
 Report for December 1933.

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

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
1. <u>References to the I. L. O.</u>	1-9
2. <u>Ratifications.</u>	
(a) Conventions of the 17th I.L.Conference; Motions for Non-ratification adopted by Council of State.	10
(b) Social Insurance Conventions of the 17th I.L. Conference; Protest Against Non-ratification.	10-11
(c) Conventions of the 17th I.L.Conference; M.& S.M. Railway Employees' Union's Protest Against Non-ratification.	12
3. <u>National Labour Legislation.</u>	
(a) <u>Workmen's Compensation Act for Ceylon to be Modelled on Indian Act.</u>	13
(b) <u>Sickness Insurance for Industrial Workers; Government of India Considering Scheme.</u>	13-14
(c) <u>Payment of Wages Bill to be referred to Select Committee.</u>	15
(d) <u>The Indian Oil Mines Regulations, 1933.</u>	15
4. <u>Conditions of Labour.</u>	
(a) <u>Factory Administration in India, 1932.</u>	16-24
(b) <u>Forced Labour in Rajputana States & British India; Gandhi's Campaign for Abolition.</u>	24-25
(c) <u>Indians in Ceylon & the Land Development Ordinance.</u>	26
(d) <u>Representation of Labour in Bengal Legislative Council under the Reformed Constitution.</u>	26-27
(e) <u>Periods of Wage Payment; Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce.</u>	28-31
5. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
<u>Employers' Organisation.</u>	
<u>7th Session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry to be held in March 1934.</u>	32
<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
(a) <u>All-India Trade Union Congress, 13th Session, 1933, Cawnpore.</u>	33-37
(b) <u>1st Session of National Trades Union Federation, 24 & 25-12-33, Bombay</u>	37-40
(c) <u>Madura Labour Union Meeting; Indian Branch of I.L.O. Praised.</u>	40-41
(d) <u>B.B.& C.I. Railway Employees' Union; 13th Annual Conference, Dohad, 1933.</u>	42-43
(e) <u>All-India Railwaymen's Week; Demonstration against Reduction of Scales of Pay of Railway Servants.</u>	43-44

I.L.O. Registry (c)
22 JANV 1934
File No: 3.
With:
on:
to:
by:

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
6. <u>Intellectual Workers.</u> Workers' Hours in the Newspaper Offices; Important Calcutta Decision.	45-46
7. <u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
(a) Trade of India in 1932-33.	47-52
(b) Board of Economic Enquiry Constituted in Bengal.	52-54
(c) Rural Indebtedness in Bombay Presidency; Non-Official Enquiry Committee Appointed.	54-55
(d) Cotton Talks.	56-58
(e) Indian Cotton Mill Industry; Progress during 1932-33.	59-60
(f) Retrenchment in Railways; Second Stage of Pope Enquiry.	62
(g) Economic Survey of Ceylon.	63
(h) Economic Development of the U.P.; Five Year Plan adopted by the Legislative Council,	63-64
8. <u>Employment and Unemployment.</u> Unemployment among Ahmedabad Textile Workers; Census taken by Labour Union.	65
9. <u>Public Health.</u> Slum Clearing in Madras; Comprehensive Scheme Under Consideration by the City Municipality.	66-67
10. <u>Co-operation.</u> Progress of the Co-operative Movement in India, 1931-32.	68-69
11. <u>Women and Children.</u> Age of Employment of Children limited to 12 by Lahore Municipality.	70
12. <u>Education.</u> Department of Chemical Technology; Opened by Bombay University.	71
13. <u>Migration.</u> The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Commission; Memorandum by Agent of Government of India.	72-74

References to the I. L. O. ✓

The December 1933 issue of the Modern Review, Calcutta, publishes an article under the caption "The Working of the League of Nations" contributed by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. The article summarises an 'interview' between Dr. Tagore and Professor Zimmern on the subject and in the course of the article the functions and ideals of the I.L.O. are explained. The article closes with an appeal to the youth of India to cultivate an international mind and to take an intelligent interest in the working of the League Organisations.

* * *

On 8-12-1933, S.R.Varadarajulu Naidu, a labour leader of Madras, addressed a meeting of textile workers of Madura held under the auspices of the Madura Labour Union on the work of the Indian Branch of the I.L.O. He paid a tribute to the activities of the Office and the Director. An account of the meeting taken from the Hindu of 11-12-1933, is given in this report in the section "Workers' Organisations"

* * *

The November 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a summary of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on 23-11-33 on the Government of India's motions for the non-ratification of the Conventions re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Fee-Charging Employment Agencies. The reference of the Indian Dock Labourers' Bill to a Select Committee is also referred to in the summary of the proceedings.

A list of the papers which either published a summary of the

debates, or commented on them in November was given at pages 6-7 of our November 1933 report.

* * *

Labour Times, Madras, of 4-12-1933, publishes an editorial article on the motions brought forward by the Government of India at the last session of the Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of the Conventions re. Fee-charging Employment Agencies and Invalidity Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance. (A summary of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on the question was given at pages 14-19 of our November 1933 report. The editorial article which appeared in Labour Times of 4-12-1933 is summarised in this report in the section "Ratifications").

* * *

The Statesman and the Hindu of 15-12-1933 and the Times of India of 16-12-1933 publish the news that the Council of State adopted on 14-12-1933 motions recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Conventions re. Fee-charging Employment Agencies and Invalidity, Old-age and Widows' and Orphans' Insurance.

* * *

The M. & M. Railway Union, Madras, held a meeting at Madras on 1-12-1933 in connection with the 'Railwaymens' week' to protest against the proposed reduction in the scales of pay of railway servants. One of the resolutions passed at the meeting protested against the recent motions of the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of the I.L. Conventions re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance

and Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies and warned the Government that non-ratification of these resolutions would result in serious labour discontent.

A summary of the proceedings of the meeting and the text of the resolutions are published in Labour Times, Madras, of 4-12-33 and the Hindu of 6-12-1933.

* * *

A meeting of the Council of Representatives of the Nagpur Textile Union, Nagpur, was held on the 14-12-33 with Mr. R.S.Ruiker, M.A., LL.B., President of the Union, in the chair. It was resolved at the meeting that an attempt should be made at Cawnpore to restore Unity on the following basis:-

1. No affiliation either to the ~~Second~~ International or to the ~~Third~~ International or to any foreign Organisation.
2. No boycott of Legislatures.
3. Trade Union Congress to remain neutral on the question of sending delegates to Geneva, giving individual Unions full Liberty in this respect.

* * *

In view of the annual meetings of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation which were held ~~during~~ ^{towards the close of} the month under review, Mr. R.S.Ruiker, President of the Nagpur Textile Union, and a prominent leader ~~of~~ the left wing of the Indian trade union movement, issued a statement towards the middle of December setting forth certain proposals for achieving trade union unity. In the course of the statement, Mr. Ruiker

appeals for unity between the two organisations. His proposal in regard to sending Indian labour delegates to Geneva is as follows: the Trade Union Congress as such is not to have anything to do with the sending of the delegates. The Congress is to remain neutral and give liberty to affiliated unions to take whatever action they like.

Mr. Ruikar's proposals were published in the Advocate, Bombay, of 18-12-1933.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 10-12-1933 publishes an editorial article on "Trade Union Unity", in the course of which it is pointed out that the one outstanding point of difference between the National Trades Union Federation and the All India Trade Union Congress, the two important rival workers' organisation in India, is in respect of the nomination of the workers' delegates to the I.L.Conference and that a solution for this vexed question may be found by leaving the matter of nomination to the affiliated Unions, instead of it being dealt with by any central all-India organisation of the workers. The following are relevant extracts from the article:-

"The All-India Trade Union Congress will hold its Annual Session at Cawnpore on the 23rd and 24th December 1933. In the same week the National Federation of Trade Unions will meet in Bombay. Both these National organisations have discussed sufficiently their objects and ideals with a view to secure a platform of Unity. The clarification of essential principles and fundamentals on which they should stand should have brought them much nearer. The issues on which there may be still some difference of opinion are the following:- 1. Affiliation with foreign organisations. 2. Council Entry. 3. Nomination of Workers' Delegates to the International Labour Conferences at Geneva.

"As far as we can see both the Trade Union Congress and the National Federation of Trade Unions will have no difficulty to agree to drop the question of affiliation to any foreign organisa-

tion whether in Moscow or Paris. The prominent leaders of both the National Organisations have expressed themselves to be in favour of Council Entry. There can be therefore no insurmountable difficulties in coming to an agreement over the policy of contesting ~~the~~ elections for what they are worth. Nomination to Geneva is the only point on which the leaders of the T.U.C. have not yet made up their mind. They stated that the question may be discussed every year and voted upon, the decision of the majority being binding. This looks very simple but it may lead to creation of parties on a trifle like this, and the cleavage may culminate in a split again. The best solution therefore would be to leave the matter to the affiliated Unions. The National Organisation should be indifferent and take no part in the nomination. We are sure leaders like Messrs. Giri and Joshi will have no objection to leave such controversial matters to individual Trade Unions, instead of the national Organisation throwing its weight on the side of one group or the other.

* * *

At both the 13th session of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Cawnpore from 23 to 25-12-1933 and the first session of the National Trades Union Federation at Bombay on 24 & 24-12-1933 speeches were made and resolutions passed on the question of Indian labourers' participation in the sessions of the I.L.Conference. The National Trades Union Federation also passed resolutions urging the need for holding as early as possible an Asiatic Labour Conference and recommending Mr. Jammadas Mehta for nomination as the Indian workers' delegate to the 1934 session of the I.L.Conference.

Dr. Pillai attended the National Trades Union Federation Conference and addressed the Conference.

Summaries of the proceedings of the two conferences are given at pages of this report under the section dealing with "Workers' Organisations".

Detailed summaries of the proceedings of the Conference ^{were} ~~are~~ given in all papers.

* * *

The Statesman and the Hindu of 7-12-1933, the Times of India and Hindustan Times of 8-12-1933, the Leader of 9-12-1933, Labour Times, Madras, dated 11-12-1933, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 10-12-1933 publish the Government of India Communique issued on 6-12-1933 announcing the date of the 18th session of the I.L.Conference and the items on the agenda of the session.

* * *

The November 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a detailed summary of the report submitted to the Government of India by the Government delegation to the 17th I.L.Conference. This report was published for general information by the Government of India in November 1933 (vide page 1 of our November 1933 report).

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 6-12-1933 publishes the communique issued by this Office on 8-11-33 on the Grey-Blue Report on the Partial Revision of the Convention re. Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases.

(Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1916/33 of 9-11-33. For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 4 of our November 1933 report).

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 6-12-1933 publishes the communique issued by this Office on 9-11-33 regarding the election of the new Chairman of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1916/33 dated 9-11-33. For a list of other papers which

published the communique, vide page 1 of our November 1933 report).

* * *

The National Call of 22-12-1933, the Leader of 24-12-1933 and the Hindu of 26-12-1933 published a communique issued by this Office on 20-12-1933 on the Grey Report on "Employment of Women in Underground Works in Mines".

(Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2306/33 dated 21-12-1933.)

* * *

The Advocate, Bombay, of 27-12-1933 publishes the text of the presidential speech of Mr. Jammadas M.Mehta at the 13th annual conference of the B.B.& C.I.Railwaymen's Union, held at Dohad on 18 & 19-11-33. In the course of the speech Mr. Jammadas Mehta criticised the Government of India for not applying the Washington and Geneva Conventions to the B.B.& C.I.Railway System. (A summary of the proceedings of the Conference is given in this report in the section: "Workers' Organisations").

* * *

Federated India of 13-12-33 publishes the hand bill regarding the I.L.O. publication "National Recovery Measures in the United States," copies of which were forwarded to this Office by Geneva. The hand bills were sent by this Office to various employers' and workers' organisations and to a few journals taking interest in labour matters.

* * *

The December 1933 issue of India and the World, Calcutta, publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication "Industrial Relations in Great Britain."

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 6-12-1933 publishes a long review of 'India Analysed' Vol.I (Publishers Victor Gollancz) in the course of which appreciative references are made to the articles in the volume contributed by ~~the~~ Dr. Lankasundaram and Mr. C.W. Jenks relating to India's relations with the I.L.O.

* * *

The Times of India of 8-12-1933 publishes a long article under the caption "Evils of Mechanical Age" in which the progress of the 'Safety First' movement in advanced industrial countries is reviewed. The article refers to the resolution passed by the I.L.Conference of 1928 on the subject of industrial safety and to the interest taken by the I.L.O. in the movement.

