

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for March 1 9 3 3

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References to the I. L. O. ✓

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 19-2-1933 reproduces an article under the caption: "Forty-Hour Convention Secured" contributed by W. Schevenels and published originally in a European Journal. The article reviews the work of the Preparatory Technical Conference on Hours of Work held in January 1933.

The same issue of the journal publishes in full the broadcast speech made by Sir Atul Chatterjee on 29-1-1933. (Copies of the speech were forwarded to the journal by this Office.)

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association during February 1933 publishes a short account of the circumstances antecedent to the recent move for forming an All-India Employers' Federation. (vide page 33 of our February 1933 report). It is stated that the Committee of the Association has decided to join the Federation when it is inaugurated.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 19-2-1933 published the news that the I.L. Conference will open its session at Geneva on 8-6-1933 instead of on 13-5-1933 as previously announced.

The same issue of the journal reproduces the annual report of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation for 1931 & 1932. The report contains a review of the relations between the Federation and the I.L.O. ( A summary of the report is given at pages 34-36 of this report under the section dealing with "Workers' Organisations").

\* \* \*

The Press Report of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation dated 1-3-33 publishes a short summary of the circular letter issued by the Railway Board on 16-2-33 to Company-managed Class I Railways to the effect that the extended application of the Hours of Employment Regulations may be postponed for the time being, unless this can be done without incurring additional expenditure.

\* \* \*

Acting on a circular letter issued by this Office on 3-2-1933, the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during February 1933 draws the attention of the members of the Chamber to the Monthly Summary of the I.L.O. and recommends them to subscribe to the publication.

\* \* \*

The Advocate, Bombay, of 12-3-1933 republishes from "Roy's Weekly", Delhi, an article under the caption "The New Constitution from the Labour Point of View" contributed by Mr. N.M. Joshi. In the course of the article a plea is made for making labour legislation a Federal, as well as a provincial, subject so as to facilitate the ratifications of I.L. Conventions by India.

\* \* \*

"Labour Times" ( a weekly organ of the M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union) dated 27-3-33 publishes a summary of the speech made by Mr. N.M. Joshi in the Legislative Assembly on 20-3-33, in the course of which he urged the Government to adopt a favourable attitude towards the holding of an International Labour Conference for Eastern countries (A summary of Mr. Joshi's speech is given at pages 41 - 42 of this report under the section dealing with Economic Conditions.

\* \* \*

The Annual Report of the Behar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce, Patna, for the year 1931, records at page 6 the decision of the Committee of the Chamber authorising Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Indian Employers' delegate to the 15th I.L.Conference, to protest before the Credentials Committee against the appointment of Mr. Tarlton as one of the Advisors to the Indian Employers' delegate to that Conference.

The same report publishes at pages 68-70 the text of the letter addressed by the Chamber to the Government of Behar and Orissa on the views of the Chamber regarding the Recommendation re. Prevention of Industrial Accidents. ( A summary of the views of the Chamber on this subject is given in this report in the section dealing with Ratifications).

\* \* \*

The issues of 9-3-33 and 23-3-33 of the Guardian, Madras, publish a series of two articles under the caption "The International Labour Organisation" contributed by Rev. C.W.Ranson, Secretary, Triplicane Sociological Brotherhood, Madras. In the first tribute is paid to the memory of the late M.Albert Thomas; the second deals with the work and achievements of the I.L.O. The articles are based on the Memorial Pamphlets on M.Albert Thomas which were forwarded to Mr. Ranson by this Office.

\* \* \*

The February 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes at page 401 the text of the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Conference on Hours of Work, accepting the principle of a 40-hour week.

The same issue of the Labour Gazette publishes at page 451 a summary of the broadcast speech made by Sir Atul Chatterjee' on 29-1-33 on the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The January 1933 issue of the Hindustan Review publishes a long article under the caption "Towards the 40-hour Work" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article traces the development of the demand for shorter hours and reviews the efforts made by the I.L.O. to bring about a 40-hour week. (A cutting of the article from the Hindustan Review was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/519/33 dated 30-3-33).

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 28-2-33, 1,2,3,4 5 6-3-33 publish the text of a series of 6 lectures on "Economic Planning" delivered by Mr. N.S. Subba Rao, Director of Public Instruction, Mysore State, under the auspices of the Madras University. The lectures deal with the different aspects of economic planning, and make extensive references to the publications of the I.L.O. having a bearing on the subject.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 15-3-33 publishes an article under the caption "Economic Planning" contributed anonymously in which the writer advocates the necessity of economic planning for India. In the course of the article extensive references are made to the publications of the I.L.O. dealing with the subject.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times and the Statesman, of 22-3-33 and the

Leader and the Times of India of 23-3-33 publish an Associated Press message giving a forecast of the composition of the Indian Delegation to the 17th I.L.Conference. According to the message, Sir B.<sup>N</sup>.Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee will represent the Government, Sir Phiroze Sethna or Seth Ambalal Sarabhai, the employers, and Mr. Aftab Ali, Secretary, Seamen's Union, Calcutta, the workers.

\* \* \*

The Hindu and the Statesman of 20-3-33 and the Times of India, the National Call and the Hindustan Times of 21-3-33 publish an Associated Press message to the effect that a meeting attended by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. G.D.Birla, Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Lala Shriram, representing the Federation of Indian Employers, Mr. H.P.Mody, representing the Bombay Millowners' Association, and Sir Edward Benthall and Mr. F.E.James representing European interests in jute, tea, etc, was held at New Delhi, on 19-3-33. The objects of the meetings, it is understood, were to arrive at an understanding regarding the safeguarding of interests common to Indian and European owned industries in India and about nominating the employers' delegate to the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 22-3-33 and other papers publish a communique issued by this Office on 17-3-33 re. the I.L.O. Blue Report on the Abolition of Employment Agencies. (Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/468/33 dated 23-3-33).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 4,5,7 & 10-3-33 publish a series of four articles on the unemployment situation in India contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, under the nom-de-plume "Lucio". The articles emphasise the need for greater encouragement of vocational studies in India so that the existing high incidence of unemployment among the educated classes may be reduced. The articles contain references to the efforts made by the I.L.O. to mitigate unemployment conditions <sup>the</sup> world over.

\* \* \*

In the course of the discussion on budget grants in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. N.M. Joshi, while moving <sup>on 9-3-33</sup> a token cut of Rs.100/- in the grant asked for by the Department of Industries and Labour, put in a strong plea for sending full delegations to the I.L. Conference. Re. this subject, Mr. Joshi said:-

Since last year the Government of India do not send advisers for the International Labour Conference. Generally, the full delegation of a Labour Conference consists of delegates and advisers for the Government of India, a delegate and advisers for the employers, and a delegate and advisers for the labour. They only sent a Government delegate for this preparatory Conference which was referred to by my Honourable friend, the Member in Charge - they sent only a Government delegate and did not send a delegate for the employers or for labour. I do not know what the intention of the Government of India is this year; but I hope that the House will insist that the Government of India should send this year the full delegation representing each side with advisers. It is quite true that these are times when we should economise, but certainly it is not much money that is saved by not sending two or three people to Geneva for good work such as the work of the International Labour Conference. The other day when I said that our people should take more interest in these International Conferences I was told that we do take interest in the International Conferences. If we do take interest in International Conferences, then we should certainly be prepared to spend a few thousand rupees for sending men for this Conference.



Ratifications.

Hours of Employment Regulations:

Extension to Company-managed Railways to be Postponed. ✓

According to a circular letter (No.282-L) issued by the Railway Board on 16-2-1933 to the Company-managed Class I Railways, it is not proposed to extend the application of the Hours of Employment Regulations on the said Railways for the time being. But the Board, however, desires that the Regulations should be applied where this can be done without incurring additional expenditure, taking advantage of the present conditions of slack traffic.

Recommendation re. Prevention of Industrial Accidents;

Views of B. & O. Chamber of Commerce. ✓

The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Behar and Orissa Chamber of Commerce in a communication dated 2-3-31 addressed to the Government of Behar and Orissa, on the I.L. Conference Recommendation re. the Prevention of Industrial Accidents:

The letter states that as Indian industry as a whole is rather in an infant stage, and that as much interference with it in the shape of legislation by the state in the near future would hamper its natural growth, the Chamber is of opinion that any formal acceptance of recommendations adopted at Geneva accompanied by legislation in India leading to increased expenses in industry is sure to be viewed with suspicion by the employers and by those who

are now investing in the industrial concerns of the country.

The following course of action on the Recommendation has been suggested by the Chamber:

Owing to detailed information about accidents being not available in this country, the managers of industrial concerns and the inspection department should be circularised to offer their suggestions for the future as to the steps to be taken whenever an accident occurs. After a period of about five years, sufficient data is expected to be at hand for a study of the conditions and remedies peculiar to this country and it is only then that research may be usefully undertaken.

Periodical Conferences between the inspectorate, employers and workers (where sufficiently educated) should be held. Safety organisations of workers consisting of employers and workers should be established, and after a certain number of years (when the Government hopes to make the workers sufficiently literate and educated) propaganda by films and publication should be undertaken. Permanent safety exhibitions should be at once commenced.

The Indian Factories Act is more than sufficient legislation for this country. Any further legislation will stunt industrial growth for ever. Compliance by workers with the safety regulations described in Article 19 is very necessary.

Accident Insurance Companies should be persuaded to take into account, in assessing premia, the safety measures adopted by the firm.

National Labour Legislation.

Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.

Act II of 1933. ✓

At pages 14-15 of the report of this Office for September 1932 was given the text of a Bill called the Children (Pledging of Labour) Bill, 1932, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-1932. The Assembly passed the Bill on 6-2-1933 and the Council of State on 20-2-1933. The Act received the Assent of the Governor - General on 24-2-1933. The text of the Act given below was published in page 2 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 4-3-1933 (No.9 of 1933):

Act No. II of 1933.

An Act to prohibit the pledging of the labour of children.

Whereas it is expedient to prohibit the making of agreements to pledge the labour of children, and the employment of children whose labour has been pledged; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.  
Short title & extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) This section and sections 2 and 3 shall come into force at once, and the remaining sections of this Act shall come into force on the first day of July, 1933.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -  
Definitions.

"an agreement to pledge the labour of a child" means an agreement, written or oral, express or implied, whereby the parent or guardian of a child, in return for any payment or benefit received or to be received by him, undertakes to cause or allow the services of the child to be utilised in any employment:

Provided that an agreement made without detriment to a child, and not made in consideration of any benefit other than reasonable wages to be paid for the child's services, and terminable at not more than a week's notice, is not an agreement within the meaning of this definition.

"child" means a person who is under the age of fifteen years; and

"guardian" includes any person having legal custody of or control over a child.

3. An agreement to pledge the labour of a child shall be void. Agreements contrary to the Act to be void.

4. Whoever, being the parent or guardian of a child, makes an agreement to pledge the labour of that child, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.  
Penalty for parent or guardian making agreement to pledge the labour of a child.

5. Whoever makes with the parent or guardian of a child an agreement whereby such parent or guardian pledges the labour of the child shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.  
Penalty for making with a parent or guardian an agreement to pledge the labour of a child.

6. Whoever, knowing or having reason to believe that an agreement has been made to pledge the labour of a child, in furtherance of such agreement employs such child, or permits such child to be employed in any premises or place under his control, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.  
Penalty for employing a child whose labour has been pledged.

Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1933 :

Prohibition of Besetting.

