53 to 54 of our February 1939 report). In this connection, the Government of India is stated to have received the official Malayan reply to the dispatch they sent a few weeks ago on these talks; the reply, it is understood, has been referred to the Agent of the Government of India in Malay for his opinion.

(The Statesman, 24-7-1939) →

Congress Working Committee and Repatriation of Indians from Ceylon:

Resolution on Nehru's Mission. →

Reference was made at page 46 of our June 1939 report to the All India Congress Committee deputing Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to visit Ceylon to explore the possibilities of getting the Ceylon Government to modify its scheme of repatriation of daily-paid Indian workers in Government Departments of the Island with a view to minimising the hardship that such repatriation would entail. Pandit Mehru visited Ceylon on July 1939 (vide pages 54 to 55 of our July 1939 report) and his report on his negotiations with Ceylon Ministers was considered by the Working Committee on 10-8-1939. Relevant extracts from the resolution on the subject adopted by the Working Committee are reproduced below:

Regret at Ceylon Government's Action.- "The Committee regrets, that the Ceylon Government have not thought it fit to make any major change in the measures they had proposed in order to remove a large number of Indians from their employment under Government, though the Committee is aware that assurances have been given that all cases of hardship will be carefully considered by Government. The Committee regretfully feels that the action of the Ceylon Government in respect of these measures is not in conformity with justice or international practice."

Right of Indians to considerate Treatment.- "While the Committee desires and expects that every Indian who goes abroad will be treated honourably and with justice, it does not want Indians to go anywhere as unwanted outsiders who exploit the people of the country. The Committee recognises the right of the people of Ceylon to be given preference in State service or otherwise in their country and are fully prepared to co-operate in this.

"Of the hundreds of thousands of Indians who have gone to Ceylon and, by their labour on land and elsewhere, produced wealth and increased the riches of the country, a great majority have settled down there and made Ceylon their homeland. They have thus earned the right to be considered on a par with other inhabitants of the Island and to have all privileges and to shoulder all responsibilities of citizenship. Other Indians, who have not been there for so long, have also given of their labour and service to Ceylon, and deserve consideration and just treatment."

Adjustment of Future Relations.- "The Committee is prepared to co-operate in all steps to adjust relationships so as to give every opportunity to the people of Ceylon to advance and find self-fulfilment, but such steps, when they affect two parties must not be taken unilaterally, and should take into consideration the interests of those who, for no fault of their own, find themselves in their present situation. The Committee is convinced that for historical, geographical, cultural and economic reasons, the fate of Ceylon is linked with that of India, and is desirous of strengthening these bonds for the mutual advantage of the two countries.

"In view, however, of the circumstances that have arisen, the Committee is of the opinion that all future emigration of labour from India to Ceylon must be completely stopped. Because of this stoppage of emigration, there is no longer any necessity for an emigration depot and the Mandapam depot should, therefore, be closed. In any event, it is undesirable for a depot of this kind on Indian soil to be in charge of the Ceylon Government."

(The Times of India,
12-8-1939).+

Indian Emigration Problems: Discussion by
Standing Emigration Committee. +

The Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature met on 28-8-1939 with the Hon'ble Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member for Education, Health and Lands, in the Chair. A brief summary of the decisions and work of the Committee is given below:

Emigration of Indians in Ceylon.- The Committee unanimously approved of the Government of India's action in stopping the emigration of unskilled Indian labour to Ceylon. The Committee gave its approval after considering possible causes of action in the light of the explanation given to the members of the history of recent developments in regard to the discharge of Indian daily-paid employees in the Ceylon Government.

Indians in Burma and South Africa.- The various steps taken by the Governments of India and Burma to safeguard Indian interests in Burma were explained to the Committee. The course that the negotiations between the Governments of India and the Union of South Africa are taking in regard to the segregation question also was explained to the Committee.

Indians in Malaya.- As regards Malaya, the Committee were informed that the Malayan Government had replied to the Government of India's despatch and that the reply was being considered. The Committee approved of the line the Government propose to adopt in the despatch that will be sent to the Malayan Government in reply to the latter's communications.

(The Hindustan Times,
29-8-1939).

General.

Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers: Tentative
List of Subjects on the Agenda. †

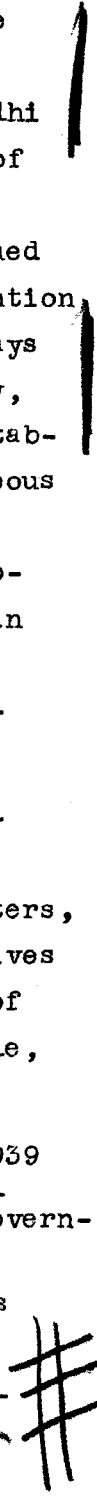
Reference was made at page 56 of our July 1939 report to the Conference of Labour Ministers in the Provincial Governments and of representatives of the Central Government to be held in New Delhi in November 1939. The tentative list of subjects on the agenda of the Conference, the starting date of which has now been fixed as 15-11-1939, includes, according to a press note dated 8-8-39 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India; prevention and settlement of industrial disputes, industrial housing, holidays with pay, collection of statistics concerning labour and industry, and extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and shops. There will also be discussion on miscellaneous other topics such as the amendment, suggested by one Provincial Government, of section 5 of the Factories Act, which empowers Provincial Governments to declare premises to be factories in certain circumstances, and delegation, suggested by another, of powers regarding trade unions whose objects are not confined to one Province.

The Note ^{ay} says that though "Welfare of Labour" is in the concurrent legislative list of the Government of India Act and Provincial Governments are now competent to legislate on labour matters, it has all along been felt by Governments as well as representatives of labour and industry that for a variety of reasons, diversity of labour laws in different parts of India should, as far as possible, be avoided.

(Press Note dated 8-8-1939 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India).

According to the correspondent of the Hindu in Simla, besides the Provinces, certain States who regularly participate in the Industries Conference, will probably be invited to send representatives to this Conference. These States are Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore, Kashmir, Gwalior and Indore.

(The Hindu, 13-8-1939). †



Conference of Premiers of Congress Provinces, Poona,
24 to 26-8-1939. Co-ordination of Labour Policy
discussed. +

A three-day Conference of Prime Ministers of Congress Provinces was held at Poona from 24 to 26-8-1939, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Chairman, Congress Parliamentary Sub-Committee, presiding. The object of the Conference was not to determine policy, which is done by the Congress Working Committee, but to chalk out the best method of giving effect to the directions from above, not only in conformity with local conditions but also in the light of ^{common} ~~the~~ experiences ~~of one~~ ~~another~~. Besides discussing the attitude to be taken by the Congress Ministries if India is involved in war, the Conference discussed several labour and industrial problems; a summary of the discussions relating to labour and industrial matters is given below:

Trade Disputes.-- The advisability of a common industrial policy for all provinces administered by the Congress has long been felt by the "High Command" and by the provincial Ministries. The principles of ~~the~~ Congress policy towards industrial labour have been laid down in a statement issued with the authority of the Working Committee shortly after acceptance of office in July 1937 (vide pages 84-87 of our August 1937 report). Since then the Bombay Government has enacted legislation embodying those principles and laying down the method of conciliation and arbitration as the best means of regulating the relationship between capital and labour.

Other provincial Governments have followed suit: The United Provinces Government has published a Bill, a Central Provinces Bill is on the anvil, and the Madras Government is drafting legislation on the subject.

It was decided that the underlying policy in respect of all these measures should be the same, and it is believed that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will examine them with a view to ensuring uniformity of principles and compliance with the labour policy envisaged in the July 1937 statement.

Over-production in Industry: (a) Sugar Industry.-- The danger of over-production in certain industries was also considered by the Conference. For instance, owing to crop failures and the rise ~~of~~ in prices, a certain amount of foreign sugar is finding a market in India this year. This has led some financiers to contemplate the opening of more sugar mills in some parts of the country. The fact is that the capacity of the existing sugar mills in the United Provinces and Bihar is such that their total output is sufficient to meet the needs of the whole country, so that more mills and more production will lead to an unhealthy competition, compulsory curtailment of production and the resultant dislocation of industrial

labour, etc.

(b) Cotton Textile Industry.- Similarly, a serious situation has arisen in the cotton textile industry as the result of over-production and the accumulation of stocks. Apart from its effect on capitalists, this has threatened labour trouble owing to talk of a cut in wages. The ~~position of the~~ handloom industry, especially in the South, has also suffered.

Lack of Co-ordination in Industrial Policy.- Lack of co-ordination among interests in different parts of the country will, it is felt, accentuate the situation and render the industries concerned more and more vulnerable. In order to put an end to this state of affairs, it was agreed that inter-provincial consultation to evolve a policy of beneficial to the industry, capital, labour, and the people at large was desirable. Details of the machinery to achieve this object are not yet available. As far as is known at present, it appears to have been left to the Governments concerned to consult one another informally.

(The Times of India,
26 & 28-8-1939).+

List of more important publications received
in this Office during August 1939. +

National Labour Legislation.-

- (1) The Indore Trade Unions Act (No V of 1939). (Price Rs. 0-2-3).
- (2) The Indore Payment of Wages Act (No. II of 1939). (Price Rs. 0-1-9). 1939.
- (4) The Indore Trade Disputes Conciliation Act (No. II of 1938). (Price Rs. 0-2-0).