* * *

The Hindu of 28-12-1933 publishes a letter dated 16-12-33 from its Geneva correspondent which refers, among other subjects, to the recent visit of Mr. H.B. Butler to the U.S.A. and reproduces the communique issued by Mr. Butler soon after his return regarding the efforts that are being made in the United States for economic recovery.

* * *

The Press Report issued by the All-India, Railwaymen's Federation, Madras, of 20-11-33 makes a brief reference to Dr. Pillai's speech at the annual conference of the N.S. Railway Employees' Union, Secunderabad, held in November last (vide page 45-46 of our November 1933 report for a summary of the speech).

* * *

The Statesman and Hindustan Times of 3-12-1933 publish reports of a lecture on "the Ideals of Geneva" delivered at the Y.M.C.A.,

Delhi, on 2-12-1933 by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The lecturer dealt briefly with the various difficulties that the League and the I.L.O. were facing at the present time and pointed out that if the ideals of Geneva were to triumph over these difficulties what was needed most was the support of informed public opinion of all countries.

* * *

The Hindustan Times of 15-12-33 publishes a report of the annual meeting of the New Delhi Municipal Employees' Union held on 9-12-33. The report contains a summary of the speech delivered on the occasion by Mr. K.E. Matthew of this Office in the cause of which he referred to the work of the I.L.O. and to the manner in which Indian trade unionism was strengthened by participation in the Geneva Labour Conferences.

* * *

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 17-12-33 publish reports of a lecture delivered by Mr. K.E. Matthew on "Nationalism and Internationalism" at the Commercial College, Delhi, on 16-12-33. The lecturer pointed out how political and economic forces were working towards internationalism and how the work of the League and the I.L.O. tended to curb excessive and undesirable forms of nationalism and thus promoted the cause of world-peace.

* * *

At a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry which was held at Delhi on 16-12-33, it was decided to recommend Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai for nomination as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 1934 session of the I.L. Conference.

A summary of the proceedings of the Committee of the Federation was published in the Hindu of 18-12-1933 and the Times of India and Statesman of 19-12-1933.

* * *

Ratifications.

Conventions of the 17th I.L.Conference:

Motions for Non-ratification Adopted by Council of State.

At pages 14 to 19 ^{of our November 1933 report} a summary was given of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on 23-11-33 on the motions tabled by the Government of India recommending non-ratification of the Conventions re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Fee-charging Employment Agencies adopted by the 17th I.L.Conference. On 14-12-33, similar motions were moved in the Council of State and adopted by the House. (Further details about the debates in the Council of State on the motions will be given in our January 1934-report).

(Statesman, 15-12-1933).

Social Insurance Conventions of 17th I.L.Conference:

Protest Against Non-ratifications.

At pages 14-19 of our November 1933 report was given a summary of the debates in the Legislative Assembly on the Government of India's motions recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Conventions re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Fee-charging Employment Agencies. Labour Times, Madras, of 4-12-33 publishes an editorial article under the caption "The Assembly Betrayal" deploring the action of the Government in recommending non-ratification of these Conventions on the score of the enormous expenditure which enforcement of them would entail. The article

protests against the argument advanced by Sir Frank Noyce, Member, Industries and Labour Department, that it was not wise ^{to} spending money on such schemes with doubtful beneficial values and observes:

"It is unfortunate that the Government of India should have dismissed the whole scheme in such an irresponsible way. The organisation of social protection for workers may be difficult and expensive but the social conscience has today been awakened to such a high degree that at present more than 100 million employees all over the world are covered by schemes of compulsory insurance. The old age pension or provident fund schemes in India apply only to workers in Governmental departments, in the railway systems and in a few commercial undertakings. The overwhelming majority of workers in this country are unprotected even by these rudimentary schemes of social insurance.

By their refusal to ratify the Conventions the Government have failed to discharge their elementary duty towards millions of workers in our unfortunate country where, greater than else-where, is the need for old-age, invalidity, widows' and orphans' insurance. Indian workers who form about 80 per cent of the population are debilitated and under-fed, with a higher incidence of sickness and early mortality than elsewhere owing to the extremely insanitary conditions of their slum-dwellings and their abject and wretched conditions of service. No doubt the Whitley Report has mentioned the largeness of the numbers involved, the financial limitations of the Government, the administrative difficulties and the absence of necessary statistics as the more important of the handicaps. But certainly no difficulty is insurmountable. What is possible in any other country must be possible in India also. To apply a thorough brake to the whole scheme on the flimsy and evidently capitalistic plea of want of resources and doubtful returns is nothing but an arrogant display of the strength of the bureaucratic machinery backed in toto by the vested interests of the country with whom they are bound in secret understanding to continue ad-infinitum the cruel, unjust and inhuman exploitation of the working classes. The action of the Legislative Assembly that accepted the motion with mild and ineffective protests and without a division is to be condemned in unequivocal terms.

The Government have an elastic purse to pamper a military out of all proportions with a third of its revenue, solely in the interests of Imperialist exploitation, and has money enough for propitiating a top-heavy system of Administration in utter disregard of the poverty of the country; but they could not find funds enough for social insurance of a majority of the population nor would they ask all employers of labour to provide compulsory provisions for social insurance."

(Labour Times, 4-12-1933).

Conventions of 17th I.L.Conference; M.& S.M.Railway
Employees' Union's Protest Against Non-ratification.

The M. & S.M.Railway ^{Employees'} ~~men's~~ Union, Madras, held a meeting at Madras on ~~xx~~ 1-12-1933, in connection with the Railwaymen's week to protest against the proposed reduction in the scales of pay of railway servants. The ^{meeting passed} following resolution protesting against the Government of India's motions in the Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Conventions re. Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Fee-charging ^{was adopted} Employment Agencies;

This meeting condemns the Government of India for refusing to ratify two important Conventions of the 17th Session of the International Labour Conference concerning Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies, and warns the Government that such non-ratification would result in serious labour discontent throughout the country.

National Labour Legislation.

Workmen's Compensation Act for Ceylon; To be Modelled on Indian Act.

A draft Ordinance to provide for compensation to workmen who are injured in the course of their employment has been under consideration for some time by the Executive Committee of the Labour Department, Ceylon. This draft was prepared in 1929 and was circulated to employers, trade unions, and representatives of insurance companies for their criticism. As a result of adverse criticism, it has been decided to abandon the prepared draft and to prepare an Ordinance following as closely as possible the Act now ^{in force} working in India. The Indian Act, it is pointed out, is simple and its working has been favourably reviewed by the Whitley Commission on Labour in India.

(The National Call, 24-10-1933)

Sickness Insurance for Industrial Workers;

Government of India Considering Scheme.

At the meeting of the last session of the Council of State held on 14-12-1933, Sir Frank Noyce, the Industries and Labour Member, stated that the question of instituting a sickness insurance scheme for industrial workers was that day discussed by the Departmental Advisory Committee, which included members of both Houses of the ~~Legislature~~ Legislature. The opinions of Local Governments, employers' organizations and other bodies are to be sought and statistics

collected, but the whole problem is stated to bristle with difficulties. The consideration of the question is the outcome of the recommendations ^{on the subject} in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour ~~on the subject~~ (vide pages 265-269 of the Whitley Report). Details of the scheme are not available at this stage. The recommendations of the Whitley Commission on this subject may be briefly summarised as follows:

All methods should be explored that may lead to the alleviation of existing hardships arising from the need of provision for sickness.

(a) Material should first be collected for the framing of an estimate of the incidence of sickness among workers, special statistical inquiries being instituted in selected centres as soon as possible.

(b) Assistance might be obtained from (i) railways and Government factories, (ii) employers who already have sickness benefit schemes, (iii) experiments voluntarily conducted by employers.

(c) The statistics should be collected with expert medical and ~~medical~~ actuarial advice and the co-operation of employers and representatives of workers.

(d) The preliminary enquiries might be conducted by the Government of India who might secure for the purpose a small informal committee from the Central Legislature including representatives of capital and labour. These with medical, actuarial and statistical assistance should be able to advise as to the nature of the statistics required, the centres where they might be collected, the sources from which, and the means whereby, they should be obtained.

(e) Thereafter the question of framing schemes should be referred to a formal committee with instructions to examine the material and to make recommendations for the institution, if and where possible, of definite schemes.

(f) Pursuing the line of building on existing foundations the Commission commend for examination the outline of a tentative scheme based on separate medical provision, possibly by Government, and financial benefits in the form of paid sick leave given through employers on the basis of contributions by themselves and by the workers.

(The Statesman, 15,12.1933).

Payment of Wages Bill; To be Referred to Select Committee. ✓

The Payment of Wages Bill which was introduced in the Assembly on 1-2-1933 is to come up again during the budget session of the Legislative Assembly in January 1934. It is reported that Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, will make a motion for its reference to a Select Committee. The opinions of the local governments and important industrial bodies are reported to have been circulated to the members of the Central Legislature.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-12-1933).

The Indian Oil Mines Regulations, 1933.

Attention is invited to pages 1345 to 1384 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 30-12-1933 where the new Indian Oil Mines Regulations, 1933, have been published.

Conditions of LabourFactory Administration in India, 1932.* ✓

Changes in the Law. - The Indian Factories Act remained unaltered during the year. The preparation of a Bill designed to replace all the existing legislation and to introduce a number of changes in the law was under consideration at the close of the year and the measure has since been introduced in the Legislative Assembly (vide pages 31-32 of our September 1933 report).

Number of Factories. - The total number of registered factories increased from 9,233 to 9,431. The number actually working, including 198 notified under section 2(3)(b) of the Act, was 8,241 of which 3,802 were perennial and 4,439 seasonal. That is, 87.4 per cent of the registered factories worked during the year as against 88.4 per cent in the preceding year. The number of new factories registered was 490 and the number struck off the registers 292, giving a net increase of 198 as compared with 94 in 1931. The increase in the number of factories actually working was 98 and this was distributed over all the major provinces with the exception of Madras where there was a drop both in the number of factories on the register and in the number working (18). The textile industry again expanded in Ahmedabad; 5 more mills were opened and extensions made in several others. The establishment of new sugar factories continued unabated in the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa, 37 new factories being registered in the former province and 9 in the latter. The total number of sugar factories in all provinces increased from 119 to 166. There was further noticeable progress in the Punjab in the hosiery industry, and the cigarette making and match industries recovered to some extent in Bombay. On the other hand, a number of rice mills and jute presses in Bengal, saw mills in Burma and cotton ginning and baling presses in the cotton growing provinces closed down during the year.

Classification of Factories. - Out of the 8,241 factories which were actually working during 1932, 342 were owned by Government or Local Funds, 492 were textile factories, 609 engineering

* Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending 31-12-1932 together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. - Published by order of the Govt. of India. - Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. - Price Re.1-14-0 or 3s.3d. - pp.37

concerns, 128 minerals and metal works, 3,218 food, drink and tobacco factories of which 1,498 were rice mills and 978 tea factories, 440 concerns dealing with chemicals dyes etc., of which 239 were oilmills, 365 paper and printing factories, 365 wood, stone and glass factories of which 158 were saw mills, and 2,146 gins and presses. Bombay Presidency had, as usual, the largest number of factories - 1,575, followed by Bengal with 1,487, Madras with 1,452, Burma with 948, the Central Provinces and Berar with 743, Assam with 639, the Punjab with 515, the United Provinces with 456 and Bihar and Orissa with 283. Industrial activity in other provinces was, as in previous years, very slow.

Strength of Factory Population. - In spite of the continued industrial depression, the decrease in factory population was only 11,776 as compared with 96,815 in 1931. The average number of operatives employed was 1,419,711 against 1,431,487 in the preceding year. When regard is had to conditions prevailing throughout the world, the figure must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory, in the evidence it gives of the comparative stability of India's industrial activity. The provinces where marked decreases occurred are; Bengal (26,432), Madras (4,417) and the Central Provinces (2,759). The biggest increases were in the United Provinces (10,251) and Bombay (8,298). Trade conditions in Bengal showed no improvement and the jute mill industry alone recorded a drop of 13,975 in the number employed. In contrast to this, the cotton textile industry which reached the record figure of 382,525 operatives in 1931 for the whole of India showed a still further rise (14,833) to 397,358 the increase being shared by all provinces, notably the Bombay Presidency (8,000), where there was an expansion of night shift working, and a few mills which had been closed for some years recommenced work. The expansion of the sugar industry in the United Provinces gave employment to over 10,000 workers.

Distribution by Provinces:- The distribution of factory workers by provinces was as follows. - Madras, 132,960; Bombay, 389,647; Bengal, 454,007; the United Provinces, 103,474; the Punjab, 45,069; Burma, 90,578; Bihar and Orissa, 65,515; the Central Provinces and Berar, 61,627; Assam, 45,183; North-West

Frontier Province, 1,101; Baluchistan, 2,443; Ajmer-Merwara, 13,588; Delhi, 12,875; Bangalore and Coorg, 1,644.