Below is given the text of a Bill, called the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1933- designed for the prevention of besetting of industrial establishments, introduced by Mr. N.M. Joshi in the Legislative Assembly on 24-3-1933. The Bill has been circulated for eliciting public opinion. The statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill makes it clear that the Bill is intended to give effect to the recommendations made in respect of this subject by the Whitley Commission:-

A Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Penal Code of 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, for the purposes of 1898. hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1933.  
Short title. Act, 1933
2. After section 507 of the Indian Penal Code the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-  
Insertion of a new section in Act XLV of 1860  
"507 A. Whoever besets or loiters within the precincts of, or near, or within sight of any gate of, an Industrial Establishment for the recovery of debt due from any workman or servant employed in such establishment shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine or with both".
3. In Schedule II to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, after the entry relating to section 507 of the Indian Penal Code the following entry shall be inserted namely:-  
Amendment of Schedule II of Act V of 1898.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
"507A	Besetting an Industrial Establishment for recovery of debt.	Shall arrest without a warrant.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Imprisonment of either description for one year or fine or both."

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Among the evils from which industrial workers suffer may be mentioned the method of recovering debt by the use of intimidation and even violence, adopted by many money-lenders. Instead of taking any legal proceedings for the recovery of the debts they use their lathi and several times beset the industrial establishment by waiting outside the factory-gate on pay-day awaiting to pounce on their debtors as they emerge. The object of their waiting outside the factory is to ensure that their claims form the first charge on the workers' wages. Some of the employers even permit the money-lender to enter the factory compound and to collect his dues before the workers' wages reach their hands. This question was fully enquired into by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour. The Commission have expressed their views on this question as follows:-

"The preceding paragraphs have dealt mainly with the money-lender who threatens his victim with legal proceedings and, more rarely, drives him into Court. There are, however, many money-lenders who prey upon workers and depend upon the threat of violence rather than of the processes of the law. The lathi is the only Court to which they appeal, and they may be seen waiting outside the factory-gate on pay-day ready to pounce on their debtors as they emerge. Our recommendations should not be ineffective even in their case, for they are as a rule fairly scrupulous even in using intimidation, and seldom employ it to exact more than the law allows. But stronger measures are justified, particularly as the object of waiting outside the factory is to ensure that their claims form the first charge on wages. We recommend, therefore, that besetting an industrial establishment for the recovery of debts be made a criminal and cognisable offence. Besetting might be defined as loitering within the precincts or near or within sight of any gate or outlet of the establishment. This should go far to cripple the activities of a class of money-lender already generally regarded as a pest to society. It should also bring to an end the still more deplorable practice of some employers who permit the money-lender to enter the factory compound and to collect his dues before the workers' wages reach their hands."

The ordinary Criminal Law does not contain any provision making such besetting an offence. It is, therefore, necessary to amend the Criminal Law by adding a new section to the Penal Code declaring besetting or loitering within the precincts or near or ~~at~~ within sight of any gate or outlet of an establishment, an offence. The consequential amendment by adding new entries to the Second Schedule to the Criminal Procedure Code making this offence a cognisable one becomes necessary. The Bill is intended to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1933 ;  
Prevention of Attachment of Salaries below Rs.300/-per month.

Below is given the text of a Bill, called The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1933, designed for the prevention of attachment of salaries of employees getting below Rs.300/- per month by money-lenders, introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N.M. Joshi on 24-3-1933. The Bill has been circulated for the ascertaining of public opinion with regard to its provisions. The statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the Bill is designed to give effect to the recommendations made in this respect by the Whitley Commission.

A Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. This Act may be called the Code of Civil Procedure Short title. (Amendment) Act, 1933 .
2. In section 56 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 Amendment of section (hereinafter referred to as the said 56, Act V of 1908 Code), after the word "woman" the following words shall be inserted, namely:-  
 "or of a servant or a workman, whose salary or wages do not exceed three hundred rupees a month".
3. In the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 60 of the Amendment of section 60, Act V of 1908. said Code, -

V of 1908

of 1908.

- (a) in clause (h), -
- (i) after the word "salary" the words "or wages" shall be inserted;
  - (ii) before the words "of any public officer" the words "whether payable in money or kind" shall be inserted;
  - (iii) after the word "servant" the words "or workman" shall be inserted; and
  - (iv) after the words "local authority" the words "or of any private employer" shall be inserted;
- (b) in clause (i), -
- (i) after the word "salary", wherever it occurs, the words "or wages" shall be inserted;
  - (ii) after the word "allowances" the words "whether payable in money or kind" shall be inserted;
  - (iii) after the word "servant" the words "or workman" shall be inserted;
  - (iv) in sub-clause (i), for the word "forty" the words "three hundred" shall be substituted;
  - (v) in sub-clause (ii), for the word "forty", wherever it occurs, the words "three hundred" and for the word "eighty" the words "six hundred" shall be substituted; and
  - (vi) in the proviso, for the word "twenty" the words "one hundred and fifty", for the word "Forty", wherever it occurs, the words "three hundred" and for the word "eighty" the words "six hundred" shall be substituted; and
- (c) after clause (k) the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-
- "(kk) all compulsory deposits and other sums due to any servant or workman in or derived from any Provident Fund certified by Government".

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

For the low standard of living of the worker, indebtedness is greatly responsible. The Royal Commission on Indian Labour have observed at page 224 of their report as follows:

"the majority of industrial workers are in debt for the greater part of their working lives. Many, indeed, are born in debt and it evokes both admiration and regret to find how commonly a son assumes responsibility for his father's debt, an obligation which rests on religious and social but seldom on legal sanctions. Many come to industry because they are in debt; some are enabled by industry to clear themselves and a few then become money-lenders instead of



money-borrowers. More often the debts remain and fresh obligations are incurred: It is estimated that; in most industrial centres, the proportion of families or individuals who are in debt is not less than two-thirds of the whole. We believe that in the great majority of cases, the amount of debt exceeds three months' wages and is often far in excess of this amount".

One of the important causes of the indebtedness of the workers is, according to the Commission, to a large extent the fact that the lender finds in him a profitable investment and is ready and indeed, eager to give the worker money which it is contrary to the latter's interest to accept. Among the several recommendations that the Commission have made for removing the indebtedness of the worker some relate to the diminishing of his power of obtaining credit.

Under the law, as it stands now, a money-lender can get an attachment on the wages of any of his debtor, and can use the employer as his debt collector. It is possible to attach half of an employee's salary or an amount by which that salary exceeds 20 rupees, whichever is less and thus in the case of an employee in receipt of a regular salary, the money-lender can secure an order from the Court directing the railway administration or a local authority or sometimes even a private employer to hand over month by month a large part of employee's salary until the whole decree has been satisfied. The Royal Commission have observed that the level of indebtedness in terms of wages is higher among the railway servants than among industrial employees as a whole. The Commission have, therefore, recommended "that the salary and wages of every workman receiving less than Rs. 300 a month be exempted entirely from the possibility of attachment".

Another recommendation made by the Commission ~~is~~ is that the arrest and imprisonment of a worker in execution of a money decree be abolished. The third recommendation is to exempt the contributions to the Provident Fund made by the workmen from being attached in execution of a decree. This Bill is intended to give effect to these recommendations. The amendments proposed are to be made in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

#### Indore Trade Disputes Act, 1933.

An Act called the Indore Trade Disputes Act, 1933, was passed in the Indore State this year and it is now understood that the Act has received the assent of the Maharajah Holkar and has been brought into force from 1-3-1933.

The Act provides for a reference of disputes to Conciliation

Officers and Boards whenever a dispute exists or is apprehended between an employer and any of his workmen; and that on the receipt of the report of the Board or the Conciliation Officer, after reviewing the case, Government shall pass such orders as it may deem proper. The Act makes it illegal for an employee of Public Utility Services to go on strike in breach of contract without giving 14 days' previous notice in writing. Similarly, it makes it illegal for an employer carrying on any public utility service to lock out his workmen without giving 14 days' notice in writing. The Act also makes it illegal for people to carry on picketing or to apply any funds in furtherance of an illegal strike. It also makes it illegal for any one to convene a meeting with a view to calling into question any order of Government passed on the receipt of a report from a Board of Arbitration or Conciliation Officer.

(A copy of the Act will be forwarded to Geneva when it is received in this Office.)

Conditions of Labour.

Welfare Work in Buckingham & Carnatic Mills, Madras.\* ✓

It will be recalled that the Royal Commission on Labour in India, in discussing welfare activities of industrial employers, paid a tribute to those of the Buckingham and Carnatic Company Limited (Vide page 60 of the Whitley Report). The following information regarding the present position of welfare work in the Buckingham and Carnatic Company, Ltd., Madras, is taken from a pamphlet on the subject recently issued by the Company.

The Buckingham and Carnatic Mills were first registered under the Indian Companies Act as separate Limited Companies on 17th August 1876 and 30th June 1881, respectively, and Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras, were appointed the Managing Agents of both Companies. In Buckingham Mill there were, by the end of 1932, 45,984 spindles and 1400 looms at work, and in Carnatic Mill 49,390 spindles and 1,311 looms. The object of the Mills since their foundation has been the development of indigenous industry and the production of high grade materials from Indian cotton and their output covers a range of cotton fabrics including plain and fancy shirtings, bleached and dyed twills and drills, and suitings of all descriptions. The total number of Indian employees in the two Mills in the year 1888 was about 1,200; today there are about 9,000 Indian employees. In 1920 the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills were amalgamated into one company, along with four Pressing and Ginning Companies, also ~~the~~ managed by Messrs. Binny & Co. (Madras), Ltd., and Nellimarla Jute Mill, the new Company being registered

\* The Buckingham and Carnatic Co. Ltd., Madras. - The Buckingham & Carnatic Mills and their Welfare Organisation 1932 - Binny & Co. (Madras), Ltd., Managing Agents. *7/49*

under the name of the Buckingham and Carnatic Co.Ltd. The Company employs upwards of 12,000 work-people.

The Welfare Committee. - The Welfare Committee at the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills was started by the Managing Agents in January 1922 with the object of bringing about greater contact between the representatives of the management and the workpeople, and in order that they might discuss and settle matters affecting the interests of the workpeople. The Committee was at first constituted with the Managing Director as President, two Directors as Patrons, the two Mill Managers as Vice-Presidents, one of the Joint Principals of the School and twenty representatives of the workpeople as members. During the past ten years, the Committee has been in existence, its constitution has undergone several changes. The Committee has at present the Managing Director as its President, the two Mill Managers as Vice-Presidents and nine representatives of the management, including one of the Joint Principals of the School, and forty representatives of the workpeople as members, and the Welfare Superintendent as Ex-Officio Secretary. All the representatives of labour are elected every year by ballot. The Departmental representatives are elected by the entire voters of the Departments concerned, but there is a system of reservation of seats for Caste Hindus and Adi-Dravidas, the two great communities of workpeople in the Mills, in order to give fair representation to both communities.

Meetings of the Committee were at first held every Monday, but after a few months it was found sufficient if the meetings were held once a fortnight. The Committee has held 238 meetings during the first ten years. After the introduction of the fortnightly meetings, on an average 22 meetings have been held every year. At the outset the Labour representatives elected from among themselves a Sub-Committee of ten members, which met four days prior to the request of the Labour representatives, this practice was stopped in 1924. The entire Labour representatives of the Committee now form themselves into a Sub-Committee and meet on the Tuesday preceding the Monday on which the Committee meeting is held and draw up the agenda.

The President of the Committee presides over the meeting once a month when reports of the activities of the different Committees responsible for carrying on Welfare activities in the Mills, viz., the Athletic Association, the Dramatic Society, the Village Committees, etc., are read. The representatives of these Committees are also present at the monthly meetings. The other meetings are presided over by the Vice-Presidents in turn. The Committee discusses matters affecting the general interests of all labourers or a considerable section of them; matters of a particular individual or departmental character are left to be dealt with by the Labour representatives, or the Welfare Department, with the Officers in charge of the departments, or with the Managers. But the Committee does not exclude business of an individual or departmental character from its deliberations; members are free to bring up such matters also if they deem it necessary. The agenda for each meeting of the Committee is drawn up by a Sub-Committee composed entirely of workpeople. The business at the meeting is generally brought up in the form of

resolutions and representations, which, when passed by the Committee, are given effect to, provided they receive the assent of the Managing Agents.