All printed at Holkar Government Press, Indore.

Conditions of Labour.-

- (1) Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act in the Province of Madras for the calendar year 1938. Madras: Superintendent, Government Press. 1939.
- (2) Government of Madras, Development Department — G.O. No. 1509, 12th June, 1939. (Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during the year 1938). 1939.
- (3) Enquiry Committee Report — Orissa States. Cuttack: Orissa Mission Press. 1939. (Price Rs. 5-0-0).
- (4) Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1938. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1939. (Price Rs. 1-8-0 or 2s. 3d).

Enforcement of Conventions.-

- (1) Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1938. New Delhi: Manager, Government of India Press. 1939.
- (2) Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1938. Peshawar: Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P. 1939. (Price Re. 1-0-0 or ₹0-1-6).
- (3) Government of Madras, Development Department — G.O. No.1588, 22nd June, 1939, Factories — Administration Report, 1938. (Report on the Working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Madras Presidency for the year 1938 with a note on the Administration of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). 1939.
- (4) Annual Factory Report — Bombay Province, 1938 (including notes on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act). Bombay: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, ~~Bombay~~ 1939. (Price annas 2 or 3d).

Industrial Organisations.-

- (1) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry ___

Proceedings of the 12th Annual Meeting held in Delhi on 8th and 9th April, 1939. Vol. III. New Delhi: 28, Ferozshah Road, 1939.

- (2) Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1938. Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 17-3-1939. Bombay: G. Clariage & Co., Ltd., 1939.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Note on Economic Restriction ^a Issued by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi. Federation Research Department, Publication No.1.
- (2) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India — Large Industrial Establishments in India, 1937. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 5-8-0 or 8s. 6d).
- (3) Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year 1937-38, with the Government review thereon. Bangalore: Superintendent, Government Press. 1939.
- (4) Resolution reviewing the Reports on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Province of Bombay for the year 1937-38, (including statistical statement for the City of Bombay). Bombay: Government Central Press. 1939. (Price annas 7 or 9d).

Public Health.-

- (1) Report on the Public Health Administration of the Punjab during the year 1937 by K.B. Dr. A.H. Butt, Director of Public Health, Punjab, together with a Report on Sanitary Works by D.A. Howell, Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Punjab, and a Summary of the Proceedings of the Sanitary Board, Punjab, during the financial year 1937-38. Lahore: Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1938. (Price Re. 0-12-0 or 1s. 2d).
- (2) Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1937. Vol. II. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 2-6-0 or 4s).

Co-operation.-

- (1) Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ending 30th June 1938. Rangoon, Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1939. (Price Rs. 1-8-0 or 2s. 3d).
- (2) Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1937-38. ~~Manx~~ Peshawar: Manager: Government Stationery and Printing, N.W.F.P. 1939. (Price Rs. 2-0-0 or 30-3-0).
- (3) Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Province of Bombay for the year 1937-38. Bombay: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery. 1939. (Price annas 5 or 6d).

Education.-

Fifth Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Bihar (dealing with the period from 1st April, 1932, to 31st March, 1937). Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar. 1939. (Price Rs. 2-0-0).

Maritime Affairs.-

- (1) The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta — Administration Report and Annual Accounts for the year 1938-39. Calcutta: The Model Printing Press. 1939.
- (2) Administration Report of the Madras Port Trust for 1938-39. Madras: Madras Port Trust. 1939.

Migration.-

- (1) Review of Important Events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1938-39.
- (2) "Latest Menace to South African Indians" (Roneoed Document). New Delhi: Dr. M.S. Nana Hajan, M.A., Ph. D., Director; Diwanchand Political Information Bureau, 30, Ferozshah Road. June 1939.
- (3) "Plight of Indians in Ceylon" (Roneoed Document). — Issued by the Director, Diwanchand Political Information Bureau (Simla). August 1939.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) The School of Economics and Sociology, University of Bombay — Handbook of Information, 1939-40. Bombay: Associated Advertisers and Printers, Ltd., 168, Girgaum Road. 1939.
- (2) Bombay, 1937-38 — A Review of the Administration of the Province. Bombay; Manager, Government Central Press. 1939. +

Mr. von Bülow *Bul*Mr. ThésinMr. TixierThe Director*All in the
last report: study
report*

There is nothing of special importance in the August issue of the New Delhi Report which may call for the Director's attention. There are, however, a few important points which may be brought to the notice of the Director:- (1) recognition by India of the direct and indirect services of the I.L.O. rendered to Indian labour legislation; (2) the transfer of initiative for labour legislation from the Central to the Provincial Governments under the new Constitution and the consequent problem; and (3) the strong movement for the industrial and agricultural development of India, special rural reconstruction.