Distribution of Labour by Industries:— (1) Government and Local Fund Factories. — 120,975 (railway workshops, 62,187; Ordnance factories, 16,282; printing presses, 12,906; engineering (general), 7,139); (2) Textile factories — 669,236 (cotton spinning weaving and other cotton factories, 395,807; jute mills 263,442); (3) Engineering factories, ~~225~~ 115,294 (Railway workshops, 49,629; general engineering 26,105; ship building and engineering, 13,034); (4) Minerals and Metals — 43,695 (Iron and steel smelting and steel rolling mills, 23,145; petroleum refineries, 10,697); (5) Food, Drink and Tobacco — 197,556 (rice mills 74,384; tea 58,452; sugar, 34,259); (6) Chemicals, Dyes, etc — 46,129 (matches, 14,524; oil mills 11,596); (7) Paper and printing — 29,327 (printing, book-binding, etc., 22,602; paper mills, 5,611); (8) Wood, Stone and Glass — 33,228 (Saw mills, 12,630; bricks and tiles, 7,796; cement, lime and potteries, 4,989; glass 4,467); (9) Gins and Presses — 149,965 (cotton ginning and baling, 120,633; jute presses, 29,210); (10) Skins and Hydes — 5,329; (11) Miscellaneous — 8,907 (rope and rope works, 3,422).

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

Women and Children in Factories. — There was a further fall in the number of women and children employed. During the year under review, the number of women and children were 225,632 and 21,783 as against 231,183 and 26,932 respectively during 1931, thereby representing a fall of 2.4 per cent in the case of women and 19.1 in the case of children. The percentage of women and children to the total factory population was 15.9 and 1.5 respectively as against 16.2 and 1.9 in 1931. The tendency to curtail the employment of women which was noticeable in 1931 received a check in most provinces in 1932. The decrease in Bengal was only 4 per cent as compared with a decrease of 16 per cent in the preceding year. In the Bombay Presidency, on the other hand, there was a slight increase,

while no noteworthy variations occurred elsewhere. The slightly reduced demand for female labour is again attributed partly to the reduced activity of seasonal factories and partly to an increase in the available adult male labour. The steady decrease in the employment of children continued in all provinces, and in the Bengal jute mills the number employed was only 1,515 against 3,462 in the preceding year and 26,474 six years earlier. The cotton mills in Ahmedabad are following the lead of the Bombay mills in reducing the number of child operatives and there was thus a drop of over a thousand in the number of children employed in factories in that Presidency.

Hours of Work. - The normal weekly hours of employment in both perennial and seasonal factories were practically identical with those in 1931, except that a few more factories shortened weekly hours for women. The position is summarised in the table below:-

		Not above 48.	Between 48 & 54.	Between 54 & 60.
Perennial.				
For men	36	17	47
For women	39	19	42
Seasonal.				
For men	...	23	8	69
For women	...	31	8	61

The percentages of factories which fixed their maximum hours for children at not more than 30 per week were 30 (perennial) and 49 (seasonal).

The Bengal report observes that - "That state of trade during the year has removed the incentive to work illegal hours, and consequently the records of inspection show a considerable decrease in the number of infractions of the labour provisions of the Act". This ~~ix~~ probably applies with equal truth to all provinces so far as perennial factories are concerned. It is reported that, in the Central Provinces, perennial factories are usually punctilious in observing the rules regarding hours of employment and holidays. In seasonal factories, however, evasion of the employment provisions, particularly in regard to the weekly holiday (section 22) is stated

K.5.

to be still prevalent, and in Bombay the number of prosecutions instituted in connection with such irregularities showed an increase. The majority of these factories are situated in rural areas and consequently the task of the factory inspectorate in securing compliance with the provisions of the Act when managers and owners are deliberately bent on disregarding them is peculiarly difficult.

Wages. - Earnings showed a tendency to fall further; but on the whole wage-rates appear to have moved little from the level of 1931. Although wage-rates have not seriously decreased, the total earnings of industrial workers have suffered a marked diminution "by short-time work, irregular work and unemployment". The provincial reports show that the decrease in wage-rates was more noticeable in the case of skilled labour than in that of unskilled. In view of the low price of food grains the supply of labour at the prevailing rates is stated to have been adequate for the needs of industry.

Accidents/ Statistics. * Last year's report showed (vide page 39 of our December 1932 report), for the first time since 1922, a fall in the number of recorded accidents. The present report states with satisfaction that there was a further decline in 1932, the number reported being 18,127 against 19,807 in 1931. Fatal accidents decreased from 174 to 162, serious accidents from 3,693 to 3,513, and minor ones from 15,940 to 14,452. The incidence has decreased from 1,384 per 100,000 operatives in 1931 to 1,277 in 1932. A slight increase has been recorded in the number of serious (+19) and minor (+54) accidents in seasonal factories owing, apparently, to the fact that reporting is gradually improving in these factories, though, as pointed out in last year's note, the ratios of the figures of reported fatal, serious and minor accidents suggest that a considerable number of minor accidents probably remained unreported during the year. Railway workshops account, in proportion, for the largest number of accidents. This is not, it is observed, due entirely to the nature of the work, but is partly accounted for by the better reporting of minor accidents.

Safety Work. - A marked improvement is reported to be occurring in the class of factories like railway workshops, as a result of the activities of safety committees which have been established in some of them. The success of "safety committees" which were established last year at the S.I.R. Workshops at Perambur and the Golden Rock was demonstrated by the fact that at the latter works accidents decreased by 53 per cent from 420 in 1931 to 197 in 1932. At a Conference of mill managers in Bombay it was decided to organise safety committees in a few mills as a trial measure, and committees were set up at the Jacob and Kastoorchand Mills. Similar organisations have also been formed in the G.I.P. Railway workshops, the R.I.M. Dockyard and the Bombay Electric Supply Tramway's workshops. Encouraging reports of the work done by these committees were received by the Factory Department. It is reported that the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, have also taken steps to establish safety committees in their mills. Particular attention was devoted in Bengal to the safeguarding of crowded machinery in the smaller factories which are housed in buildings not originally intended for industrial purposes. Orders were issued in that province to 52 factories to alter, repair or reconstruct their buildings. Safety pamphlets were compiled and distributed by the Factory Departments in Bengal and Madras. Steady progress in the fencing of machinery and in the use of safety posters is reported to have been maintained in all provinces, and increasing attention is being paid by employers throughout India to safety measures and to the inculcation in the factory employee of "safety first" ideas. The Bengal, Bombay and Madras reports contain full and interesting statements of the position in their respective provinces in regard to the organisation of safety services in industrial undertakings, a subject chosen by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office for special treatment in the factory reports for 1932.

Housing. - The progress made in housing schemes in the United Provinces, despite general financial stringency, is specially noteworthy. The majority of the new sugar factories established in that province have provided accommodation for some of their employees and altogether 1,253 new quarters (927 single and 326 double) have been built during the year. The quarters built by the Cawnpore

Improvement Trust last year have been occupied and it is reported that the Trust propose to build more quarters during the current year. In order to prevent congestion of residential areas, the Trust have also set apart an area in the city for the construction of new factories. The Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad has sponsored a housing scheme on the lines of the Cawnpore scheme in order to enable lower paid employees ultimately to own their homes. Sixty houses of a very suitable pattern have already been constructed under the scheme. Attention is also being devoted in the Bombay Presidency to the improvement of housing conditions of imported labour in seasonal factories, and in Surat and Khandesh a beginning has been made with the construction of a cheap type of temporary quarters. Adverse trade conditions in Bengal have seriously retarded housing schemes in the industrial areas of that presidency. Four new tea factories in Madras have built quarters for all their labour force, and three other factories provided accommodation for a portion of their staff. The Punjab Portland Cement Works completed their housing scheme during the year and are now able to accommodate the whole of their factory staff. The Ajmer and Delhi reports again mention satisfactory advance in the housing schemes of the textile mills in those areas.

Health of Operatives and Welfare Work. - The general health of factory employees is reported to have been normal throughout the year, and there was no dislocation of industry anywhere on account of epidemics. The lack of accurate health statistics is commented on in some of the reports. The cleanliness of factory surroundings is reported to have been generally well maintained everywhere, and sanitary arrangements in the larger factories were found to be satisfactory. The problem of the disposal of trade waste in Ahmedabad still awaits solution.

There was no marked expansion of welfare activities at any centre during the year owing to the reluctance of employers to embark on new schemes at a time of financial stringency. The Indian Jute Mills Association, for example, were unable to take any action on the welfare survey (referred to in last year's note) conducted by a lady doctor in the Mills area (vide pages 54-58 of

our January 1932 report), or on the leprosy survey carried out by the School of Tropical Medicine (vide pages 58-59 of our January 1933 report). Whilst there was a tendency in Bengal for some managements to curtail expenditure on welfare work, progress has been made by others. Progress in Bombay is stated to have been uneven. The position in regard to creches was much the same as in the previous year, except that definite improvement was reported from Ahmedabad. The Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association held exhibitions in the compounds of several mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad. Over 57,000 mill hands and their families attended these exhibitions. The Millowners Association, Bombay, have undertaken a review of the medical facilities afforded by the different mills with the object of coordinating and standardizing medical relief. A beginning has been made by mills in Ahmedabad and by a factory in Madras in providing dining sheds for their employees. The provision of medical facilities with a resident doctor and dispensary has been a special feature of the new sugar mills in the United Provinces. A sum of Rs. 12,394 was paid as maternity benefits to 605 women in the Central Provinces as against Rs. 9,766 to 498 women in 1931.

Convictions under the Act. - The number of convictions obtained during the year for offences under the Factories Act was 906 and the number of persons convicted 396, the figures for 1931 being 1,016 and 391 respectively. Seasonal factories were responsible for 471 convictions involving 191 persons. The convictions in Madras decreased from 413 to 203, whereas in Bengal there was an increase from 101 to 161. The larger number of prosecutions in Bengal is ascribed to the more frequent inspections of mofussil factories. More cases against seasonal factories were instituted during the year in Bombay and 80 more convictions were obtained.

Inspections. - The total number of inspections during the year was 7,501, the percentage of factories inspected being 91. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 96 and 87 respectively. All the factories in the Central Provinces were inspected during the year. Inspections in Burma were not as full as in the other

provinces and 412 out of 948 factories in that province remained uninspected during the year. A satisfactory level of efficiency has been maintained during the year in all provinces in the administration of the Act.

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

For	1927	pages	46-50 of January 1929 report,
"	1928	"	34-37 of July 1930 "
"	1929	"	15-19 of August 1931 "
"	1930	"	26-34 of January 1932 "
"	1931	"	35-41 of December 1932. "

Forced Labour in Rajputana States and British India;
Gandhi's Campaign for Abolition. ✓

It will be remembered that Mahatma Gandhi started some time back an all-India campaign for removal of untouchability and uplift of the Harijans (untouchables) and that a society, called the Servants of Untouchables Society with branch offices in all provinces, was started last year to promote this social reform. Since his ~~xxxx~~ release from jail in August 1933, Mahatma Gandhi has been devoting his whole attention to this subject. The first session of the Conference of the Servants of Untouchables Society was held at Delhi in the beginning of December and was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. At a conference with the members of the Central and Provincial Boards of the Society held on 3-12-1933, Gandhi discussed the various issues arising out of the last year's report and the programme for the next year. Among other ^{decisions} ~~discussions~~

it was resolved to carry on a campaign for the abolition of forced labour which is rampant in an acute form in the Rajputana States. Mahatma Gandhi endorsed the views of some other members that the labourers should be enabled to dictate their own terms and that, if they so chose the labourers should be helped to resist the continuance of forced labour. This problem also existed in British India and, therefore, a general campaign against the system, it has been decided should be kept in view by creating public opinion in favour of ~~that~~ abolishing the evil. It is thought that for the time being, however, any success achieved in British India would serve to remove the evil from the Indian States, where a solution would be practicable by negotiation with the Princes and their Ministers.

(The Times of India, 15-12-1933)

Indians in Ceylon & the Land Development Ordinance. ✓

Reference was made at pages 10-12 of our October 1933 report to the Ceylon Land Development Ordinance and a copy of the Ordinance was forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D.1/2043/33 dated 16-11-33. In connection with the term "Ceylonese" in the draft Ordinance, the Agent to the Government of India is reported to have written to the Ceylon Government claiming the right of all Indians domiciled in Ceylon ~~xxx~~ to be legally regarded as Ceylonese and requesting a provision to that effect being included in the Ordinance.