During the past ten years, the Committee has discussed numerous questions affecting Working Conditions in the Mills, besides various measures for promoting the Social Welfare of the employees, and these have been dealt with in the Annual Reports of the Committee every year. It is remarked that there is hardly any subject affecting the interests of the workers which the Committee has not tackled. The Constitution of the Committee has been attacked in certain quarters on the ground that it tends to promote communal feelings amongst the workers. It is ~~claimed~~<sup>admitted</sup> that the charge is justified, ~~since~~<sup>but</sup> ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> constitution has been framed and altered from time to time in accordance with the openly expressed views of the representatives of the workers. The Committee was originally constituted on the basis of communal representation, since, in view of the state of feeling that then prevailed amongst members of the majority communities in the Mills, such representation was rendered necessary. Though subsequently attempts were made several times to abolish communal representation, opinions have been by no means unanimous and some members have consistently resisted them.

Welfare Work. - The General Welfare work in connection with Buckingham and Carnatic Mills now falls chiefly under the following heads:- Educational Welfare work; Dispensaries and Medical attention; Model Villages for workpeople; Workmen's Stores; Athletic Association; Dramatic Society; Literary and Debating Society; Co-operative Society and Workpeople's Club. ■

Educational Work- The Buckingham mill started a school for half-timers and children of workpeople in 1904 and the Carnatic mill in 1908. In 1912 the schools were amalgamated. The <sup>amalgamated</sup> school has grown steadily <sup>and</sup> now consists of twenty-three class rooms and, in addition, a technical school consisting of 7 sections. Originally only half-timers were taught in the school, but with the building of the new school in 1912 a class room was set apart for the little brothers of the half-timers. The class has now developed into the non-working section of the school, where the children of the workpeople are taught.

The total number of boys attending the day school is 1,400 of whom 700 are half-timers. In the night school there are about 300 adult workers. The language of the school is Tamil, but there are special classes also for Muhammadan and Telugu boys. Both day and night schools are under Government inspection and receive a Government grant. In the technical school boys are taught shirt-making, carpentry, blacksmith work, tinsmith work, turning, fitting and handloom weaving.

Medical Facilities. - In each mill a fully equipped dispensary is maintained and each Mill employs a full-time qualified Medical Officer. Medical treatment is free to all workpeople and their families. A dispensary where minor ailments of the boys are attended to is also maintained at the Mills' School under the supervision of the Mill Medical Officer with two qualified nurses in

attendance, who also visit the subsidiary dispensaries in each of the Mill Villages to dispense medicine and give advice to women.

Housing. - In the year 1916 the Managing Agents commenced the construction of model villages for the workpeople on land near to the mills. The model villages built by the mills have been highly commended by the Royal Commission on Labour (vide page 275 of the Whitley Report). The Company has already built three villages with 459 houses and another village of 200 houses is in course of construction. The usual type of house consists of a living room, a kitchen and a washing place with a front verandah and yard. The lay-out is made as spacious as possible and all roads are lighted with electricity, although lighting is not carried into the houses. A piped water supply is obtained from the Municipal mains and all charges for lighting, conservancy and water are paid by the Company. A nominal rent of Re.1-8-0 per month is charged, and neither sub-letting nor occupation by tenants in other employ is permitted. Only 10 per cent of the mill workers have so far been accommodated, and the great majority still live in houses rented from private landlords or crowd into huts erected by themselves. Each model village has its own village hall in which the residents of villages may hold meetings, entertainments, etc. This also proves useful for carrying out propaganda work on temperance, child welfare, health and other matters and also to provide accommodation for the village schools. In each village there is a Committee elected from among the residents of the village. These Committees are responsible for the conduct of affairs in each village and the settlement of any dispute that may arise among the residents.

Workmen's Stores. - The Company runs Workmen's Stores which were opened in 1922 with the object of providing the necessaries of life to the workpeople at the cheapest possible rates. The Stores are managed by a Committee consisting of representatives of the management and of the workpeople. The monthly sales from Stores now average Rs. 90,000 and almost all the workpeople take advantage of the cheap rates at which commodities can be purchased at the Stores. There is no doubt that the Stores have justified their existence and that they form a useful factor in the economic improvement of the workpeople.

Co-operation. - Realising the need for an institution which, while promoting habits of thrift amongst the workpeople, will provide them with cheap credit and thus redeem them from the hands of avaricious money-lenders, the Welfare Committee made representations early in 1925 for starting a Co-operative Credit Society. The Managing Agents made the necessary preliminary arrangements and after popularising the idea amongst the workpeople, the Society was registered on 26-1-1927 in Madras City under the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912. The Society was registered with a share capital of Rs.20,000 made up of 4,000 shares of Rs.5 each, but since all the shares were taken up by members, the share capital was first increased to Rs.30,000 in July 1929 made up of 6,000 shares and, since they were also taken up, it was again increased to Rs.40,000 composed of 8,000 shares in January 1931. In November 1928 the number of shares a member could

hold in the Society was raised from 20 to 50 and the limit up to which a member could borrow from the Society was raised from 2 times the paid-up share capital or substantive pay, whichever is less, to 3 times.

The number of members of the Society increased from 304 in July 1927 to 1,259 in February 1932, the number of shares from 1,077 to 6,382 and share capital from Rs.384 to Rs.30,670. With a view to promoting habits of thrift in the members, attempts are being made to introduce a Recurring Deposit Scheme on a compulsory basis. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has explained to the members the proposed scheme and hope is expressed that the General Body of the Society will adopt the scheme at an early date.

(The Welfare activities of Buckingham and Carnatic Company during 1931-32 was reviewed at pages 27-29 of our March 1932 report).

Seth Ambalal Sarabhai's Distress Relief Scheme:

Further Details. ✓

Reference was made at page 32 of the report of this Office for February 1933, to the Workers' Distress Relief Funds in Ahmedabad Calico Mills, inaugurated by Seth Ambalal Sarabhai to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Mills. Further details regarding the scheme go to show that a scheme has now been drawn up defining under what circumstances relief may be granted. According to the scheme, when a worker finds it difficult to maintain himself or his dependents owing to long or frequent sickness, or when the worker's dependents have temporarily no means of subsistence or stand in need of pecuniary help for going to their native place after the death of the worker, or when the worker or his dependents find it difficult to maintain themselves owing to unforeseen circumstances, an application for relief may be made if the worker has served in the mill continuously and satisfactorily for at least one year. When a worker suffers from consumption or any other similar disease which takes a long time

for cure or has lost his limbs owing to any accident, or when he is unable to maintain a large family on his pay, he may apply for relief if he has put in ten years' continuous and satisfactory service. When a worker is obliged to quit service owing to old age or loss of limbs and is, therefore, unable to maintain himself and his dependents he may apply for relief if he has joined the company before his thirtieth year and has served continuously and satisfactorily for twenty years. Relief under the scheme cannot be claimed as a matter of right. The company has reserved to itself the right to change or cancel the scheme at any time.

Recruitment of Railway Employees;

Formation of Advisory Committees.

The Central Advisory Council for Railways, which is mostly composed of members of the Central Legislature, met <sup>at New Delhi</sup> on 17-3-33 under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bore. A memorandum was presented to the Council regarding the formation, constitution and functions of Committees representing members of the minority communities for the purpose of assisting the Railway administrations in the recruitment of non-gazetted employees. As a result of a prior discussions between the Railway Board and the Agents of the various Railways, three alternatives had been suggested which were placed before the Advisory Council. The first suggestion was for leaving the communities themselves to establish the committees for the purpose at the head-quarters of Railways, these to be recognised by Railways and their help to be sought for in recruiting.



The second method was for each Railway Administration to form a committee of various communities, not only the minorities but also the majorities, including a few heads of educational institutions in the Province. Such committees could function in accordance with the procedure followed by local Advisory Committees, keeping the recruiting officers of Railways in touch with Schools and Colleges for supplying suitably qualified candidates.

The third method which met with the general approval of most of the members of the Council was to establish Provincial Committees with representatives of minority communities in connection with local recruitment of all posts under the Government of India, instead of having separate committees to deal with Railways and Posts and Telegraphs. It was suggested that communal groups in Provincial and Central Legislatures should be utilised for this purpose.

Tea District Emigration Labour Act, 1933:

Madras to be Controlled Area.

References were made at pages 9-13 of our March 1932 report and page 8 of our November 1932 report to the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1933. (The text of this is published at pages 59-68 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 15-10-1932). The Government of Madras has now notified by order No.179L., dated 23-1-1933, that the whole of the Presidency of Madras will be a controlled emigration area from the date on which the Act comes into force. Accordingly, the provisions of Chapter III of the Act will apply to the Madras

Presidency subject, according to the notification, to the special relaxation that the requirements of sub-section 3 of section 17 of the said Act shall not apply in cases where the Chairman of the ~~Law~~ Assam Labour Board has certified that proper provision has been made by the employing interest for:-

- (a) the forwarding, accommodation and feeding of assisted emigrants and their families on their journey to the tea estates on which such emigrants are to be employed;
- (b) the maintenance at reasonable intervals on the routes, by which such emigrants and families are to be forwarded, of depots with adequate accommodation and suitable sanitary and medical arrangements; and
- (c) the supply by local forwarding agents of correct information to assisted emigrants regarding the conditions of life and work on tea estates.

(Extracted from pages 327-328 of Part II of Assam Gazette dated 15-3-1933).

Crisis in Textile Industry: Mill Closures in Bombay and Ahmedabad & Threat of General Strike.

Reference was made at page 31 of our February 1933 report to the issue of notices by 16 Bombay mills in February to their employees, announcing their intention to close down their mills due to the present economic depression, <sup>which is being</sup> intensified by Japanese "dumping". The situation in ~~the~~ March has grown worse and the above 16 mills, though they did not actually close down, put up fresh notices on the expiry of the period of the first notices to close down. <sup>In</sup> some of these mills, however, although the intention to stop

work has not been carried out, reductions have been made in the number of workers. In addition to these 16 mills and the one which actually closed down in February last, three more mills employing between them 6,000 workers have issued on 1-3-1933 notices of closure by 1-4-1933.

An idea of the magnitude of the crisis is obtained from the statistics published by the Mill owners on 10-3-1933 which state that more than a third of the ~~number~~ number of spindles and a quarter of the looms in the Bombay (city) mills are idle. The statistics ~~for~~ for the six months ending January last show that one million spindles out of a total of 3.4 millions or approximately 30 per cent and 18,000 looms out of a total of 77,000, or approximately 25 per cent, were idle. These figures have steadily increased in February. During these six months, there has been an increase of 15,000 in the unemployed. The plight of the mill industry in Bombay, according to the statement of the millowners, has worsened during the last six months and the figures for February show no improvement. Even a 100 per cent duty against Japanese goods, ~~as~~ according to certain sections of Bombay opinion, will not give adequate relief to the industry. Although the sale of cloth during the last six months has, owing to the stimulus given to it by the Swadeshi movement, been appreciable, the cost of production remains at the same high level.

The continued issue of such notices of closure and the actual closure of a few mills, coupled with a rumour to the effect that this action of the mill-owners was prompted by the desire to introduce the three loom system and wage-cuts, created by about 9-3-33, considerable stir among the operatives in the city, especially among those

who have been actually thrown out of employment. The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union (a "Red " Union)<sup>it is</sup> reported, is planning a general strike by way of countering the action of the employers. A large number of meetings have been held in the first week ~~XXXXX~~ of March under the Union's auspices in the mill areas at which the workers' demands regarding wages, hours of work, unemployment bonus, etc., were put forth. The Union is reported to be organising a volunteer corps for door-to-door collection.