In the first place, that the I.L.O. has given new impetus to Indian labour legislation has been recognised by the Royal Commission on Labour (1931) and fully described in the Office report on Industrial Labour in India and also in the Calcutta University Special Readership Lectures of 1937 on the Principles and Problems of Indian Labour Legislation, which I was invited by the Calcutta University to deliver and for which I was awarded an honorarium of Rs. 1,000. These lectures have now been published by the Calcutta University. (pp. 281).

Industrial Labour in India has received an excellent press review both in India and abroad. Only a word may be added here as to recognition of the service rendered by this report. "Among the illuminating publications", writes Professor Rushbrook Williams, former Director of Public Information of the Government of India (Great Britain and the East, 13 April 1939), "issued within the last few months by the International Labour Office, a high place is taken by the volume entitled 'Industrial Labour in India' The book is indispensable to those who realise that India is now among the eight greatest industrial nations of the world." "A further service by the (I.L.) Organisation", writes editorially the Times of India (31 May 1939) "is the publication of a 335-page report on 'Industrial Labour in India'... In masterly fashion it surveys the whole field of Indian labour problems and gives a concise conspectus of the position to-day". "For some years" adds the Hindustan Review in a special article (July 1939), "the International Labour Office has given active attention to research on Indian industrial labour, and among other results it has published, from time to time, informative studies relating to woman and child labour and also labour legislation, from the pen of Dr. Rajani Kanta Das - who has long since made his mark as an expert and acknowledged authority on the subject ... The publication of this work by the International Office, at a time when industrial planning and industrial legislation are subjects for public discussion in this country, is very opportune and the book deserves careful consideration."

In the second place, since the inauguration of autonomous Provinces in 1937, the initiative for labour legislation has passed from the Central to the Provincial Governments. The new Provincial legislatures with concurrent

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power in labour legislation and thirty-eight labour representatives have been ^{taking} important measures to extend the scope of labour legislation to smaller industrial enterprises and to regulate child labour, industrial relations and wage payment. Several Indian States have also ^{under-}taken measures for the abolition of forced labour.

Labour The distribution of legislative powers between the Central and the Provincial Governments has given rise to some problems regarding the uniformity in the standard and enforcement of the law. The Industrial Council, which was recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour, on the basis of the constitution of the I.L.O., to enable representatives of employers, of labour and of Governments to meet regularly in conference to discuss labour measures and labour policy, has not yet come into existence. But steps have been taken by the Central Government to bring into conference the Labour Ministers of the Provincial Governments and the representatives of the Central Government to develop a common policy towards labour. Such a conference has been called to meet at New Delhi on 15 November next, and the provisional agenda has also been fixed (see report, p. 51). Moreover, the Indian National Congress which has formed Ministries in eight out of eleven Provinces and which announced its labour policy in July 1937, i.e. soon after it came into power, has also realised the advisability of a common industrial policy for all Provinces administered by the Congress. It met at Poona from 24 to 26 August and discussed among other things the policy to be adopted with special reference to trade disputes (p. 52).

Finally, India is undergoing a rapid reconstruction, both social and industrial, perhaps more than that of any other country at present. The Central Government has undertaken the development of large-scale industries, e.g. steel, textile, paper and sugar through protective tariff and of small-scale industries, e.g. hand-loom weaving through subsidies. The India National Congress has appointed an "All-India National Planning Committee" for the industrialisation of the country. Provincial Governments have appointed commissions and committees on industrial survey, industrial welfare, industrial housing, industrial reconciliation, compulsory education and adult education. Prohibition has been successfully introduced into some provinces and will soon be undertaken by several other provinces which are under the Congress Ministry. Social legislation has made considerable progress in recent years.

The most important movement is, however, ^{that of} rural reconstruction, which concerns about nine-tenths of the population and which the Congress has pledged itself to undertake. Rural sanitation, rural education and village industries have received considerable attention. The central point in rural reconstruction is, however, agriculture, on which, directly or indirectly, depends about four-fifths of the population for its livelihood. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) has undertaken, with the help of the Agricultural Departments of the Provincial Governments, several important measures for the development of agriculture, including crop production, animal husbandry, dairying and fruit production and Provincial Governments have passed several measures for improving land tenure and reducing rural indebtedness, *and also consolidating the holdings*

Development I might also add that I have been engaged in the study "Agricultural Organisation of India" for some time and expect to get ready very soon a series of articles for the I.L.R.

10.10.1939.

P. K. Das