(The Statesman, 18-11-33).

Representation of Labour in the Bengal

Legislative Council under the Reformed Constitution. -

In a communication addressed to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce sent in July last, the Government of Bengal invited the co-operation of the Chamber in the preparation of the electoral rolls and in the conduct of elections for the four seats to be allotted to special labour constituencies in Calcutta and ~~the~~ suburbs under the reformed constitution. Towards this end it was suggested in the communication (1) that the factory managers in the metropolitan constituencies might be employed to prepare the electoral rolls, (2) that these rolls should be compiled, in the first place, from the wages books of factories, and (3) that the factory managers should be appointed as presiding and polling officers in order to undertake the conduct of elections. In this connection it was noted that, in the case of the proposed seats for colliery and

plantation labour, the recognised employers' associations had promised their co-operation in regard to these matters. These suggestions were duly considered by the Chamber Committee in consultation with the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Indian Engineering Association, and in the reply to the Government the following observations and suggestions were made.

1. Cost of the Scheme. - While the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Indian Engineering Association are agreeable to the proposal being given a fair trial, neither of them is disposed to commit its members on the question of expenses until all costs likely to be involved in carrying out the work of registration and supervision have been more definitely ascertained.

2. Six months Continuous Employment Under Same Owner. - The Government of Bengal have suggested that the service qualification for electors in Calcutta and the suburban areas should be employment under any employer for a period of 180 days during a period of one year prior to the preparation or revision of the electoral roll. It is pointed out that labour turn-over in the areas is particularly high and so it ~~is~~ will be difficult to determine whether or not any particular worker has been in employment under any employer for a period of 180 days during a period of one year prior to the preparation of the roll. It is suggested that the recommendation of the Indian Franchise Committee that labour electors should have been in continuous employment for a period of six months prior to the preparation of the roll would, if adopted in Calcutta and the suburban areas, greatly simplify the work of compiling rolls in these districts.

3. Casual Leave not to be regarded as break. - Another suggestion of the Chamber is that casual or sick leave for a reasonable period, say, up to one month during the year preceding the preparation of the roll, should not constitute a break in the worker's length of employment under one employer.

4. Separate polling books for each mill. - The Government have not made it clear whether it is the Government's intention to appoint presiding and polling officers for each factory or for groups of factories. If it is for groups of factories, it will create hardship and cause waste of time since each mill will have to send a section of its management for identification purposes. It is suggested that where there are large bodies of labour voters, as for example in the jute mill districts, a polling-booth for the workers of each mill should be established and situated within the mill compound. The polling could then be supervised by the mill authorities in such a manner, and at such hours, on the polling day as would least interfere with the running of the mill.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for August & September 1933 (NO.358).)

Periods of Wage Payment; Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. ✓

The Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India had sent a circular letter in March last (No.L.3009 dated 27-3-1933) to all Local Governments and Administrations inviting their views on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour on the subject of periods of wage-payment. (vide pages 236 to 240 of the Whitley Report). The Commission's proposal is coupled in their report with proposals for preventing undue delay in the payment of wages. The latter have been embodied in the Payment of Wages Bill, which is now ~~xxx~~ being circulated for eliciting public opinion. But the Government of India felt that on these more novel and, in their view, more debatable proposals it was necessary to consult public opinion before forming a conclusion.

It was pointed out that the Commission themselves recognize that their proposals are not likely to make any strong general appeal to those directly affected by them. Further, while they are satisfied that an advance in the direction indicated would have important effects in reducing indebtedness and inefficiency, their recommendations for legislation are obviously experimental in character. They are designed, in fact, to pave the way for larger changes, the ultimate ideal in view being the general adoption of a weekly system of payments. ^{Views on the question} ~~it was suggested~~ whether it would not be better that experiments should be made on a provincial rather than an all-India scale. ^{are called for} The variations already prevailing throughout India, even in the same industry, show that the lack of uniformity in this matter has not been felt as a handicap by

industrialists, and objection could hardly be taken on this score to provincial legislation.

Briefly summarised, the Royal Commissioners' proposals were (a) that in the textile industries, railway and engineering workshops and iron and steel works the law should require payment of wages to the process operatives at intervals not exceeding 16 days, and (b) the law should also confer on the appropriate authority the power to extend a similar provision to other industries or classes of operatives, either generally or in particular centres. The Royal Commissioners suggested that the first case to be examined should be that of railway workers outside the workshops where difficulties, in the matter of wages payments, admittedly arise which do not appear in other industries; they expressed the opinion that in certain important, but undefined classes of workers the period of wage payments might advantageously be reduced; and they stressed the necessity of ensuring that whatever reduction may be made in the period of wage payments, no worker should forfeit any privilege or concession which is attached to payments on a monthly basis. The following is a summary of the views on the subject, expressed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce which were communicated to the Government recently:-

Views of Jute Industry. • The Chamber feels that the Government of India will be ill-advised to ignore the hostile attitude of labour towards shorter periods (discussed in the Whitely Report) when attempting to introduce the legislation they have in mind. The Indian Jute Mills Association has already informed the Government of Bengal direct that the large majority of jute mill workers (including process operatives) are paid weekly, and that consequently the Indian Jute Mills Industry has no objections to the proposals of the Royal Commissioners for the payments of process operatives to be made at periods of intervals not exceeding 16 days. The

Association has explained further why the Indian Jute Mills Industry would prefer that the subject of the period of wage payments should be treated provincially, ~~and these views will doubtless have due consideration.~~

Application of Principle to Process Operatives in Engineering Workshops. - As regards the process operatives employed in engineering workshops, the Indian Engineering Association does not approve of the proposal to introduce legislation requiring the payment of wages to their process workers at intervals not exceeding 16 days. In the case of the engineering interests, the opposition is not so much to the expense and inconvenience to the employer, but mainly because it appears that, in certain cases, the operatives themselves object to any change in the present system of monthly payments. Generally speaking, however, there are no serious objections, from the standpoint of employers, to the bi-monthly system of wage payments; but employers are reluctant to advocate the introduction of legislation making this compulsory unless a qualification is introduced to the effect that this system will be enforced only if it is desired by the workers.

Application of Principle to Railway Workers. - It has been ascertained from the Railways Sub-Committee of the Chamber that, with the exception of the labour staff employed on construction and engineering works, the railway employees are paid monthly. Whether weekly or even fortnightly payments would be advantageous to the railway workers is questionable, because it is not on account of the dates when they receive their wages that these employees run into debt, but rather because they have to incur expenses out of all proportion to their monthly wages on account of marriages, deaths, house repairs and other kindred payments, ~~of which the Government of India are so well aware.~~ In order to assist railway operatives towards the payment of these abnormal expenses, co-operative societies have come into being through which loans can be obtained which keep the workers out of the clutches of money-lenders. Moreover the workers can also obtain loans from their Provident Fund credits under certain circumstances. But, apart from these considerations, it has been ascertained that weekly or fortnightly payments would not be appreciated by the railway employees who, in most cases, have remittances to make to their homes, and these are made from their monthly wages. To make such proportionate remittances from their weekly wages would be not only difficult but also more expensive. Then again, it must be remembered, from the employers' point of view, that weekly payments on railways could not be made without a very heavy additional expenditure on staff in the accounts and cash departments.

The Chamber also refers to the paragraphs in the Royal Commissioners' report in regard to the question of delays in the payment of wages. In this connection ~~it~~ it is pointed out that so far as State railways are concerned, a very great deal has been done in recent years to reduce the interval between the close of the period for which payment is due and the actual date of the payment.

MK.14

On the East Indian Railway this interval is now from one to seven days, certain sections of the staff being paid earlier than others.

Provincial Legislation Suggested. - The Chamber Committee feel that any legislation to be introduced should be provincial in order to ensure that local Governments will be in a position to deal with any disturbances which might be created in the workers' relations with moneylenders, shopkeepers and landlords and also to decide whether the experimental legislation is likely to benefit the workers in the particular area affected. Having thus obtained the experience of the local Governments in regard to the experimental legislation, the Government of India would be in a better position to consider and decide whether or not all-India legislation ~~is~~ required.

(From the Abstract of Proceedings of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce during August & September 1933).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

7th Session of Indian Chambers of Commerce
and Industry to be held in March 1934.

A meeting of the Committee of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 16-12-1933 under the presidentship of Mr. N.R.Sarkar. It was provisionally decided at the meeting to hold the 7th annual session of the Federation in Delhi on 11-3-1934. The Committee further decided to recommend Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai for nomination as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 18th I. L. Conference. ✓

(The Times of India, 19-12-33).

All-India Trade Union Congress.

The thirteenth session of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held at Cawnpore from the 23rd to the 25th December ~~in~~ 1933. No information is yet available regarding the number of Trade Unions represented at the session, or the membership or the number of the unions which are affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress.

On the 23rd December 1933, Pandit Surya Prasad Avesthi, Secretary of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, and Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates, referred to the precarious condition of the working class, the wage cuts and the prevailing unemployment. The only explanation of the present economic situation was that "production takes place not for use, but for the profit of a small class of capitalists. Unless this system is substituted by a system where production takes place for use and not for profit, this strange phenomenon cannot be put an end to".

Continuing he said; "Unfortunately at this critical hour the Indian working class is not able to present a united front. At Nagpur in 1929 a group of labour leaders separated themselves from the Trade Union Congress. There were and are fundamental differences between us and them. They wanted to achieve the uplift of the workers by co-operating with the Whitley Commission and by sending delegates to Geneva. We thought otherwise. We are convinced that the condition of the workers can be improved only by strengthening their organisation and not by petitions and deputations. Even with these differences we could have managed to work together in one Trade Union Congress. But these people elected to form themselves

into a separate organisation. About a year later another split took place at Calcutta. The group that separated at this time calls itself Communist. But this is not the real difference. One of the main differences is about the attitude towards the national movement. The so-called Communist group desires to have no connection with the national movement. We of A.I.T.U.C. believe that the workers must participate in the national movement."

Mr. G.L.Khandelkar, President of the Bombay Girni Kamgar (Red Flag) Union, who presided over the session, referred to the sufferings of the working classes, brought about by the crisis: "The working class is experiencing the worst suffering as a result of the crisis. Increasing unemployment, wage cuts, retrenchments and rationalization have made life impossible for the workers. Nearly 100,000 workers have been thrown out of employment in the railways, over 70,000 Mill workers are stalking the streets in the textile centres of India, over 40,000 jute workers are languishing in hunger and are literally faced with starvation. There is no hope on the horizon of any improvement in the crisis and the industrial position of the country."

After pointing out how various isolated strikes, through which the discontent of the workers found an outlet, have all fizzled out, he said: "The situation demands a general strike to resist the capitalist offensive". He then analysed the reasons why the workers have failed to organise a general strike in any industry, which were (1) internal dissensions in the Trade Union movement; (2) lack of political consciousness and (3) want of adequate leadership. But for these factors, "at the end of the crisis, the T.U.movement ...

would have come of age with revolutionary consciousness to prepare the working class to claim its heritage and legitimate right to lead and organise society. The time for action passed when the seething discontent failed to find organised expression in the form of a general strike. When the railway workers were clamouring for a general strike to resist the retrenchment, the reformist leadership of the Railwaymen's Federation sat on its throat and throttled it. Vague phrases and pseudo-radical resolutions ended in smoke while the betrayers were parleying with the agents of imperialism in Simla and Delhi. "The national reformists of the Railwaymen's Federation have dropped their borrowed feathers and shamelessly joined hands with the agents of imperialism in the labour movement to create the National Federation of Trade Unions; and ultra-leftists have isolated themselves in the Red Trade Union Congress and are rapidly heading towards the goal of complete isolation and liquidation". Regarding the re-establishment of unity in Trade Union ranks, he said:

"In the Platform of Unity the Trade Union Congress has declared that a Trade Union is a class organization. "Its programme and policy and tactics must be determined always from the standpoint of collective interests of the working class" (M.N.Roy). As the interests of the workers are irreconcilable with those of capitalists they have to be defended by all effective means. Therefore, the Trade Union is essentially an organ of class struggle. If the interests of the workers were not antagonistic to those of the capitalists there would be no need for any Trade Unionism. The acceptance of this principle is essential for the development of the Trade Union movement.

The Platform has drawn up the following immediate demands for mobilizing the workers in struggle.