This growing restlessness culminated in the workers of Laxmi Mills, Wadala, Bombay City, striking work on 16-3-33, followed by the workers of 4 other mills also downing tools on 20-3-33. It is reported that the Girni Kamgar Union is busy organising meetings and processions of the strikers.

Conditions in Ahmedabad. - Ahmedabad, the next important cotton mill centre, has not been faring better. In Ahmedabad, by the beginning of March, one mill had decided to close down from 1-4-1933 and some of the mills which were working night shifts in addition to day shifts had stopped the former. On 4-3-33, according to a Free Press message, a special sitting of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association was held 'in camera' to consider and discuss various ways and means to cope with the present slump in the textile industry. Among the various measures discussed was the total and absolute closure of all textile mills in the city under the control of the Association for a certain period or, in the alternative, the reduction of wages and agents' commission by about ten per cent. It may be mentioned here that the total number of mills under the Association are about 60, employing over 50,000 operatives.

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Although such intentions were denied at that time by prominent mill-owners of Ahmedabad, according to the Statesman of 26-3-33, the Millowners' Association has decided by the end of March to cut the wages of operatives and has authorised the Managing Committee of the Association to move in the matter. It is understood that the managing committee will try to negotiate with the Ahmedabad Labour Union on the percentage of the cut, but that if they fail to agree, the question will be referred to arbitration.

Conditions in Indore. - According to the Statesman of 31-3-33, five mills in Indore State have notified the workers of their decision to close down from 1-4-33. This will throw out of employment about 12,000 operatives. The local Labour Association has requested the Maharaja Holkar to order the mills to keep open pending an inquiry.

A.I.R.F.'s 6th Meeting with Board:

Board's Views re. Joint Machinery for Disputes, etc.

At pages 36 to 38 of our February 1933 report an account was given of the discussions between the representatives of the A.I.R.F and the Railway Board which took place at the 6th half yearly meeting held between 27-2-33 and 1-3-33. The Press Report dated 1-3-33 (Vol.2, No.4) issued by the A.I.R.F. gives the following summary of the views tentatively expressed by the Board at the meeting:-

Confidential reports, if adverse, should be intimated to the staff concerned;

No disabilities will be imposed in regard to the right of an employee to sue another employee for any private wrongs;

That a scheme of compulsory membership of all employees in the Provident Fund Benefits, involving an additional cost of about Rs. ~~25~~ 2.7 millions per annum, will be shortly introduced on all railways;

That in case an employee secures medical opinion from an independent specialist against the opinion of a Company's doctor, a Board of Examiners consisting of one railway officer and two officers nominated by the Surgeon-General of the Presidency will be appointed to re-examine the employee concerned;

That the standard of tests for those seeking re-employment in railway service will be the one prescribed for periodical medical examination and not that for entrance examination;

Strikes declared consistent with Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Acts, will not be penalised by forfeiture of Provident Fund and Gratuity;

A Joint Machinery for considering railway disputes will be constituted as follows:-

Committees of representatives in each district, division or workshop, serving as auxiliary to a central committee on each railway will be first reconstituted on the principle of open election, the Union advisors being allowed to take part whenever required by either party. The Central Committee for all railways will consist of one representative of the Federation and the Agent on each railway, meeting the Railway Board if no agreement is reached and a Tribunal will be set up consisting of three representatives of the Federation, Railway Board and public instead of five as recommended by the Whitley Commission. These Boards will be set into motion periodically and also as and when serious disputes occur. They will have the right of investigation and eliciting necessary evidence. The Federation's demand that these bodies should consist of Union representatives only and not a non-unionists in regard to representation of workers is under consideration. The whole scheme may be incorporated in the Railway Act very shortly after gaining some experience.

Minimum Wages in Ceylon Estates:

Agreement re. Reduction between Governments of India & Ceylon. ✓

At pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for February 1933 and in several earlier reports also (vide pages 42-43 of December 1932, pages 31-32 of November 1932, pages 23-24 of August 1932 reports, etc.) references have been made to the attempts made during the past few months to bring about a further reduction from the last reductions effected as from 1-2-1932 in the minimum wage rates of Indian labourers in Ceylon. (A table appended to this report shows in detail the various changes that have been brought about in minimum wage rates since their introduction in January 1929 up to date). On this subject negotiations have been going on between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon during January, February and March of this year; as a result of these an agreement has recently been arrived at whereby a further reduction in the minimum wage rates have been accepted by the Government of India. Before arriving at its final decision the Government of India held a special consultation with its Agent in Ceylon and also consulted the Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature. The final terms are, from the Indian labourer's point of view, an improvement on the Ceylon Government's proposals, in that the Government of India has rejected the too drastic reductions suggested by the Ceylon Government (which were more or less in agreement with the rates recommended by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, Ceylon, vide pages 42-43 of our December 1932 report) and substituted in their stead reductions of a more moderate nature.

The minimum wage rates as finally agreed upon in March 1933 are as follow:-

	<u>Men</u> (Cents)	<u>Women</u> (Cents)	<u>Children</u> (Cents)
Up country estates	41	35	25
Mid country estates	37	30	25
Low country estates	35	28	20

The new rates are to come into force subject to the following conditions:-

(1) The price of rice is to be reduced to Rs.4/- per bushel from Rs.4.80 per bushel. (2) Those Indian immigrant labourers who are ~~wi~~ unwilling to accept the reduced rates of wages should be repatriated to India at the expense of the Immigration Fund, provided application for repatriation is made within two months of the date on which the new rates come into force. (3) The Government will further consider at the end of the period whether a scheme for repatriation on broader lines is necessary. (4) The rates now agreed upon ~~w~~ould not be disturbed for six months at least, unless a revival of prosperity sets in earlier. \*

As has been pointed out earlier, the Ceylon Government was in favour of lower rates than those finally accepted, and pressed also, in addition, that 114 up-country estates selected by the Board of Immigrant Labour, should be allowed the privilege of making a flat cut, in addition to the general cut, of 2 cents in the wages of all ranks. In support of its contentions, the Ceylon Government in its letter dated 10-1-1933 stated:

"It is needless to say that the tea industry is of supreme importance to the Island at the present time. During the last two



years the tapped acreage of rubber has declined by over 50 per cent. and the exports of rubber by 40 per cent. and this year's exports of coconut products show a comparable decline. These declines in volume have been accompanied by even graver declines in value. The Island's revenue and the financing of its essential imports, therefore now rest very substantially on the tea industry."

In answer to this, the Government of India in its reply dated 4-3-1933 stated:-

"Since the receipt of your letter of January 10, 1933, there has been a very important change in the situation of the industry. According to the figures available to the Government of India, the prices of tea of all territorial categories, viz., up-country, mid-country, and low country, have improved. In the case of up-country and mid-country tea, this improvement has been substantial. The recent improvement in prices, though it may not, at this stage, be a conclusive argument against any reduction, appears to them to weaken any claim for special relief to up-country estates."

Finally, the minimum wage rates given earlier were accepted by the Government of India.

Changes in Minimum Wage Rates from January 1929  
up to March 1933.

Period	Wages (in cents) of			Additional conditions.
	Men	Women	Children	
<u>1-1-1929 up to May 1931.</u>				
Up-Country Estates	54	43	32	Price of rice to be
Mid-Country Estates	52	41	31	Rs. 6.40 a bushel
Low Country Estates	50	40	30	
<u>May 1931 to 1-2-1932.</u>				
Up-country Estates	49	39	29	Price of rice
Mid-Country Estates	47	37	28	to be Rs. 4.80
Low Country Estates	45	36	27	a bushel.
<u>1-2-1932 to March 1933.</u>				
Up-Country Estates	49	39	29	← (No change)
Mid-Country Estates	43	35	25	Price of rice to be
Low-Country Estates	41	33	24	Rs. 4.80 a bushel.
Agreement arrived at in March 1933. Date of coming into force not yet announced.				(1) Price of rice to be Rs. 4/- a bushel
Up-Country Estates	41	33	25	(2) Labourers unwilling to accept new rates should be repatriated at the expense of the Immigration Fund.
Mid-Country Estates	37	30	25	
Low-Country Estates	35	28	20	

Workers' Organisations.Trade Union Movement in Bengal, 1931-32.\* ✓

The following details regarding the progress of the trade union movement in Bengal during 1931-32 are taken from the Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Bengal for the year ending 31-3-1932. The report was due to be submitted to the Government by 1-9-1932, but the delay is explained by the Registrar of Trade Unions as due to protracted correspondence with several unions regarding inaccuracies in their returns.

Number of Registered Unions. - During the year under report, 7 new unions were registered, the total number of registrations as on 31-3-32 amounting to 32. Of this total, one gave notice of dissolution and the registration of three unions was cancelled ~~during the year~~, leaving 28 unions from which annual returns for the year under report were due to be received. Of the 28 unions at the close of the year under review, only 27 individual unions submitted annual returns.

Membership & Finances of the Unions. - The total membership of the 27 trade unions, which submitted returns for the year was 81,725 composed of 81,471 males and 254 females. The number of registered trade unions in the Railway group was, as in the previous year, the largest. In this group six unions had a total membership of 46,874 as against five unions with a total of 42,430 members in the previous year. Although there was an increase in the total membership in the

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\* Government of Bengal, Commerce Department - Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (XVI), 1923, in Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1932. - Calcutta: Bengal Secretariat Book Depot. 1932 - Price, Indian, 7 annas; English 9d. - pp.16.

group, as compared with the previous year, the average membership per union showed a decrease of about 8 per cent. Next in order of strength of membership was, as in the previous year, the Water Transport group, in which five registered trade unions had a total membership of 23,916, as against four unions with 21,696 members in the previous year. In this group also the average membership per union fell from 3,521 in the previous year to 3,027 in the year under report. The total female membership for the year under report showed a decrease of about 55 per cent., the figures for the previous year and the year under report being 561 and 254, respectively.

The total income of the 27 unions during the year amounted to Rs.210,585-5-2 as against Rs.107,495-3-2 during 1930-31. The total expenditure of the 27 unions during the year came to Rs.201,885-5-2. The largest proportion of the total expenditure was absorbed by salaries, allowances and expenses of officers and of establishment, which totalled Rs. 130,337-14-4. The expenses incurred under section 15(j) of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, amounted to Rs. 2,718-6-9, and comprised affiliation fees and financial aid to other trade unions. The total amount paid as benefits to members was Rs. 6,110-10-6 for all groups, the Textile group spending the largest amount under this head. The total balance at the credit of the General Funds of 25 out of the 27 unions of all groups on ~~the~~ 31-3-1932, was Rs. 147,834-12-8. *The remaining two unions showed deficits.*

General Remarks. - The railway organisations in general, and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union and the E.B. Railway Indian Employees' Association, in particular were much exercised during the year over the question of railway retrenchment. Active propaganda

in favour of direct action on the part of employees on railways was carried on by trade union officers in pursuance of the policy of the All India Railwaymen's Federation. The findings of the Court of Inquiry instituted by the Government of India under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, helped to allay the discontent to some extent, although they failed to meet with general approbation.

Internal dissension in the unions representing seamen continued during the year. The forces of disintegration resolved themselves into the creation of more unions, in the case of deep-sea seamen. One such body - the Indo-Asiatic Seamen's Committee, was registered towards the close of the year, and another was registered after the end of the year under report. The Bengal Mariners' Union which represents employees in inland steamer services started an emergency fund in view of the strained relations existing between the Union and the employers over the question of retrenchment.

Administration Report of the A.I.R. Federation, 1931 & 1932.\* ✓

Reference was made at pages 38-39 of our report for February 1933 to the 8th Annual Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation which was held at Delhi during the last week of February 1933. The following is a brief summary of the administration report for 1931 & 1932 submitted to the Convention by the General Secretary.