1. Eight hours working day, including an hour's rest, in all the trades and industries;
2. Minimum wages guaranteeing all the workers an irreducible standard;
3. Weekly payment of wages;
4. Equal wages for equal labour without social or sexual discrimination;

5. One month's leave a year with full pay;
6. Unemployment, sickness, old age and maternity insurance at the expense of the employers;
7. Better housing and labour conditions for all the workers, the rent for workers' lodgings not to exceed 10 per cent of the wages.
8. Establishment of independent workers' Committees in factories, shops, mills, pitheads, harbours, dockyards, plantations and all other places where collective work is performed, to supervise that the conditions of labour comply with the standard fixed;
9. Abolition of the employment of children under 14 years of age;
10. Abolition of the employment of women and children underground in mines;
11. Abolition of the employment of women for one month preceding and a month after child birth;
12. Abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions. Abolition of the system of indentured labour as in the plantations;
13. Abolition of the fines imposed by the employers, be they private individuals or the Government;
14. Abolition of the system of Provident Fund controlled by the employers.

The A.I.T.U.C. has also defined in unequivocal terms its attitude on the questions of foreign affiliation and the national struggle. The A.I.T.U.C. considers that no good can come to the Indian labour movement by foreign affiliation at present. It is therefore not worth while to split the movement on this remote question.

On the national movement the Platform declares: "That the Indian movement shall support and actively participate in the struggle for national freedom, from the point of view of the working class. They do not believe that any compromise between the foreign and Indian bourgeoisie (Responsible Government or Dominion Status) can ever change the condition of the workers substantially. The basic political demand of the Indian working class is the termination of Imperialist domination, overthrow of capitalism and socialisation of the means of production".

On the basis of this Platform the Trade Union movement can unite itself.

Pandit Jawahar Lall Nehru^{also} addressed the Conference. [Among the resolutions adopted by the Congress were one advocating a general strike in the textile industry (moved by Mr. Nimbkar), another condemning the White Paper on Indian Constitutional Reforms (moved

by Mr. Ruikar), and a third, opposing imperialist and capitalist exploitation. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Sen, Jhabwalla, Khedgikar, Ruikar, Ghanekar, Pramanik, Rajani Mukerji, Harihar Nath Shastri and Dr. Mukherji was appointed to draft the constitution of a political party of workers and peasants in order to give them a correct lead in the political struggle; the constitution is to be submitted to the executive of the Congress at its next meeting. The Congress also resolved to start a weekly or fortnightly journal, and the committee appointed for this purpose is composed of Messrs Ruikar, Mescarnes, Nimbkar, Shastri and Kaji Banerji.

The following Office-bearers have been elected for the ensuing year:-

Hariharnath Shastri, President; Abdul Majid, Vishwanath Mukherji, Charu Banerji, S.H.Jhabwala, S.B.Sen, R.S.Suikar and Sabhapati, Vice-Presidents; Shivnath Banerji, General Secretary; Jaggam Pushkarnath Bhatt, N.John, D.L. Phatak, Sundarajam and S. Pramanik, Secretaries; V.B.Karnich, Rajani Mukherji, Rajaram Shastri and B.K. Mitra, Organising Secretaries; Jahar Ganguli, Treasurer.

The next session of the Congress will be held in Bengal.

The National Trade Union Federation;

First Session, December 24 & 25, 1933. ✓

It will be recalled that, as a result of the efforts made to heal the 1929 schism in the Trade Union movement, the final session of the Unity Conference, held at Delhi on the 27th & 28th February 1933, adopted a constitution which, it was hoped, would be acceptable to both the Indian Trade Union Congress and the Indian Trade Union Federation, and lead⁶ the merger of both in a new body called the

"National Federation of Labour". The Indian Trade Union Congress being unwilling to agree to such a merger, the "National Federation of Labour" formed at Delhi merged with the Indian Trade Union Federation (a joint meeting was held at Calcutta in April 1933 for this purpose), the new organisation being called the "National Trades Union Federation", which came into being on the 10th May 1933.

The first session of the National Trades Union Federation was held at Bombay on the 24th & 25th December, 1933. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation), Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates in a speech in which he reviewed the circumstances which led to the creation of the National Trades Union Federation. The only ostensible reason for the Indian Trade Union Congress remaining aloof are, according to him, the differences of opinion on the question of participation in the International Labour Conference at Geneva and the ~~pro~~ provisional affiliation to the International Federation of Trade Unions. "As regards the latter, I am quite clear that our Federation will be willing to compromise with the Trade Union Congress in the interests of unity. As regards Geneva, there can be no compromise.....we cannot overlook the fact that it is the biggest international platform for labour, and it would be suicidal for the Trade Union movement in this country to become isolated by cutting itself adrift from that platform". The real reason for the Trade Union Congress not coming into a common fold are "partly personal, and partly because some of its leaders glory in styling themselves the Roy group of communists". The Trade Union Congress has not even a membership of 15,000, while the Federation has

affiliated to itself 47 unions with a total membership of 135,000, and is thus the biggest and the most representative labour organisation in the country.

Mr. Mehta was in favour of the labour movement co-operating with the nationalist forces in the country "consistently with the maintenance of the labour point of view". "we stand for a socialist state in a free India"; and he advocated such action as was necessary to bring about the fulfilment of this ideal.

To meet the situation created by the crisis, he recommended a programme, the chief features of which were (1) reduction of working hours to six, without reduction of wages, (2) the provision of unemployment benefits, (3) the extension of public works to provide employment, (4) a minimum wage, and (5) the provision of suitable industrial housing.

Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose (Press Employees' Association, Calcutta) then delivered his Presidential Address. After reviewing the international ^{situation} ~~side~~ and the present condition in India, he referred to the national struggle in the country and said that the labour movement "should co-operate, or non-co-operate, or fight" with the national movement, as and when necessary for the interests of the working classes. He considered ^{that} the recommendations of the Whitley Report, when put into effect, would render the workers much fitter for the struggle for the establishment of socialism. Already, some legislation has been passed to implement the Whitley Recommendations, though more remains to be done. He then analysed the causes of the weakness of Indian trade unions, and advocated that there should be ^{intensive} more/organisation and the cultivation of a sturdier spirit of self-reliance, as also the creation of a class of paid union executives

drawn from the workers.

The Secretary's report was then adopted, and a series of resolutions passed. The more important of the latter are:-

1. The resolution requesting the British Trade Union Congress to act as the agent of the Indian National Trade Union Federation.

2. The resolution to provisionally affiliate the Indian Federation to the International Federation of Trade Unions for two years.

3. The resolution calling for the Central and Provincial governments and employers to implement the Whitley recommendations more expeditiously.

4. The resolution appealing to the I.L.O. to make a fresh effort to summon an Asiatic Labour Conference, and

5. The resolution ~~xxxxx~~ instructing the General Council of the Federation to organise an Indian Federation of Textile workers.

The International Labour Office was represented at this Conference by Dr. P.P.Pillai, who conveyed the I.L.O.'s greetings to the Indian Labour movement.

Mr. Jammadas M.Mehta was elected President of the Federation for the ensuing year, and Mr. R.R.Bakhale re-elected General Secretary. Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta has also been elected Workers' Delegate to the I.L. Conference of 1934.

Madura Labour Union Meetings

Indian Branch of I.L.O.Praised. ✓

ç The following account of a meeting of the textile labourers of Madura held under the auspices of the Madura Labour Union on 8-12-33 with Mr. S.R.Varadarajulu Naidu, a labour leader of Madras, as the principal speaker, is taken from the Hindu of 11-12-1933;

Addressing a meeting of the textile workers under the auspices of the Madura Labour Union on 8-12-1933 at Puttutope, Madura,

Mr. S.R.Varadarajulu Naidu reviewed the work of the Branch of the International Labour Office in Delhi and that of Dr. P.P.Pillai, its Director, and paid a tribute to its work. He suggested that the Branch should get into more intimate touch with workers' organisations in the country. He also proposed that the attitude of the Government of India and the Provincial Government towards labour should engage the attention of the Branch and the headquarters.

(The Hindu, 11-12-1933).

B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union;

13th Annual Conference, Dohad, 1933. ✓

The 13th annual Conference of the B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union was held at Dohad on 18 & 19-11-1933 under the presidentship of Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta. In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Mehta stressed the importance of the workers strengthening the Union by increasing its membership and directed attention to the service rendered by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation by getting the Railway Board to curtail its retrenchment programme by the retention of nearly 40,000 workers, whose services would otherwise have been dispensed with. In dealing with the grievances of the workers of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, Mr. Mehta pointed out that the Washington Hours Convention and the Geneva Convention re.. weekly rest have not yet been enforced in the Railway. He demanded that these should be immediately enforced, and "that too, not in a grudging, niggardly and half-hazard manner as has so far been done but in the true spirit of the Conventions."

The following is the text of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference:-

(1) This Conference protests against the proposals for the Constitution of a Statutory Railway Board as being seriously prejudicial to the Railway workers inasmuch as they are calculated to deprive the workers of the protection of the legislature.

(2) This Conference urges upon the Government of India that the revision of the Trades Disputes Act of 1929 be made on the lines of the representation made by this Union to the Department of Industries and Labour (vide page 21 of our October 1933 report for a summary of the Union's views.)

(3) This Conference endorses the representation of the All e

Recommendation of the

India Railwaymen's Federation on the Royal Commission on Labour for the setting up of a joint standing machinery for the settlement of Trade Disputes on Railways.

(4) This Conference is seriously concerned at the reported proposals for the revision of pay of ~~the~~ railway staff and demands that the Union should be furnished with full particulars of the said proposals and that no action of any kind should be taken before the Union had been given an opportunity ~~for~~ making representations ~~on this behalf.~~ *subject.*

(5) This Conference is of opinion that the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act with regard to payments are unsatisfactory inasmuch as the employers take shelter under the plea of investigation to avoid such payments and urges the amendment of the Act to remedy this defect.

(Extracted from ~~the~~ text of the speech of Mr. Mehta and of the resolutions forwarded to this Office by Mr. Jannadas M.Mehta.)

All-India Railwaymen's Week; Demonstration Against

Reduction of Scales of Pay for Railway Servants.

Reference was made at page 47 of our November 1933 report to the decision arrived at the special Convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, which was held at Delhi on 5 & 6-11-33, to hold ~~at~~ between 1 and 7-12-1933 meetings of protest and demonstration throughout the country against the lowered scales of pay for railway servants proposed by the Government some time ago. Meetings and demonstrations were held by railwaymen in almost all important railway centres and resolutions passed condemning the proposals of the Government. The following is the text of the resolutions passed by the M. & ~~M.~~S.M. Railway Employees' Union, held at Madras on 1-12-1933;.

(1) Whereas the present level of wages and salaries of the Indian railwaymen are deplorably low and absolutely insufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living, and whereas, under the circumstances, the introduction of the contemplated revised scales of pay will undermine even the present hand-to-mouth existence of the railwaymen and react tragically on their efficiency and productive capacity, this meeting records its emphatic protest against the proposed adverse revised scales of pay for subordinate and inferior staff and the worsening of service conditions, especially when the financial position of the Railways is tending to improve, and warns the Government of India and the Railway Board of the consequences of such hasty, ill-conceived and reactionary measures.

(2) This meeting requests the Railway Board to realise the depth and intensity of the workers' feeling in the matter and, taking fully into their confidence the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, to discuss ^{the revised scales} with the representatives of the Federation and obtain their opinion before launching upon any proposals of far-reaching consequences and thus avoid ~~the~~ precipitating of a crisis.

(3) This meeting further resolves that the executives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation do take immediate steps to organise the so-far unorganised centres of Railwaymen.

(4) This meeting protests against the decision of the Railway Board to invite Mr. Pope for a second time at a heavy cost, although he had already reported that the maximum extent of economy measures had already been put into effect on the Indian Railways.

(5) This meeting condemns the Government of India for refusing to ratify two important Conventions of the 17th Session of the International Labour Conference concerning Invalidity, Old-age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance and Abolition of Fee-charging Employment Agencies, and warns the Government that such non-ratification would result in serious labour discontent throughout the country.

(6) This meeting further resolves that the Government do so amend the Trade Disputes Act as to make it illegal for an employer to discharge or dismiss an employee for his legitimate trade union activities.

(7) This meeting records its emphatic protest against the contemplated creation of a Statutory Railway ^{Board which will be} virtually beyond the control of the Indian Legislature.

(Labour Times, 4-12-1933)

Intellectual Workers.Workers' Hours in Newspaper Offices:Important Calcutta Decision. ✓

An important judgment giving a decision on the point whether employees in the advertising and reading section in the printing office of a newspaper are to be classed as employees coming under the operation of the Factory Act, or whether they form part of the editorial staff and are not, therefore, governed by the Factory Act, was delivered by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, in a case in which Mr. H.E. Watson, a Director of the "Statesman" printing press, Calcutta, was charged with two offences under the Factory Act. The facts of the case are as follows:-

The Prosecution Case. - It was alleged by the prosecution that (1) the firm's employment register had not been properly maintained up to date in the prescribed form and (2) that men were employed exceeding the scheduled hours in the advertisement and reading departments of the newspaper.

Defence Arguments. - The defence was that the employment register had been maintained in the present form for years and had been inspected from time to time by the Factory Inspector, and that no objection had ever before been raised. The register, with the time sheets, gave all the particulars as required by the Factory Act; and the day on which it was inspected in connexion with the present prosecution was a holiday, and it was found to have been written up to the last working day.

In regard to the second charge it was stated that the men who were employed were not workmen under the Act, and that some of them who might have been employed over scheduled hours were subsequently granted a holiday.

Magistrate's Findings. - The magistrate during the course of his judgment said:-

"The complaint relating to the improper maintenance of the employment register is not maintainable. The attendance register, supplemented by the time sheets, furnishes a complete record where all the particulars required by the Act are available. The Factory Inspector has admitted that the time sheets and the attendance register tally, and on examination no discrepancies or "fudging" has been detected. Indeed, the Inspector's complaint that certain

employees worked for more than eleven hours a day in contravention of section 28 is based on those very time sheets.

o

Registers Properly Kept.— The defence case is that for at least ten years the employment register has been maintained in that form supplemented by the time sheets, and that no Inspector ever had any occasion to find fault with it. The charge that on October 19, 1933, the Employment Register was not up to date, having been made up only to October 17, 1933, is unsustainable as the 18th and 19th were gazetted holidays.

Advertising Staff Classed as Intellectual Workers. — In connexion with the second charge, the magistrate said: "The complaint under section 28 is that seven men in the advertising section, four in the reading section, a copyholder and a printer worked for more than eleven hours on dates specified in the petition of complaint. I find myself in complete agreement with the defence that the employees of the advertising and the reading sections form part of the editorial staff, and are not governed by the Factories Act, and in this view of the matter it is unnecessary to discuss the hours of work of the employees named in the complaint

(The Statesman, 9-12-1933).

Economic Conditions.

✓ Trade of India in 1932 - 33.*

In the table given below are shown the figures relating to the principal commodities of Indian export and import trade:-

Trade Variations at a Glance

India's Imports.

	1932-33	1931-32
Visible Trade Balance	Rs. 680 millions.	Rs. 900 millions.
All merchandise	Rs. 1,330 "	Rs. 1,260 "
Textiles	Rs. 470 "	Rs. 350 "
Raw Cotton	85,000 tons	79,000 tons
Sugar	401,000 tons.	556,000 tons
Mineral oils (gallons)	188 millions	217 millions
-do- (valuation)	Rs 67.0 millions	Rs 90.4 millions.

India's Exports.

	1932-33	1931-32
All Merchandise	Rs. 1,360 millions	Rs. 1,385 millions
Raw Cotton	Rs. 200 "	Rs. 230 millions
Food grains	Rs. 160.8 "	Rs. 203.7 "
Jute & Jute manu- factures.	Rs. 314.4 "	Rs. 331.1 "
Hides & Skins	Rs. 74.3 "	Rs. 89.2 "

General. - The calamitous decline in commodity prices, which started towards the last quarter of 1929 and resulted in so much economic distress, has not yet been arrested and one of the main tasks facing the World Economic Conference in London was to devise means for the restoration of prices to the pre-depression level. When England and some other countries suspended the gold standard in September 1931, the immediate result was a slight improvement in prices. This improvement, however, could not be maintained. An examination of the index numbers of the period in India brings out the main characteristic of the Indian price index numbers during the past few years, viz., the larger fall in agricultural prices as

*Dept. of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, India - Review of the Trade of India in 1932-33 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. - Delhi; Manager of Publications 1933. Price Rs.3-4 or 5s.6d. - pp. xxiii+299.

compared with industrial prices. Another noticeable feature is that the distinct improvement in prices of most of the staple commodities, which marked the close of the year 1931 and the beginning of the year 1932, was not in evidence later. The heaviest declines have invariably been in raw materials. Among manufactured articles, the slump in prices of jute manufactures was consistently heavier than in the prices of any other manufactured article, cotton manufactures and metals following in order. Of agricultural products, sugar suffered least, largely as a result of the increased import duties on this article.

Fall in Value of Trade. - The total value of the imports of merchandise into British India during 1932-33 amounted to Rs. 1330 *Compared with the preceding year, there was an improvement of Rs. 70 millions* millions and that of exports to Rs. 1360 millions, *or 5 per cent* in the case of imports, while there was a decline of Rs. 250 millions or 15 per cent under exports.

Imports. - On the import side there was an improvement noticeable in India's demand for foreign textiles. The increase recorded under this head amounted to one of Rs. 120 millions on a total of Rs. 350 millions recorded in 1931-32. Owing to increased finer spinning in the local mills the imports of raw cotton rose still further from 79,000 tons to 85,000 tons. Under the metals group there was a decline of Rs. 500,000. Imports of iron and steel fell from Rs. 63.2 millions to Rs. 53 millions in value. Under machinery and mill work there was a decline of Rs. 3.8 millions although sugar and textile machinery recorded increases. The year witnessed a further diminution in the imports of motor vehicles from Rs. 28.9 millions to Rs. 24.3 millions. Concomitantly with the

reduction under motor vehicles, the value of the imports of rubber manufactures also declined from Rs. 22.1 millions to Rs. 19.8 millions. Mainly as a result of the increased local production under the shelter of the protective duty, India's requirements of foreign sugar of all kinds fell from 556,000 tons valued at Rs. 61.65 millions to 401,000 tons valued at Rs. 42.3 millions. Arrivals of mineral oils also declined from 217 million gallons to 188 million gallons and in value from Rs. 90.4 millions to Rs. 67.0 millions.

Exports. - On the export side, the outstanding feature was a further slump in the raw cotton trade due to comparatively high prices of the Indian staples. Despatches of raw cotton fell from 2,369,000 bales valued at Rs. 230 millions to 2,063,000 bales valued at Rs. 200 millions. The downward movement in the export trade in jute continued during the year and the decline in the value of raw and manufactured jute exported amounted to one of about Rs. 15 millions. Under foodgrains the value of the shipments declined from Rs. 203.7 millions to Rs. 160.8 millions and the quantity from 2,614,000 tons to 2,056,000 tons. Shipments of tea improved in quantity from 342 million lbs. to 379 million lbs., but on account of the low level of prices the value declined from Rs. 194.4 millions to Rs. 171.5 millions. Exports of oilseeds amounted to 733,000 tons valued at Rs. 113.1 millions, which meant a decline of 26 per cent in quantity and of 22 per cent in value in comparison with the exports of the preceding year. Despatches of metals and ores declined from 829,000 tons worth Rs. 54.7 millions to 695,000 tons worth Rs. 46.8 millions.

There was a decline in the shipments of hides and skins from 49,000 tons valued at Rs. 89.2 millions to 41,700 tons valued at Rs. 74.3 millions. Exports of lac amounted to 418,300 cwts. valued at Rs. 12.4 millions which represented a decline of 10 per cent in quantity and of 33 per cent in value in comparison with the corresponding figures for 1931-32. Exports of coffee rose by 18,000 cwts. in quantity and by Rs. 1.5 millions in value.

Balance of Trade. - The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1932-33 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 680 millions as compared with Rs. 900 millions in 1931-32, Rs. 380 millions in 1930-31 and the record figure of Rs. 1,090 millions in 1925-26. The transactions in treasure on private account resulted in a net export of treasure, amounting to Rs. 650 millions as against Rs. 555 millions in the preceding year. Gold showed a net export of Rs. 655 millions ~~in the preceding~~ and silver a net import of Rs. 7.3 millions. Net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 1.3 millions.

Gold Exports. - The year witnessed a further development of the export trade in gold, the net exports during the year having amounted to Rs. 655.2 millions as compared with Rs. 579.8 millions in the preceding year. The outward flow of gold on such a heavy scale has been ^a novel feature of India's external trade, the exports having begun to assume importance only from October 1931. The causes and implication of these gold exports, according to the latest Report of the Controller of the Currency on the subject, are as follows:-

"While it is probably true that a certain proportion of the

gold exported in recent months has come out because holders had to realise their savings to meet current expenditure owing to the very low prices obtained for primary commodities, it is equally certain that a large proportion, possibly the larger proportion, has been sold as a purely business proposition to realise the premium. It is well-known that bullion dealers all over the country have been very active in collecting gold for sale to the export markets, and in some districts special purchasing agencies were opened by exporters. It is reasonable to infer that many holders who parted with their gold would not have done so but for the allurements of an immediate profit which was pressed on their notice persistently."

Rupee Exchange & Tariff Changes. - Reviewing the rupee exchange, it is stated that the lowest rate for the year was $17\frac{7}{8}d$ and the highest $18\frac{5}{32}d$. The rate of the Imperial Bank of India fell from its opening rate of 6 successively to 5, 4 and on 16-2-1933 to $3\frac{1}{2}$, which is the lowest point reached since the inception of the Imperial Bank of India in 1921. Compared with the previous year, freight rates during the year under review reached further low levels. During the period under review many changes were made in tariff rates by means of legislative enactments. The most important of these Acts is the Indian Tariff (Ottawa Trade Agreement) Amendment Act, 1932. Hitherto the Indian tariff was a single-decker one and did not differentiate between imports from different countries, except in the case of certain protected classes of iron and steel goods and cotton piecegoods where higher rates of duty on goods manufactured in countries other than the United Kingdom were imposed. Under the Ottawa Trade Agreement,

India for the first time departed from the single-decker tariff policy and adopted, on terms of reciprocity, tariff preference for certain classes of goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom. The Agreement also provided for the exchange of preference with the non self-governing Colonies and Protectorates.

Industrial Situation. - The report states that the year 1932 must be considered as satisfactory so far as industrial disputes are concerned, for the numbers of strikes and of workers involved ~~in the~~ during the year were the lowest recorded for any year since 1920. Such strikes as did occur during 1932 mostly affected the railways and jute mills, the only serious cases being the strikes in the workshops of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways at Perambur, Arkonum and Hubli and in the Howrah, Kelvin and Standard Jute Mills in Bengal. The first quarter of the year 1933, however, has already been marked by disputes in the Bombay cotton mills.

(The trade of India in 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 50-58 of the report of this Office for September 1931 and that for 1931-32 at pages 37-41 of our October 1932 report).

Board of Economic Enquiry Constituted in Bengal. ✓

The Government of Bengal, for some time, have had under consideration the question of creating an organisation for the study of the economic problems affecting the Province. It will be remembered that in 1931, Sir Arthur Salter, visited India and prepared a scheme for an economic advisory organisation in India (vide pages 38-45 of our June 1931 report). He expressed the opinion that a more effective system of securing a place for non-official opinion

among the elements from which Government policy is evolved, should be ~~advised~~ ^{devised} and he recommended that, in addition to a Central Economic Advisory Council, there should be an Economic Advisory Council in each province. Up to the present, various considerations, partly financial, have prevented the Local Government from taking action on Sir Arthur Salter's proposals, but the question of appointing a committee on the lines recommended by him has recently been revived by the local Chambers of Commerce (vide pages 52-54 of our December 1932 report) and after full consideration of their views, the Provincial Government have come to the conclusion that, in spite of the financial stringency, the time has now arrived, when special machinery should be set up to facilitate co-operation between the Government and representatives of outside opinion in the study of the economic problems affecting Bengal. They have, therefore, decided to constitute a Board of Economic Enquiry.

The Board will be constituted as follows;- A chairman; six representatives of the various Chambers of Commerce; two representatives of the provincial Universities, one to be nominated by the University of Calcutta and the other by the University of Dacca; two representatives of agricultural interests; an representative of labour; two non-officials, interested in economic problems; the Director of Agriculture; the Director of Industries; the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; the Senior Professor of Economics at the Presidency College; and two officials interested in economics and statistics.

The functions of the Board will be;- (1) to conduct enquiries into such economic matters as may be referred to it by the local

Government and (2) to initiate and conduct, subject to the sanction of the Government, enquiries into other economic matters; (i.e. other than those referred to it by Government).

The Board will be provided with a Government officer as Secretary. It is proposed to place at its disposal a grant of Rs. 15,000 a year to cover expenditure on the enquiries it may decide to undertake.

(The Hindu, 1-12-1933).