Affiliations and Membership. - During the period under review, the Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union was affiliated and two unions reaffiliated to the Federation. Eight rival member unions amalgamated

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\* Administration Report of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation - 1931 and 1932 - pp.11. *The Nagpur Press, 10 Ordnance Building, Nagpur*

with each other into four new Unions during the year. There were, on the whole, 15 affiliated Unions with a total membership of 129,074 workers on the registers of the Federation on 31-3-1932. It has to be remarked that but for the amalgamations, the number of affiliated unions would have been 19.

There are two Class I Railways where no Unions exist, namely, Jodhpur and Burmah Railways, employing respectively, 7,560 and 27,102 railwaymen. Some workers on these Railways have been in correspondence with the Federation with a view to form sound Trade Unions on these Railways. <sup>the</sup> Great necessity for starting well-organised Trade Unions catering to not only Class I Railways but also Class II Railways which employ in all about 25,276 Railway workers is also being recognised. But on account of <sup>the</sup> unprecedented trade depression and the retrenchment policy pursued on the Railways, the affiliated Unions have not been able to show considerable increase in membership and new Unions.

Federation Meetings. - The Federation held 7 General Council Meetings in various parts of India during the period. Two Special Convention Meetings were convened in June 1931 and September 1932 at Simla and Madras respectively, to consider the retrenchment situation and organise the Unions to meet an all-India strike situation. Besides these, the Council of Action which was constituted by a special resolution of the Special Convention, met more than a dozen times at Bombay, Delhi, Simla and Madras.

Foreign Affiliation. - The Federation maintained cordial relations with the International Transport workers' Federation and the British Trade Unions Congress. The General Council of the I.T.F. has given one seat for Indian transport workers in the Council and this, it is remarked, will bring the I.T.F. and the Indian transport workers into closer contact.

Relations with the I. L. O. - The report contains the following note on the Federation's relations with the I.L.O.:

"Relations with the International Labour Office, especially with late lamented Albert Thomas were very close and intimate. On account of his sympathy for the Indian Trade Union Movement, I.L.O. publications are received free by the Federation, in addition to special information when sought for as in the case of colour vision tests, working of the Krumper System, etc. Mr. H.B. Butler who has succeeded the late M. Thomas as Director of the I.L.O., will, the Federation has no doubt, prove equally sympathetic towards our Federation. We extend our congratulations to him on his elevation to the directorship of the International Labour Office. It is to be hoped that during his directorship, the Government of India will be induced to see their way to enforce all the Conventions, not only those that have not been ratified but also those that have been ratified, like the Washington Hours Convention, which is not yet enforced on most of the Indian Railways, though ratified more than twelve years ago.

The Federation also looks to him to use his good offices with the India Government to enforce the favourable recommendations of the Whitley Commission, which was a prelude to an enquiry by the

I.L.O. into the working conditions of labour in Far Eastern countries."

Press Report. - In order to keep the affiliated and other organisations in full touch with the activities of the Federation, and with matters of international interest to the railwaymen, the Federation office has been issuing fortnightly Press Reports since January 1932. This has been very much appreciated by Trade Union Organisations not only in this country but also in other countries.

Trade Union Unity. - Realising the necessity for strong and united action on the part of all Trade Unions in this country, especially in the present economic crisis, the Federation took the initiative in bringing together the rival groups of Trade Unions in this country with a view to bring about unity among them. A Trade Union Unity Conference convened by the Federation in May 1931 participated by 43 Unions from various parts of India and, at the second Unity Conference held in Madras in July 1932, 110 Unions representing various industries in different provinces sent delegates, and a Platform of Unity was arrived at. The final sittings of the Conference, was held at Delhi on 26-2-33 (vide pages 39-41 of our February 1933 report).

Retrenchment. - The history of the Federation during the period is ~~remarked to be~~ the history of an unceasing fight against the retrenchment policy of the Railway Administrations. The Government of India, though they refused to appoint a Conciliation Board, appointed a Court of Inquiry to go into certain aspects of the retrenchment dispute. The Federation representatives toured throughout India to place the case of the workers on the respective railways before the Court. The case of the Federation was conducted by Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, the President of the Federation. He was assisted by Messrs. S.C. Joshi, V.R. Kalappa, N. Chatterjee and others belonging to various affiliated Unions. The Report states that the value of their free assistance can be gauged from the fact that four Railway Administrations alone spent Rs. 63,881 on legal charges to present their side of the case before the Court of Inquiry. Nearly six meetings between the Railway Board and the Federation took place in connection with the staff retrenchment policy during the period under report. The Federation in addition published a pamphlet setting forth the arguments advanced against the present retrenchment policy.

#### Meeting of Executive of A.I.T.U.C;

#### National Federation of Labour Condemned. ✓

A meeting of the Madras Provincial Executive members of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Madras on 18 & 19-3-33 with Mr. R. Sabapathy Mudaliar as president. The following are some of the resolutions passed at the meeting.

1. The Unity Conference which was held at Delhi on the 16th & 17th February 1933 resulted in the organisation of a new central organisation for Labour - the National Federation of Labour (vide pages 39-41 of our February 1933 report) - and this meeting condemns the action of those who were responsible for the new organisation.

2. Unless and until the disputes between the Trade Union Congress and T.U.Federation are amicably settled and a scheme is drafted to that effect, this meeting cannot accept any other new schemes and new organisations to be formed in the name of Labour.

3. This meeting requests the General Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress to postpone the Conference to be held at Jamshedpur till September 1933.

4. This meeting resolves to hold the South Indian Labour Political Conference at Coimbatore along with the South Indian Textile Conference (vide page 33 of our September 1932 report).

5. This meeting resolves to hold the South Indian Textile Conference at Coimbatore in April 1933 with a view to amalgamate the disunited workers employed in mills in the various parts of South India.

6. This meeting requests the Secretary to bring forth unity among the various labour organisations and to form a workable scheme for the welfare of the workers at large.

### National Federation of Labour:

#### Features of Constitution. ✓

At pages 39-41 of ~~the~~ our February 1933 report reference was made to the proceedings of the 3rd and final session of the Trade Union Unity Conference held at Delhi in the last week of February 1933 and to the inauguration, at that session, of the National Federation of Labour, as the new central labour organisation of the country. Fuller information <sup>regarding</sup> of the constitution and rules of the new organisation is now available. Below is given a summary of the constitution:-

Objects. - The objects of the National Federation of Labour shall be:- (a) To establish Socialist State in India; (b) To socialise and nationalise the means of production, distribution and exchange as far as possible; (c) To ameliorate the economic and

social conditions of the working classes; (d) To watch, promote, safeguard and further the interests, rights, and privileges of the workers in all matters relating to their employment; (e) To secure and maintain for the workers (i) ~~the~~ Freedom of speech; (ii) Freedom of press; (iii) Freedom of association; (iv) Freedom of assembly; (v) The right to strike; and (vi) The right to work; (f) To support and actively participate in the struggle for India's political freedom ~~with the~~ from the point of view of the working classes; (g) To co-ordinate the activities of the Labour Unions affiliated to the Federation; and (h) To abolish political or economic advantage based on caste, creed, community, race or religion.

Methods. - The Federation shall endeavour to further the aforesaid objects by all legitimate, peaceful and democratic methods such as legislation, education, propaganda, mass meetings, negotiations, demonstrations and, in the last resort, by strikes and similar other methods as the Federation may from time to time decide.

Immediate Demands. - The demands of the Federation shall be:-  
 (a) A statutory enactment providing for a six hours working day;  
 (b) A minimum wage; (c) Weekly payment of wages; (d) Equal wages for equal work without racial or sex discrimination; (e) One month's leave with full pay, or an equivalent amount of compensation when leave is not granted; (f) Unemployment, sickness, old age, accident and maternity insurance; (g) Pensions for widowed mothers and dependent children; (h) Proper housing; (i) Formation through Trade Unions of ~~the~~ workers' committees in factories, workshops, business houses and all other places where collective work is performed with a view to control the conditions of work inside those places; (j) Abolition of the employment of children under 14 years of age; (k) Payment of wages to female workers ~~for~~ four weeks preceding and succeeding childbirth; (l) Abolition of all other systems of recruiting labour except through Trade Unions; (m) Abolition of fines and debits; and (n) Effective control ~~by~~ the subscribers over the Provident Funds.

Affiliation Rules. - (a) The National Federation of Labour may affiliate to itself any bonafide Trade Union which satisfied the following conditions:- (i) The Trade Union seeking affiliation shall make an application according to the form. Explanation:- A trade union is an organ of class struggle; its basic task, therefore, is to organise the workers for advancing and defending their rights and interests; and although collective bargaining is the necessary implication of a trade union and although in the transitional period to socialism, negotiations, representations and other methods of collective bargaining must remain an integral part of trade union activities, labour and capital cannot be reconciled within the capitalists system. (ii) It shall pay an annual contribution and special levies as provided in these rules.

Membership Fees. - Each affiliated union shall pay to the Federation :- (i) An annual contribution of Rs.10 per every 1000



Members or less upto 10,000 and Rs. 5 for every additional 1,000 or less; (ii) A delegation fee of Rs.2/- per delegate; and (iii) Such other levy as may be fixed by a majority of not less than 2/3rds of the affiliated unions.

Structure. - The National Federation of Labour shall consist of:- (i) The affiliated unions; (ii) The delegates assembled at the General or Special session; (iii) The General Council including the office-bearers; (iv) The working Committee of the General Council; (v) The Provincial Bodies; and (vi) The Reception Committee of the General or Special session.

General Council. - (a) The General Council shall consist of:- (i) A President, (ii) Three Vice-Presidents, (iii) A general Secretary, (iv) A Treasurer, (v) Two Assistant Secretaries and (vi) Other members-elected by the following Trade Groups:-

- (a) Railways, (b) Transport other than Railways, (c) Cotton textile (d) Jute textile, (e) Mining and Quarrying, (f) Engineering and allied Trades and Industries (g) Printing and Paper, (h) Non-manual (i) Agricultural and (j) General.

Representation at I.L.Conference. - The General Council shall elect delegates and advisers for the International Labour Conference held under the auspices of the International Labour Office, and other labour Conferences or meetings. Each affiliated union shall have the right to nominate candidates for election of delegation. All nominations shall be sent to the General Secretary at least 4 weeks prior to the date fixed for election; and the list of names shall be published in the agenda of the General Council. Ballot papers containing the names of the candidates shall be given on the day of the election to the members of the General Council.

Affiliation to International Bodies. - The Federation may be affiliated to such International bodies as have same or similar objects and methods.

(A copy of the Constitution when received will be forwarded to Geneva.)

H.H.K.

Economic Conditions.

Efforts at Rent Restriction in Bombay; ✓

Bombay Rent Bill, 1933.

M Mr. R.R. Bakhale, M.L.C., introduced a Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council on 16-2-1933 to provide, on account of the present economic situation, means for regulating the rents of premises in the Bombay Presidency. In introducing the Bill Mr. Bakhale stated: "My justification for introducing this Bill is the present economic situation of the people, particularly of the lower *middle & the labouring classes. We see at present retrenchment* going on everywhere giving rise to unemployment and also under-employment. We also see cuts in salaries of most of the people and rates and wages in certain industrial concerns. It has become almost impossible for the lower middle classes and the labouring classes to pay the present house rents in the Bombay City and Suburbs. In view of these considerations, I venture to introduce this Bill."

"The provisions of this Bill are modelled on the lines of the Rent Acts ~~we had~~ in the ~~the~~ presidency some years ago. Before the last general election, the Bombay Municipal Corporation had passed a resolution in favour of having a statutory regulation of rent. This Bill does not apply to all premises, but to such premises whose rent does not exceed Rs.200. It applies to the City of Bombay and the municipal and notified areas in the Bombay Suburban and Thana Districts. The life of the Bill is for five years. The procedure described in the Bill is very simple. The operative part of the Bill is clause 3 which makes irrecoverable any rent above the standard rent and does not give retrospective effect to any rent accrued due before the first day of January 1932. Provision is made in the case of premises other than small premises for a reasonable increase in rent above the standard rent on account of any improvements or alterations and of any increase in municipal rates, cesses or taxes in respect of such premises. The Court is given the power to determine the standard rent in certain cases. No order for ejectment can be made so long as the tenant pays or is willing to pay the full allowable rent within thirty days after it falls due. Distress warrant in the case of premises the monthly rent of which does not exceed twenty-five rupees, is barred in the city of Bombay. In the case of small premises, the controller fixes the standard rent. To determine the objections against any order of the controller, a committee of three persons including the controller is provided

and its decisions are final. Legal proceedings against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under the Bill are barred.

The Bill provides for the recovery of rent which under its provisions should not have been paid; and in the case of small premises, a fine is imposed for recovering rent in excess of the standard rent. A similar penalty is imposed for the disturbance of easements or for tampering with things provided for permanent use or discontinuing any supply or ~~sex~~ service in respect of all premises covered by this Bill.

✓ Further Protection to Cotton Industry; Bill Passed by Assembly.

On 13-3-1933, a Bill called the Cotton Textile Industry Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1933, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Sir Joseph Bhore, Member in Charge of Commerce with the Government of India. The Bill was passed by the Assembly on 20-3-33. The following is the Statement of Objects and Reasons ~~of~~ introducing the Bill:

By the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, protective duties were imposed on cotton piece-goods for a period of three years in order to give the cotton mill industry in India temporary shelter against foreign competition. By the same Act the operation of the duty-imposed by the Indian Tariff (Cotton Yarn Amendment) Act, 1927, was extended for a further period of three years on account of the unfair competition arising from the prevalence of inferior labour conditions in China. These duties will expire on the 31st March, 1933. An assurance was, however, given by Government to the Legislature, when the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Bill was under consideration, that before the termination of the three-year period the effect of the duties on the production of cotton piece-goods in India and on the Indian cotton textile industry would be examined in a Tariff Board enquiry.

\* Note. The duties imposed were as follow:-

- (A) Plain grey that is now bleached or dyed in the piece, if imported in pieces, which either are without woven headings or contain any length of more than nine yards which is not divided by trans-verse woven headings:
  - (i) Of British manufacture: Ad valorem 15 per cent., or 3½ annas per lb., whichever is higher.
  - (ii) Not British manufacture: Ad valorem 20 per cent., or 3½ annas per lb., whichever is higher.
- (B) Others:-
  - (i) Of British manufacture: Ad valorem 15 per cent.
  - (ii) Not British manufacture: Ad valorem 20 per cent.

The enquiry has been held, but the Board's report was received by the Government of India later than they had originally hoped and the pressure of urgent public business has left insufficient time for the full consideration by Government of a matter of such great importance and complexity. A final decision with regard to the report has not yet been reached and it has, therefore, become necessary to take steps to meet the situation which will arise when the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, expires on March 31st, 1933. The Bill, accordingly, proposes to extend the operation of the duties imposed by the said Act up to the 31st October, 1933, pending formulation of the decision of the Government of India in the matter of the continued protection to the cotton textile industry.

(Extracted from the Gazette of India of 18-3-33, page 43-44 of Part V).

In the course of the debate on the Bill, Mr. N.M. Joshi said that he was not opposed to protection so long as the other countries in the world were not free traders, but that a proper balance between agriculture and the ~~the~~ other industries must be held. By merely increasing the protective duties, Government would not develop the industries. On the other hand protection once granted was likely to continue, for ever. Mr. Joshi, therefore, urged a co-ordinated effort for increasing the efficiency of industries as a whole. He asserted that <sup>the</sup> Bombay mill industry was not reorganised since the passing of the 1930 Act and urged the Government to see that re-organisation was given effect to in the interest of efficiency.

Mr. Joshi declared that the wages of the textile workers had been reduced gradually and urged the Government to protect the workers and bargain with the millowners for shortening the hours of work as a condition for protection.

Finally he urged the sending of a delegation to investigate into the conditions of labour in China and Japan and also <sup>that</sup> ~~reach a~~ settlement with those countries <sup>should be reached</sup> rather than go on enhancing the tariff wall. Mr. Joshi <sup>my</sup> ~~wanted~~ the Government to announce <sup>that</sup> a <sup>favourable</sup> policy regarding an International Labour Conference for Eastern countries and for an all India organisation for the purpose of collection of industrial statistics.

Budget of the Government of India, 1933-34. ✓

The Budget of the Government of India for 1933-34 was presented in the Legislative Assembly by Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, on 28-2-33. Summing up the financial situation Sir George Schuster said: "India, amidst a world which is floundering in the gravest trouble and distress, has reached a position in regard to her public finance which challenges comparison with that of any other country." While he was unable to announce any remissions in taxation, Sir George Schuster's speech was marked by a note of restrained optimism. He claimed that the measures introduced in September 1931 had proved equal to the emergency, and that budgetary equilibrium had been restored, but that it would be folly to weaken the structure until the future was assured.

Budget at a glance . - Actuals for 1931-32 had been nearly Rs. 20 millions better than the revised estimate, and the 1932-33 forecast of a surplus of Rs. 21.5 millions had been almost exactly realised, the revised estimate of the surplus being Rs. 21.7 millions. The surplus estimated for 1933-34 is Rs 4.2 millions, the following being a comparison between the two years.:-

	Rs. Millions.		
	1933-34 Budget	1932-33 Budget.	Revised.
Revenue ...	1245.2	1299.6	1271.3
Expenditure ..	1241.0	1278.1	1249.6
Balance..	4.2	21.5	21.7

Changes in Taxation. - - The basis for the 1933-34 estimates has been the assumption that general conditions in the current year will be repeated. The only changes in taxation are imposition of further duties on imported boots and shoes and artificial silk, partly for protective purposes, and the reimposition from July next,

of the stamp duty on cheques for three years.

Salary Cut Restoration. - Despite the restoration of part of the salaries "cut," there is a net reduction in the military estimate for 1933-34; and the total savings effected are more than Rs.10 millions.

Consumption Power Retained. - Sir George Schuster paid a tribute to the extraordinary power of resistance shown by India in maintaining her standard of consumption despite diminished purchasing power, and to the way in which the people of India had adjusted themselves to the economic crisis.

Debt Redemption. - The success of the Government's loans policy and the striking extent to which redemption of debt had been proceeded with even during these difficult years were also referred to by the Finance Member. Sir George Schuster devoted a portion of his speech to a detailed defence of the policy of allowing gold exports which he declared ~~it~~ was only a conversion of one form of reserves into another, and had guided India through a period of unexampled difficulty at the end of which India found herself with her credit greatly strengthened.

Enhanced Credit. - During the two most difficult years for public finance which the world, in times of peace, had ever known, the Indian Government had not only paid its way but provided a balance of Rs.41.5 millions for reduction of debt. Sir George Schuster drew attention to the striking improvement in India's credit and expressed the view that the time was coming when the Government's position would be so strong that they could safely relax the restriction on capital expenditure.

(The Budget of the Government of India for 1931-32 was reviewed at pages 43-45 of our March 1931 report and at pages 69-71 of our April 1931 report. For review of the Emergency Budget of the Government of India for 1-10-1931 to 31-3-1932, see pages 53-55 of our October 1931 report. The Budget for 1932-33 was reviewed at pages 59-61 of our March 1932 report).

HK.

Employment and Unemployment.

Punjab  
Lahore Unemployed Graduates' Move;

Programme of All-India Unemployed Association. ✓

At a meeting of unemployed graduates and undergraduates of the Punjab held in the first week of March 1933, under the president-ship of Mr. Masudul Hassan, a scheme of unemployment relief was chalked out, <sup>and</sup> an All India Unemployed Association ~~was~~ formed, the membership of which is open to every educated unemployed young man of India, irrespective of creed and colour.

The immediate programme is, among other things (1) to explore all possible ways and means for the mitigation of the character of unemployment in India, (2) to run a weekly paper "The Unemployed", (3) to raise sufficient funds to pay doles to the unemployed, (4) to start small scale industries, (5) to appoint an enquiry commission on unemployment which would offer practical suggestions for its relief, and (6) to take <sup>a</sup> census of the unemployed in India.

Slums of Madras:Madras Sanitary Welfare League's Survey, 1931-1933. ✓

References have been made in earlier reports of this Office to the increasing attention that is being paid in recent years to the problem of eradicating Madras slums. (vide page 69, September 1931 report; page 49, December 1931 report; pages 59-60, June 1932 report; pages 60-61, August 1932 report and pages 47-50, November 1932 report). The Madras Sanitary Welfare League has recently concluded a survey began in 1931 of the conditions of the slums of Madras. The report of this survey as well as the annual report on the activities of the League during 1932-33, were presented to the annual meeting of the League held at Madras on 2-3-1933 with Sir P.S.Sivaswamy Aiyer as President. The following are short summaries of the two reports.:

Activities during 1932-33. - The League's activities during the year may be classified as follows:- (1) Slum surveys, (2) publicity, (3) Model Health talks, and (4) The Hutting scheme. The survey of the cherries which was begun in 1931 was completed by the beginning of 1933. The total number of slums surveyed was 181. The results of the survey and the recommendations of the League are summarised later in this report. Side by side with the survey work, the League realised the need for publicity. Articles were contributed to the "Hindu" and lectures were given by various members to the Madras Rotary Club, the International Fellowship and student groups in the city. Two model health lectures were delivered for the benefit of welfare workers. As the survey developed, the members of the League became increasingly concerned about the housing conditions of the poor in the city. During the past year considerable thought was bestowed on the preparation of a model housing scheme that shall be economically sound and meet the needs of the poorest. The Corporation authorities have given a plot of ground for constructing a model hut according to a scheme drawn up by the League and have also agreed to provide the necessary sanitary conveniences. The hut is under construction and is expected to be completed very soon.

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\* (1) Report of the Madras Sanitary Welfare League for the year 1932-33 - Office; Servants of India Society, Royapettah, Madras, 1933-pp.7 - (2) A General Report of the Conditions of the Slums of Madras as revealed by the survey made by the Madras Sanitary Welfare League - February 1933 - pp.43.



During the year the League appointed 3 sub-committees. One sub-committee was appointed to report on the future plan of work for the League. It suggested: (1) the arranging of model lectures for students and others working in the cheries., (2) the starting of community centres, (3) organizing Ward Health Associations to watch over the civic and sanitary needs of the different divisions, and (4) formulating cheap housing schemes. The starting of community centres had to be postponed for want of funds. The drawing up of a model constitution for ward health Associations was entrusted to another sub-committee. A ward health Association was organized and it is expected that similar institutions will be started in other parts of the city in the coming year.

Report on Slums; Extent of the Problem. - The first problem which confronted the League from its inception was the almost entire absence of information about the cheries (slums). It started its work with a list of 158 cheries that was supplied to it by the Corporation of Madras. A questionnaire was issued for collecting information regarding the number of houses, families, ownership of the sites, water supply, latrines, scavenging, street cleaning, surface drainage, sewerage, lighting, markets, toddy-shops, medical aid and any other matters. But in the course of the investigation the workers of the League came across 23 new cheries not mentioned in the Corporation list. Slums with less than 20 families were excluded. The total number of slums surveyed by the League is 181. The ownership of these 181 ~~slum~~ sites is as follows:- 26 belonging to Government; 25 to Corporation; 103 to Private individuals; and 27 to Trusts.