✓ Rural Indebtedness in Bombay Presidency;

Non-Official Enquiry Committee Appointed. ✓

At the last session of the All-Maharashtra Political Conference which was held on 29-10-1933, Mr. M Jammadas M. Mehta, (President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation & a prominent labour leader of Bombay) in the course of his speech at the Conference as the chairman of the Reception Committee, made a reference to rural indebtedness in India and outlined a scheme for relieving agricultural indebtedness in the country. The following extract from the speech gives the details of Mr. Mehta's scheme:

"I estimate the total indebtedness of the ryot in this country to be in the neighbourhood of 1,2000 millions of rupees. This is made up as much of principal as of interest calculated at compound rate. The rate of interest has varied from 10 per cent to 15 per cent and often higher. In some cases it is altogether monstrous, being 150 per cent per annum. The existence of co-operative societies has made but negligible difference. Nothing can help the peasant to return to prosperity while this debt remains in the present form. I have prepared a scheme for relieving agricultural indebtedness. The principle on which the scheme is based is that the State should take over this debt and convert the sow@ar's loans into its own at a moderate rate of interest and sinking fund.

Any sower who can establish a debt due from an agriculturist before a properly constituted authority within a specified period should get bonds for an amount equivalent to his loan. The bonds should have a currency of sixty years and should be issued at four per cent interest. One per cent more should be added to this for the amortisation and the service of the debt and the State ^{should} recover this from the peasant as land revenue, so that no separate expense need be incurred for collecting it. While this loan remains unpaid, the peasant should not be permitted to alienate his land in favour of a sower. This, in a nutshell, is my scheme. Its details will have to be varied in different parts of the country as local conditions require."

The Conference having considered this scheme passed the following resolution:

Resolved that the outline of the scheme for relieving agricultural indebtedness envisaged by Mr. Jammadas Mehta in his speech delivered as the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference ~~is~~ accepted in principle and the detailed preparation of a full scheme is hereby referred for consideration and report to a committee.

In pursuance of this resolution, a Committee of eight with Mr. Jammadas Mehta as Chairman has recently been appointed. The following are the terms of reference of the Committee, of which Mr. R.R. Bakhale is also a member:-

1. To examine with special reference to the Bombay Presidency the scheme for the relief of agricultural indebtedness outlined in the speech of Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta.
2. To suggest alternatives and modifications if any, and
3. To make recommendations.

(The Hindu, 1-12-1933).

Cotton Talks. ✓

At pages 54-55 of our November 1933 report an account was given of the progress during November of the cotton talks between the representatives of the Indian and Japanese Governments. At the end of November the position was that a settlement as to broad principles regarding the export quota and the percentage composition of the quota of 400,000,000 yards of piece-goods allowed to Japan was arrived at .

In the course of subsequent discussions, the Japanese did not appear to object to any provision against depreciation of Japanese currency as they declared such depreciation would not take place and therefore the provisions contemplated by the Indian side would not really affect them. The discussions therefore centred round the 10 per cent allowance asked by the Japanese for the purpose of variation within the agreed percentages for the four categories of piecegoods. The Indian side held that even if it should be conceded that a variation was desirable for smooth operation of the trade, it should be reasonably spread over various categories, ~~and that no arrangement could be permitted which would in effect enable Japan to convert ^{some} one category from 8 to 18 per cent thereby involving an increase on that head of 10 per cent.~~ Therefore it was maintained that if the Japanese really desire to have ^a smooth working of the quota ^{system} it could be achieved by permitting variations under the four heads up to a maximum of ten or even 15 per cent in any class so long as the quota of 400 million yards was not exceeded. ~~As~~ The Japanese did not agree to this. By the close of the month the Government of India had communicated their final

proposals regarding the 10 per cent allowance and the Japanese Government had put forward counter-proposals, the terms of which are not known. In the meanwhile, cables received from Tokio to the effect that the cotton spinners of Okasa reaffirmed their intention to boycott Indian raw cotton and were thinking of recalling their representatives participating in the cotton talks further estranged Indian feelings. (Statesman 2-12-1933).

At a meeting of the two delegations on 4-12-1933, the Government of India gave a detailed reply to the counter-proposals of Japan made towards the end of November. It is understood that slight concessions in regard to allowances in the various categories of the quota were offered by the Indian Government and that in other respects the terms of the Government of India were final and were thus not open to further discussion. The Japanese Government prayed for time to consider the terms and to persuade the Japanese millowners to accept them. Cables from Tokio during December have not been reassuring as the Japanese spinners and millowners are reported to be evincing a great amount of unwillingness to accept the Government of India's final proposals. The reply of the Japanese Government has not been received here till 2-1-34.

In the meanwhile the Government of India introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 22-12-1933 a Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act of 1894, a measure designed to check the inflow of foreign goods, mainly of Japanese manufacture, into India. The Bill may put fresh difficulties in the way of the success of the cotton talks, as Japanese export firms are very much perturbed by the higher tariffs sought to be introduced by the Bill.

The hold-up of the cotton talks is causing great uneasiness among Indian textile interests, especially among the cotton growers, though Sir Joseph Bhore, Commerce Member, ~~however~~, gave assurances in the Assembly on 20-12-1933 that the Government are alive to the critical position of the industry and that adequate measures will be adopted whereby cotton growers' interests will be safeguarded even if the negotiations fail.

As a result of the pact ~~entered into~~ between the Lancashire Textile representatives ^{and} with the representatives of the Bombay millowners (vide pages 35-37 of our October 1933 report for the terms of the pact), the Lancashire millowners are reported to have begun a campaign to popularise Indian raw cotton so as to ensure an increased use of it in their mills. They have formed an organisation for the purpose known as the Indian Cotton Enquiry Committee, the Chairman of which, Sir Richard Jackson, is expected to visit India by the end of January 1934, to discuss matters with the Indian Central Cotton Committee. Moreover, two cotton Commissioners are to be sent out to India very soon as liaison officers to help the increased use of Indian raw cotton by Lancashire. (Statesman 29-12-1933). Mr. R. Fleming is to be one of the two Commissioners. (Statesman 23-12-1933).

Discussions between British and Japanese textile interests regarding Empire markets are to begin soon after the termination of the present cotton negotiations between the Indian and Japanese Governments.

It is now understood (4-1-34) that the Japanese Delegation has agreed to the final proposals put forward by the Govt. of India.

Indian Cotton Mill Industry; Progress during 1932-33. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently published the annual mill statement for the cotton year ended August 31, 1933, a summary of which is given below:-

Number of Mills. - The statement shows that the total number of equipped mills in India is 344 as against 339 on 31st August 1932. There is a decrease of 5 mills in Bombay City and Island owing to the sale or scrapping of the machinery in the Atlas Mills, the Maneckjee Petit Mills and the Raja Bahadur Motilal Bombay Mills. The number of mills in Ahmedabad increased from 78 to 82 with the opening of the Bihari Mills, the New National Mills the Nutan Mills and the Rohit Mills, which were last year shown as in course of erection. The number of mills in the Bombay Presidency, exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island, remained the same at 60. The number of equipped mills in Central India increased from 13 to 14 as the Motilal Agarwal Mills commenced working during the year. In Bengal the number of equipped mills is now 19 as against 18 last year, the East India Cotton Mills having commenced work during the year. There was no change in the number of mills in the United Provinces, but the number of equipped mills in the Madras Presidency increased from 26 to 28 as the Dhanalakshmi and the Rajalakshmi Mills commenced working. There was no change in the number of equipped mills in Mysore, Pondicherry, Burma, Rajputana, Central Provinces, Berar or the Punjab. Of the 344 equipped mills in the country, 31 were not working during the whole of the year to which the Statement relates. Of these 31 mills, 14 were located in

Bombay City and Island. (Since the Statement was prepared, the number of idle mills in Bombay City and Island has increased owing to the closing down of a number of mills which were formerly under the agency of Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim & Sons, Ltd.).

The number of mills in course of erection has slightly decreased but the list still contains the names of 19 mills, the erection of which is projected in Bengal.

Statistics of Spindles and Looms. - The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country now stands at 9,572,000, an increase of 65,000 during the year. The total number of looms is 189,040, an increase of 2,600 during the year. In Bombay City and Island, the number of spindles fell to ~~3.3~~ 3.3 millions from 3.45 millions and the number of looms from 77,000 to 73,000. In Ahmedabad, the number of spindles increased by 150,000 to 1,978,000 and the number of looms increased from 42,500 to 47,200. In the United Provinces, the numbers of spindles and looms were respectively 664,000 and 8,906; both these figures are slightly higher than last year's figures. In the Madras Presidency, there was an increase of 43,000 spindles and 300 looms during the year, the total figures on 31st August 1933 being 864,000 spindles and 5,550 looms. In the Central Provinces, there was no change in the number of looms, but a very slight increase in the number of spindles, the figures at the end of the year being Spindles 306,000 and looms 5,723. In Central India, the number of spindles increased by 12,000 to 314,000 and the number of looms by 135 to a total of 8,339. In Bengal, the number of spindles increased by 8,000 to a total of 333,000 and the number of looms by 700 to a total of 5,976. In the Punjab, the number of spindles increased

by 8,000 to a total of 157,546, and the number of looms increased by 150 to a total of 3,758. The changes in the number of spindles and looms in other centres of the Industry were insignificant.

Paid-up Capital. - The total paid-up capital of the industry on the 31st August 1933 amounted to Rs. 396.7 millions a drop of Rs. 6.6 millions compared with last year. In Bombay City and Island, the total paid-up capital of the completely equipped mills fell by Rs. 7.9 millions to the figure of Rs. 139.6 millions but this loss was to some extent made up by the additional capital invested in new mills in other centres of the Industry.

Activity of the Industry. - The activity of the industry^s compared with the previous year is reflected in the figures of cotton consumed. In the year ending 31st August 1933, the industry consumed 1,419,000 candies (1 candy = 784 lbs.) of cotton as compared with 1,456,000 candies in the previous year. In Bombay City and Island, the drop in consumption was relatively more severe than in other parts of the country, 399,000 candies having been consumed in 1933 as compared with 460,000 candies in 1932. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 8,202,000 out of a total of 9,572,000 erected. Last year, the corresponding figures were 8,323,000 working out of a total of 9,506,000 erected. Of the 189,000 looms erected, an average of 163,000 were working daily during the year. This compares with the figure of 161,000 working daily in the previous year. In Bombay City and Island, only 2,431,000 spindles and 59,000 looms out of 3,300,000 spindles and 73,000 looms were working regularly. It should however, be noted that the above-quoted figures of spindles

and loom activity do not include particulars of night shift working.

Number of Operatives. - The number of operatives employed daily on day shift work was approximately 400,000 as against 403,000 in the previous year. Particulars of the numbers regularly employed on night shift work are not available.

(The Times of India, 25-12-1933).

(The progress of cotton mill industry in India during 1931-32 was reviewed at pages 50-52 of our December 1932 report).

Retrenchment in Railways; Second Stage of Pope Enquiry. ✓

Reference was made at pages 54-55 of our December 1932 report to the appointment of Mr. Pope, a British railway expert, to hold an enquiry into the administrations of the Indian railways systems with a view to effecting possible retrenchments. Mr. Pope submitted his proposals in March 1933. (A summary of the Report was given at pages 32-35 of our May 1933 report). Since the conclusion of his investigation last March, special organisation officers were appointed ^{on} ~~to~~ all important railways to carry out a detailed examination of various railway organisations recommended by him, and the railway administrations were asked to submit progress reports every six months on their activities along the lines recommended by him.

It is now announced that Mr. Pope has been invited to visit India this cold weather to examine how far his recommendations have been carried out and to make further suggestions based ^{on} the fresh data now available regarding the working of the Indian railways.

(Statesman, 15-12-1933.)

Economic Survey of Ceylon. ✓

Reference was made at page 39 of our July 1933 report to the proposal of the Government of Ceylon to conduct at an early date an economic survey of the Island. It is understood that the survey has been postponed until the Economic Survey of India, which is now being conducted, is over. The Ceylon Government is reported to be in communication with the Government of India with a view to securing the services of one of the two British experts who are conducting the Indian survey.

(The Times of India, 29-12-1933).

Economic Development of the United Provinces;

A Five Year Plan Adopted by the Legislative Council. ✓

The U.P. Legislative Council, at its sitting on 9-12-1933, has accepted a resolution calling upon the Government to adopt a five-year plan of economic development in spite of the opposition offered by the Minister concerned and the Finance Member. The motion which was sponsored by Mr. C.Y. Chintamani demanded that a committee to draw up a five-year plan of economic development for the United Provinces should be appointed with instructions to report also on the financial measures necessary to give effect to its recommendations. The mover referred to the serious poverty in the country which necessitated the application of remedies designed to minimise the evil. Besides there was very serious unemployment in the country especially among the educated people and this consti-

- tutes

a danger to society, the full implications of which do not yet seem to have been realised either by the Government or by the general public. Again there is a good deal which has got to be done to improve cottage industries and methods in agriculture; and though many committees and commissions have reported upon these matters, it cannot be stated truthfully that those recommendations have been adopted according to a well-devised plan.