Taking the average family to consist of five souls, there are thus over 200,000 people living in the slums of the city. That is roughly one-third of the population. Of these 181 slums, 140 with 28,565 families are in the outlying divisions of the City and 41 are in the interior with 12,017 families. The eleven outlying divisions contain 78 per cent of the slums and 70 per cent of the slum population.

General Characteristics of the Slums. - The cheries are characterised by certain very definite features. The first of these is the hopeless state of the dwellings. The huts, which are generally made of mud and thatch or of old kerosene tins, are low hovels without any aperture for light or air, except a doorway so small that one has to stoop double to enter. The average size is 8 feet, though many are smaller. In some cheries the huts are built back to back, or are separated only by narrow alleys, with the result that there is overcrowding of the very worst kind. In most cases the material of the huts are so flimsy that they afford no effective shelter either in the monsoon or in the hot weather. A second feature is the insufficiency of the water supply. Where the supply is inadequate, food is polluted and cleanliness is impossible. The particulars disclosed by the survey are a severe condemnation of the existing conditions. A third characteristic is the filthy condition of the precincts of the cheries. In many

cases there is little or no conservancy, so that the streets are foul and unfit to walk in, while garbage lies rotting at every corner.

Water Supply. - One of the most startling facts the League discovered is that in 35 cheries of Madras, housing about 15,000 people, no municipal water supply whatever is available. Of the remaining 146 cheries only 12 are adequately provided with taps. One third of the population of the city obtains less than  $\frac{1}{20}$  of the Corporation water supply. Under the present conditions, the inhabitants of the cheries, numbering 202,910 receive 762,000 gallons of water per day, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per head; which is but  $\frac{1}{6}$  of their legitimate requirements. It is remarked that, however, in constructing the recent model housing schemes for the poor, the Corporation had recognised the necessity for a good standard for the supply of taps.

The people in the cheries are condemned for their lack of cleanliness, but the majority are given little opportunity to be clean. The report shows that as many as 134 slums, housing a population of about 172,000, are entirely devoid of bathing facilities. The number of bathing taps that actually exist provide enough water for bathing purposes for only 30,500 out of 202,910.

Public Latrines. - Out of the 181 cheries, 72 had no latrine accommodation and the remaining 109 had only 121 latrines between them. According to the report, the cheri population requires at least 500 latrines of twenty seats. In view of the enormous shortage of accommodation ~~it~~ it is not surprising, it is remarked, that cheri sites are so foul or that the people inhabiting the cheries seem to have so little sense of decorum. As long ago as 1927, the City High Mortality Committee urged the great need for more latrines. As far as the cheries are concerned little or no improvement has been made during the six years since they reported.

Drainage. - The drainage problem of the slums is reported to be an immense one. In the course of the survey it was found that nearly 90 per cent of the cheries were on low lying land without proper drainage. Those situated on the outskirts of the city were 2 to 4 feet below the road level so that sullage water could never flow away and in the rainy season water from the roads actually flowed into the slums. Enlarged spleens due to malaria were everywhere noticeable in these areas. In many of these cheries water rushes in from the road, so that whole areas become swampy and the water stands 2 to 3 feet deep. At such times the inhabitants are to be seen wading knee deep from their houses. The houses themselves are so flimsy that many of them collapse during the monsoon, rendering ~~homeless~~ a number of families *homeless*.

Lighting. - There were 86 cheries without any provision for lighting. A large majority of the cheries were inadequately lighted. The League has recommended an additional provision of 610 lights.

General Remarks on Housing. - House-sites for the self-respecting poor are extraordinarily difficult to obtain, though the poorest, the impudent and the worthless plant themselves in any public site. Much misery is experienced when a young man marries and a fresh family begins to spring up under his father's roof. There are a good number of huts harbouring more than one married couple. In the congested parts of the city, some rooms accommodating whole families have no access to the outside air except through next rooms, which are occupied by ~~a~~ different families. In one such place investigators found two married couples with their children in the outer room and two other couples in the inner room. There was no window to either room and all the cooking had perforce to be done indoors. The fetid air and smoke had to escape as best they might through the thatch. Rents are high - so high indeed that by comparison with the value of the property let out, the percentage return on the investment is the highest in Madras. The report remarks that the time is ripe for a well-conceived and large scale scheme of dwellings for these poor people - dwellings affording the amenities of sufficient space, a little privacy, a little air and, above all, ~~renting~~ at a reasonable price.

(A review of the activities of the Madras Sanitary Welfare League during 1931-32 was made at pages 60-61 of our August 1932 report).

#### Welfare Work in Bombay Cotton Mills:

##### Report of Miss Hawkins.

Reference was made at pages 24-25 of our March 1932 report to the loan of Miss Hawkins' services to the Bombay Millowners' Association to assist in formulating and organising welfare work in the Bombay Cotton mills. Her~~e~~ suggestions were examined by a Committee of Mill Doctors whose report was summarised at pages 18-20 of our October 1932 report. Miss Hawkins has forwarded in December 1932 to the Secretary, Millowners' Association, a report on the year's work in connection with the Mill Doctors' Committee and ~~the~~ <sup>about</sup> the present position of medical relief in the mills. The following is a short summary of the report.

Work of the Mill Doctors' Committee. - A mill doctors' committee was appointed early in January 1932 to examine and report on the proposals of Miss Hawkins (vide pages 24-25 of our March 1932 report) and the report of the Committee laid stress on the following suggestions made by her; (1) The educational aspect of mill medical work. (2) The better recording of minor accidents with a view to discovering cause. (3) The better recording of illness cases with a view to studying certain recurrent ones, in order to mitigate severity and frequency. (4) The possibility of an experiment being instituted in one or two mills in the medical examination of new workers. (5) The possibility of having regular meetings of the mill doctors for the interchange of views and information, and (6) The desirability of training all dispensers in First Aid. A summary of the Committee's report and the action taken on it was given at pages 18-20 of our October 1932 report.

Present Position of Medical Relief in the Mills. - As regards the present position of medical relief in the Mills, Miss Hawkins says that a change in the attitude of the owners and management of the mills towards medical relief is necessary if further advance is to be possible. There seems to be a general idea that the provision of a dispensary is charity, for in some mills emphasis is laid on the fact that the dispensary gives free service and medicines. She remarks: "When it is realised that medical service in industry makes for efficiency, and that the employment of a qualified medical man is as much a matter of good business as the employment of a first class engineer, or a highly qualified departmental manager, there will be some hope of seeing mill medical work, and the mill doctor, properly evaluated. Much more co-operation is necessary between management and the medical department, and the owners' interest in the work of the doctor and dispensary, must cease to be perfunctory and be as great as it is in production and prices."

Indifference of Management towards Medical Relief. - The following observations are made by Miss Hawkins on the indifference of management towards medical relief: "Most mills that have visiting doctors, employ their doctor for an hour a day. A few exceptions occur where the mills employ a man for as much as half a day. The fullest use is not always made of his services, and setting aside the alleged prejudice of operatives against western medicines and treatment, the greater proportion of those willing to use the doctor, could be encouraged to do so more if the departmental people were more co-operative in their attitude. It is no use complaining that the workpeople don't use the facilities placed before them; they have to be taught and encouraged to do so. The usual time allowed to the doctor for his visit, unless the use of it is organized to the maximum, does not seem sufficient for him to do anything very constructive with the workpeople. For want of encouragement and co-operation from management, the skilled advice of the doctor may remain unsolicited on some of his visits."

Conditions of the Dispensaries. - According to the report, nearly every mill dispensary leaves very much to be desired. This most important of places, is usually an extremely dirty dingy place, where work is carried on under difficulties of crowdedness, noise, lack of proper space for the work, poor lighting, and too often, poor equipment. Nearly every dispensary needs paint and whitewash, and ~~is~~ a thorough cleaning. A daily dust raising, sweeping, and a periodic sprinkling of the floor with water and disinfectant, seems to be the maximum of cleaning in the average mill dispensary. Unfortunately, in some cases where the question of cleaning has been brought to the notice of the management, nothing has been done, or any effort to improve ~~the~~ conditions has not been sustained.

There are a few notable exceptions to the kind of dispensaries described above. The Prahlad mill has a dispensary that is unique for its white paint, and white tiles, excellent surfaced floor, and lighting. The upkeep of equipment, and general cleanliness is far ahead of the average Bombay mill dispensary. "Simlex" mill has recently enlarged its dispensary to more satisfactory and effective proportions, and has added some unusually good equipment, so that the medical service, which is already of an extremely high quality, will be still further facilitated. Other mill dispensaries, such as that of the Sassoon Spinning and Weaving mill, have raised the standard of cleanliness and upkeep.

Public Baths & Mill Controlled Food Shops. - The report remarks: "After the doctor and dispensary, constructive health work requires the provision of baths, and the provision of properly run "mill controlled" food shops, where people may eat their food under conditions conducive to the proper assimilation of nourishment and the relaxation necessary to fit them for the further demands of their work. Only one mill in Bombay has provided baths of any sort, and those are for its women employees. The Colaba Land and Mill Company is outstanding in this piece of constructive health work. The ideal, of course, is to have ~~baths~~ for both men and women, and such provision would be welcomed by medical men, who spend so much time advising on skin troubles, knowing full well that the essential to the cure, the hot bath, is practically unobtainable ~~in~~ the average ~~industrial housing~~ <sup>worker</sup>, and that without it, ointments are of not of permanent use. The Colaba mills baths are well used and appreciated, and the fact that they are available during working hours, and the arrangement has not been abused, is the highest justification for the experiment, for such it was at first. Baths are a very practical health measure, and though at first their use would have to be encouraged, and ~~zetta~~ always it would have to be controlled and organised, the mill would most certainly be repaid, in time, for the provision made.

"Food shops have a direct bearing on health in the mills, and like the dispensaries, can make their contribution to the education of the mill workers in standards of health and hygiene. Some of the food shops in the mill compounds are housed in very ~~in~~

inadequate and unattractive shelters, and since the usual practice is to rent the shelter to an outside caterer, the management only takes a limited interest in the place, the standard being, not how clean and pleasant and effective in service the concern is, but how bad it is not. It would be to the interest eventually of the mill, rather than hire out some of the structures they do, to outside caterers.

Health Conditions of Women Workers in Assam Tea Gardens;

Dr. Balfour's Report. ✓

Reference was made at pages 54-58 of the report of this Office for January 1933 to the report of Dr. Margaret I. Balfour on the health conditions of women workers in Bengal Jute Mills. Dr. Balfour has recently completed a survey of the health conditions of women workers in Assam Tea gardens. The following is a summary of the report, an advance copy of which has been supplied to this Office (A copy of the report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/514/33 dated 30-3-33).

General Conditions. - As regards general conditions of life, the coolies working in the tea gardens are not natives of the soil but are imported mostly from the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Bihar and Madras Presidency. Although a part of the imported labour settles down and remains permanently in Assam, many others return to their homes after a longer or shorter period and are replaced by new labour. Usually men are accompanied by their wives and children who are also given work either in the garden or the factory. The average wage for a man in 1930 was Rs.14 per month, for a woman Rs.10-12, for a child Rs. 7-4-0. These wages are small for individuals, but when put together make a living wage for a family, provided it is not wasted on drink, which is said to be a common failing of the people. In addition to wages the workers get free houses and when possible an allotment of land where they can grow rice or vegetables; the amount of land so bestowed varies in different gardens. Some gardens provide a free meal for non-working children. A proportion of the coolies save enough to buy Government land. They then leave the service of the tea gardens, perhaps becoming occasional workers.