Mr. Chintamani urged that there should, in the first place, be an economic survey of the province by a few experts in order to ascertain the average income and average expenditure, the possibilities of industrial expansion and the extent to which agriculture and cottage industries could be improved. This survey should be followed, he urged, by the establishment of either an Economic Advisory Council or an Economic Bureau in order that it may consider and lay down schemes and see that those are carried out.

(The Hindu, 13-12-1933).

Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment among Ahmedabad Textile Workers;

Census taken by Labour Union. ✓

On the 28th of June 1933 the Ahmedabad Labour Union took a census in Ahmedabad of cotton mill workers who were unemployed on that day. The enquiry made by the Union is the first of its kind undertaken by a labour organisation in India and probably in the East. It is of great interest both because of its simplicity and economical methods and the character of the information which it has elicited.

There are about 67,000 men working in the mills of Ahmedabad, and ^{the} number of men recorded as unemployed was 4,911. There ^{are} about 12,000 women working in the Ahmedabad mills, ^A large majority of the women unemployed did not get themselves recorded as unemployed as they did not expect to be employed and therefore only 357 women were recorded as unemployed.

The report of the census contains interesting information on such points as unemployment by occupation (weaving, department, calendering etc), length of service of the unemployed men, duration of unemployment, birth place, religion and caste, and age of the unemployed and the causes of loss of employment. The Ahmedabad Labour Union, it is understood, is contemplating the establishment of a labour exchange if adequate co-operation is forthcoming from the Ahmedabad millowners.

(For details see pages 133 to 140 of the October 1933 (vol. XIII, No.2) issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay).

Public Health.Slum Clearing in Madras; Comprehensive Scheme
under Consideration by City Municipality. ✓

In recent years considerable improvement has been effected with regard to housing conditions in Madras City. The lead in the matter has been taken by the City Municipality, but non-official bodies like the Madras Sanitary Welfare League and the Triplicane Sociological Brotherhood have been responsible to a great extent in awakening the civic conscience with regard to the need for improving housing conditions in the City. As a result several new housing schemes have been recently put through (For details of these schemes vide page 69 of our September 1931 report, pages 66-68 of our October 1931 report and pages 59-60 of our June 1933 report). It is ~~now~~ understood that ~~M~~ the Madras Corporation is now actively engaged in formulating a scheme for dealing in a comprehensive manner with the problem of providing sanitary dwellings for the poor and homeless and of eradicating the slums in the City.

Census of Homeless People. - In this connection, a special Committee of the Corporation carried out in the first week of December a census of the homeless people in Madras City. The figures obtained revealed that there are some 10,728 persons, consisting of 7,832 males and 2,896 females, who occupy street pavements and other open spaces or seek shelter in verandahs.

Questionnaire About Housing Conditions. - In addition to the census, the committee has issued a questionnaire to certain persons and institutions in the city interested in housing problems, to elicit adequate information on the subject. The questionnaire deals not merely with the subject of the housing of the City's homeless, comprising mostly of emigrant coolies who flock into the city from the adjoining districts of Chingleput and Nellore, but also, ^{many of} those who are compelled to live in overcrowded houses under conditions which breed insanitation and disease. The replies to the questionnaire are due on December 15, 1933, when the committee will meet to discuss the question and place before the Corporation

a detailed report. It is expected that this report will be ready early in 1934, when a general discussion will take place and the financial implications considered. The Government has already expressed its readiness to assist the Corporation with funds.

Speedy Action Expected. - Hitherto two principal obstacles had stood in the way of the completion of projected housing schemes: first, the lack of adequate funds, and secondly, the difficulties placed in the way of the authorities by the owners of the lands on which most of the slums are located. As an amendment of the City Municipal Act, which is now ready for introduction, arms the Corporation, among other things, with full powers to overcome the opposition of obstructive land-owners, and as the Corporation is assured of some financial assistance from the Government, it is expected that the Corporation's housing programme will be carried out without great delay.

(The Times of India, 7-12-1933)

Co-operation.

Progress of the Co-operative Movement

in India, 1931 - 32*

Number of Societies and Membership. - The principal types of Co-operative Societies in India are (a) Central Unions (including Provincial and Central Banks and Banking Unions), (b) Supervising and Guaranteeing Unions (including Re-insurance Societies), (c) Agricultural Societies (including ~~B~~ Cattle Insurance Societies) and (d) Non-agricultural Societies (including Insurance Societies). The number of societies of all kinds decreased from ~~104,187~~ in ~~1929-30~~ and 106,166 in 1930-31 to 106,050 ^{during 1931-32.} The number of societies per 100,000 inhabitants fell from 33.4 in 1930-31 in British India to 33.2 and increased from 41.5 to 42.5 in the Indian States for which figures are given and remained stationary at 34.4 for the whole of India. The total number of members of primary societies in India fell from 4,308,262 in 1930-³¹ to 4,294,339 in 1931-32. The number of members of primary societies per 1000 inhabitants fell from 13.7 in 1930-31 to 13.5 in 1931-32 in British India and rose from 16.2 to 16.6 in the Indian States for which information is available, and fell from 14.0 to 13.9 for the whole of India. The working capital for all India rose from Rs. 919,122,000 in 1930-31 to Rs. 926,915,000 in 1931-32 but the working capital of Co-operative Societies expressed in terms of annas per head of population remained stationary at 50 ~~per~~ in British India when compared with

* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1931-32 - Published by order of the Governor General in Council - Delhi; Manager of Publications 1933 - Price Re.1-10 or 2s.9d. pp.21.

the figure for 1930-31 and rose from 34 to 36 in the Indian States for which Statistics are given and remained stationary at 48 in the whole of India.

Finances. - In 1931-32, 595 Provincial and Central Banks with a membership of 93,785 individuals and 90,567 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 22,841,646, working capital amounting to Rs. 306,201,724 and profits amounting to Rs. 5,153,346. There were 93,349 agricultural societies with a membership of 3,105,584 in 1931-32 having reserve funds amounting to Rs. 72,008,067, working capital amounting to Rs. 350,924,848 and profits amounting to Rs. 14,631,892. Similarly in the case of non-agricultural societies 10,753 societies with a membership of 1,181,989, had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 14,708,055, working capital amounting to Rs. 170,886,812 and profits amounting to Rs. 6,258,816.

(The progress of the Co-operative Movement in India during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 71-72 of our October 1931 report and that during 1930-31 at pages 59-60 of our October 1932 report.)

Women and Children.Age of Employment of Children Limited
to 12 by Lahore Municipality. ✓

A general meeting of the Lahore Municipal Committee was held on 11-12-1933 at Lahore to discuss the proposal of Lala Jamiat Raó, a Municipal Commissioner, that the municipality should not employ school-going children of the depressed classes but that, if the parents insist on getting work from their children, the time of their employment should be different from the school time so as to enable such children to attend schools. After full discussion, it was decided that children under twelve years of age are not to be employed by the municipality. The children hitherto employed by the municipality are the sons of sweepers and scavengers employed by the Municipality and were engaged in the same work as their parents.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-12-1933.)

Education.Department of Chemical Technology:Opened by Bombay University. ✓

Reference was made at pages 68-69 of our October 1932 report ~~was given~~^{to} the details of a scheme for opening a Department of Chemical Technology under the control of the University of Bombay. On 15-11-33, the new Department was formally opened by Sir Frederick Sykes, the Governor of Bombay. In doing so, Sir Frederic Sykes said:

"I would venture to draw the attention of the University to the importance of keeping instruction in technology on thoroughly practical lines and ensuring that, in the administration of the department, the University keep in close touch with manufacturers who are interested and likely to employ the students after they have completed their courses of study. Technical education in the world has made great changes in the conditions of life, but it is just as easy to train for unemployment in technological subjects as it is in other subjects. Our industries are exposed to the fierce blast of foreign competition backed by the latest resources of science and technology. Tariffs alone cannot afford an effective shield against this blast and should not, of course, be relied upon to cover inefficiency. The soundest way of meeting foreign competition is by training our young men and employing them in our mills and factories. Up to the present we have had to send our students abroad for advanced technological training. I am sure that I can rely upon the leaders of industry to co-operate with the University in allowing the students facilities to obtain industrial experience in the mills towards the end of their course of study and to employ our graduates when they are qualified."

(The Indian Textile Journal, November 1933 issue. Vol. XLIV, No.518).

MigrationThe Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Enquiry Commission;Memorandum by Agent of Government of India. ✓

References were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the passing of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill (vide pages 77-79 of our June 1932 report) by the South African Union Legislature and the Union Government's decision to appoint a Commission to enquire into the individual titles of occupation of Asiatics in proclaimed lands in the Transvaal before any action is taken under the Act (vide page 77 of our September 1932 report and page 75 of our October 1932 report). Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, recently submitted a memorandum to the Committee a summary of which is given below. The memorandum does not claim to comment in detail upon the facts and figures already laid before the Commission, but only makes several important observations.

Principles which ought to govern Treatment of Indians.— The memorandum draws the attention of the Commission to the following three main principles accepted by the Union Government:

(1) The policy of the Union Government should be to allow Indians in the Transvaal facilities for residence and trade, and for owning and leasing property without segregation.

(2) The Union Government should adhere to the principle that it is the duty of every civilised Government to devise ways and means for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities, and accept the view that, in the provision of educational and other facilities, the considerable number of Indians who remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the people.

(3) The Union Government should ~~adhere to these~~ recognise that Indians domiciled in the Union who are prepared to conform to western standards of life should be enabled to do so.

The memorandum, commenting on these three basic principles, points out that they demand from the Commission the widest sympathy and generosity in dealing with the question before them, since to

withhold such sympathy will be to deny or curtail those opportunities for improvement which it is the declared policy of the Union Government to afford.

Transvaal Indians . - The memorandum points out that the great majority of Indians in the Transvaal earn their living by trade. The Indian trader is established both on and off proclaimed land. It is true that since the days of the Anglo-Boer War, and even earlier, there has been restrictive legislation ^{of varying intensity} against the Indian. ~~of varying intensity~~. The survival of the Indian trader in spite of anti-Asiatic legislation is proof that he has been of service to the country, and that his disappearance would be an economic loss to the European and Native as well as to the Indian.

Effect of Act on Transvaal Indians . - The memorandum stresses the harmful effect which compulsion in regard to occupation has upon trade, and states that unless liberal accommodation is allowed for the Indian trader to seek his customers where he can give them his best service, he would be ruined and it has already been shown that such ruin would be an economic loss to the country. Evidence has been laid before the Commission on the extent to which the Indian trader deals with European customers. The areas to be withdrawn or exempted for Indian occupation and residence should be reasonably near the localities from which their customers are drawn.

In this connection two points are mentioned as deserving consideration. The first is that, outside trade, almost every avenue of employment ^{in practice} closed to Indians in the Transvaal. With the exception of a handful of Government officials, they are not found in Government, railway and municipal service, and for the study of professions such as medicine, law, engineering, etc., no facilities of any kind are provided. Indians cannot own land or farm, nor can they migrate to other Provinces in the Union. Secondly, it is not possible to restrict the trade of the Indian trader to Indians and coloured persons. The number of customers under this category in the Transvaal is so small that any such restriction would bring ruin to the Indian trader.

Character of Various Areas . - The determining factor in deciding the character of an area should be the claims in equity of a community which has no honourable avenue of employment but trade open to it, which is now a permanent element of the population, and which, in the interests of South African civilisation itself, must be given every facility to raise its standard of living. A numerical survey of coloured and white persons in any given area ^{also} not necessarily display the predominant character of that area. Further, the white race itself varied considerably in character and constitution as well as in nationality, and the mere fact that the population is predominantly European by no means implies that there is an universal objection to occupation or residence by Indians.

The memorandum urges the Commission to be on their guard against the suggestion, apparently implicit in some of the proposals made by parties to the enquiry, that because an area is perhaps below the European average in regard to sanitary and other standards and other amenities it is ipso facto a suitable area for exemption. ~~The~~ protests against any such suggestion, and maintains that the Indian community, in spite of disabilities and restrictions, ~~has~~ made real efforts to raise their standard of living to that of the European in South Africa. It is essential that the areas exempted should be such as are suitable, and will permit of the continuous development of the Indian residents and their successors on progressive lines.

(The Times of India, 17-11-1933).