Maternity Benefits. - Maternity leave and benefits are given to women workers. The rules for these differ under different companies and even in different gardens under the same company. Sometimes the period for which leave is given is 6 months, part before and part after delivery, at the discretion of the Medical Officer. Sometimes it is from 1 or 2 months before delivery to 3, 4 or 5 months after delivery. The amount paid also varies. In some gardens it is Re. 1 per week; in others Rs.1-8 per week. Sometimes it is less before than after delivery. In one or two of the gardens visited by Dr. Balfour rice was given at the rate of 5 seers per week and cash benefit of 4 as. Whatever the amount given, the rule is that the woman must present herself at the hospital and see the Medical Officer before getting leave and that ~~she~~ she must thereafter attend the hospital for a daily muster. In some gardens, recently, owing to the need for retrenchment, the benefit formerly given before delivery has been withdrawn. A pregnant worker can take leave if she likes, but without payment. In such gardens the number of women attending hospitals before delivery falls off or ceases.

In some gardens a bonus is ~~it is remarked that~~ paid at the end of 3 or 6 months or at the end of a year if the child is alive. This system would be good if it were combined with instruction of the mothers in the care of children, and if the bonus were given in cases where they had responded, or endeavoured to respond, to the teaching. But no doubt most of the infant deaths are due to antenatal disease of the mother, to malaria or to ignorance on the part of the parents and the withholding of the bonus in such cases must seem to them harsh. In addition to providing maternity leave and benefits, most gardens pay the wages of one or more dais to attend <sup>at</sup> the confinements. Most of these are reported to be quite ~~not~~ untrained.

Maternal Mortality. - The need for giving the dais better training is seen when the rate of maternal mortality in childbirth is considered. In each garden a register is kept of the women on maternity leave and the results of the confinements are noted. The figures collected by Dr. Balfour from 31 gardens over a period of 3 years -1930-1932 - show that for 9,373 deliveries during the period, the ~~rate of maternal~~ mortality rate was 42 per 1,000 births, which is nearly ten times as high as in England. The rate of mortality differs in different gardens. In one it reached the horrifying total of 130 per 1000 births, or, in ~~not~~ other words, during the past 3 years one mother in 7 had died in childbirth. Taking it over the last year only the maternal deathrate was 256 per 1000, or, one mother of four confined had died.

Causes of High Maternal Mortality. - This extraordinarily high mortality throughout the gardens <sup>is</sup> stated to be largely due to the frequency and severity of the anaemia which occurs in pregnancy. Of the causes of 398 maternal deaths which were collected, 189 were ascribed to anaemia, that is 50 per cent. The Medical Officers, and in some cases the Managers of the gardens, are alive to the

seriousness of the position.

In the course of the tour of the gardens, Dr. Balfour also enquired, in addition to the incidence of anaemia, into some matters like malaria, hookworm, diet of the workers and the relation between castes and communities and incidence of anaemia.

Future Programme of Investigation. - Dr. Balfour states that the Assam Medical Research Society has taken up the question of anaemia in the teagardens and that a Committee has been formed of some Managers and Medical Officers to draw up a plan of investigation and prevention. The first meeting of this Committee was held at Tinsukia on 4-12-1932 at which Dr. Balfour was present. As a result of the discussions, she was asked to draw up proposals for further investigation and prevention in consultation with Dr. Lucy Wills, and send them to the Secretary of the Society. The scheme which they have drawn up and forwarded to the Secretary consists of:- (a) proposals for preventive and curative treatment, (b) a questionnaire for gardens joining the investigation, (c) a case sheet for cases of anaemia of pregnancy, and (d) a form to be used for the maternity registers. The Secretary of the Committee will forward these to the different gardens and it is hoped a large number will join the investigation. The Indian Research Fund Association has recommended a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the following up of this work in 1933-34. It is proposed:- (1) to make a field investigation of the different types of anaemia on the spot, (2) to carry on a dietetic enquiry with reference to the causes of anaemia, and (3) <sup>which are</sup> to classify and compare the results of the dietetic experiments being initiated and to follow any lines which the replies to the questionnaire may indicate.



Women & Children.

Care of Destitute Children; Enquiry Committee Appointed in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay have recently appointed a Committee with Sir Hormazdyar P. Dastur, Kt., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, as Chairman, to examine questions connected with the care of destitute children and youthful offenders. The question had been under the consideration of the Government for some time. Since they were convinced that rescue and reclamation work among children is not only valuable for its own sake but has a very important bearing on the beggar and <sup>(ruffian)</sup> mavali problems in Bombay. It is felt that the advice of the Committee which has been appointed will help both Government and the public to see how the work of the various institutions dealing with children can best be co-ordinated with a view to the maximum use of the available resources and to initiate progress on the most useful lines.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:-

(i) to consider and make recommendations for the better coordination of the work of the various institutions operating under the Bombay Children Act, the Apprentices Act, the Reformatory Schools Act and the Bombay Borstal Schools Act;

(ii) to consider and make recommendations for the best use of available grants;

(iii) to consider whether juveniles from outside the Presidency should be admitted to these institutions;

(iv) to examine the methods of ensuring future employment for those trained at the schools, including especially agriculture;

(v) to examine the arrangements connected with "After Care", including particularly the present facilities for training workers among juvenile delinquents, and to make suggestions for improving these facilities;

(vi) to consider the subject in its relation to the Beggar and "Mavali" problems in Bombay City and to make recommendations.

Maritime Affairs.Reduction of Hours of Work of Dock Labourers:Bombay Port Trust's Views.

Reference was made at pages 66-67 of our Report for February 1933 to a letter issued by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence with the Government of Bombay to the interests concerned with dock labour within the presidency asking for their views on the recommendations of the Whitley Commission re. hours of work and conditions of employment for dock labourers. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust on the different recommendations of the Whitley Commission on the subject.

Regulation of Hours of Work. - In the Port Trust docks the day work hours were as recommended by the Commission. At the Bunders the official hours were 7-30 a.m. to 6-30 p.m. or sunset, whichever was earlier; rest periods within these hours were enjoyed as opportunity presented itself. The Chairman considered, therefore, that it was practicable to observe the recommendations of the Commission in regard to day hours, though any efficient check on conditions such as obtained at the Bunders would be extremely difficult to exercise. As regards limitation of overtime to three hours, he did not consider that this would be practicable without (a) incurring a serious risk of labour trouble and discontent or, alternatively, (b) a very considerable increase in the Port's expenditure on account of extra shifts to cope with night work and increased rates of pay to compensate the labourers for decreased individual earnings. It was estimated that in a normal year the additional expenditure in wages to labourers, cranemen and other similar employees would be not less than Rs.500,000. The Chairman pointed out that, in addition the compensatory increase in wages of dock labour, which the enforcement of the overtime restriction would necessitate, would inevitably encourage other classes of labour in the port, not liable to overtime, to agitate for a corresponding increase in wages. The imposition of these additional burdens on trade, especially in the present acute depression, should be strongly deprecated. There was no reason to believe that port labour as a whole was dissatisfied with its present conditions.

Payment for Overtime Work - - The proposed restriction of overtime to 3 hours would practically mean doing away with overtime entirely in the case of dock labourers. It would be obviously impossible to have a complete shift of men at 10-30 p.m. and consequently a fresh shift would have to be put on for night work,

beginning at 7-30 p.m. Presumably, men who had not worked during the day would be allowed to work a complete night shift (7-30 p.m. to 3-30 a.m.) if necessary and would not be entitled to the extra percentage for overtime. If so the question of higher pay for overtime did not arise. In any event there would appear to be no justification for suggesting a higher rate of overtime than that admissible under the Factory Act, - say 25 per cent. Overtime was keenly sought after under present conditions by the dock labourers and no extra allowance was demanded or paid other than a small "batta" allowance for food. It, therefore, seemed unnecessary to add to the financial burdens of the Port, seeing that all concerned were satisfied with the existing arrangements and that economy was a matter of vital necessity in present conditions of trade.

Age of Employment. - No child labour was employed by the Port Trust and there was no objection to the enforcement of the recommendation to raise the minimum age of employment to 14 years.

Enforcement & Form of Legislation. - The Factory Inspection Department appeared to be the most suitable medium for the enforcement of any regulations based on the above recommendations which might be issued, but the supervising staff of the Port authority should be vested with powers of inspection, subject to submission of such periodical returns as might be required by the Chief Inspector of Factories. As regards the most suitable method of giving statutory effect to any decisions that might be reached in connection with the proposed regulations, the Chairman of the Port Trust agreed that the proposals of the Government of India to amend the Indian Factories Act appeared to provide the most ready solution.

#### Representation of Labour Interests in Karachi

##### Port Trust: Karachi Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1933. ✓

Mr. R. R. Bakhale, M.L.C., has introduced a Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council on 16-2-1933 to amend the Karachi Port Trust Act, 1866, so as to secure representation for labour on the Karachi Port Trust. What is proposed to be done in this Bill is to increase the number of representatives on the Board by one and increase the nominated number of members by one and provide a seat to a labour representative. The following is the text of the Statement of Objects and Reasons for introducing the Bill:

The Report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India contains on pages 183-184 the following recommendations:-

"The important docks of India lie within the ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon, Karachi and Madras. The control of these ports is vested in Port Trusts constituted under Provincial Acts and consisting of representatives of shipping and commercial interests and a few official and nominated members. In one or two ports the latter include a member representing labour interests, and we recommend that this practice be extended to all major ports."

In the Bombay Presidency, Bombay and Karachi are the only major ports to which the above recommendation of the Royal Commission is applicable. The Bombay Port Trust (Amendment) Act No. XVI of 1929 already provides for the representation of labour on the Board of the Bombay Port Trust in the manner recommended by the Commission. This Bill, therefore, seeks to carry out the same recommendation in the case of the Karachi Port Trust by amending its Act ~~is~~ in a similar manner.

Migration.Indian Employees in Panama;Proportion to Panamese Revised. ✓

According to press reports received from Panama State, there is considerable nervousness among Indian merchants, especially Sindhi merchants, in Panama State, owing to the promulgation of stricter emigration laws by the new Labour Government now in power there. The new Labour Ministry, on coming to office, suddenly raised the proportion of Panamese subjects to be employed by Indian firms from the already fixed one-fourth of the total number of employees to three-fourths of the total. The new proposal, if adopted, would ~~have~~ meant instantaneous expulsion back to India of Indians already employed there, involving great hardship to them and their families, besides upsetting the work of firms. As a protest, Indian firms went on strike, closing shops for several days during the busy tourist season. The Labour Ministry was at first adamant about the modification of the restrictions, but after some time a compromise was arrived at reducing the number of Panamese subjects to be employed to half the total number of employees. Indian firms, it is understood, though not satisfied with the settlement, have started ✓ transaction of business.

~~Re~~-Repatriated emigrants in India; A Calcutta Demonstration. ✓

References were made at pages 73-75 of our October 1932 report and at pages 65-66 of our November 1932 report to a demonstration demanding Government help to return to the colonies from which they were repatriated, held at Calcutta on 19-10-1932 by about 1000

repatriated Indians temporarily settled at Matiabruz, a suburb of Calcutta. On 22-3-33 about 500 Indian ex-emigrants marched towards the residence of the Member-in-Charge of Emigration with the Government of Bengal demanding to be sent back at Government expense to the colonies from which they were repatriated. While refusing the demand, the Minister promised to try to obtain work for them in India itself. The demonstration then dispersed.

The following facts regarding these repatriates are taken from a communique on the incident issued by the Government of Bengal on 28-3-33.

Most of the repatriates, who have been returning in increasing numbers during recent years, have been absorbed in the population of the country. A number of those who were not thus absorbed, were settled in Matiabruz and they being destitute, the Government ~~found~~ found for them a camp at Akra, where about 600 of these were given food for the past four months. In the meanwhile, the Government made strenuous effort ~~by~~ to find them suitable jobs and if possible to settle them on the land. The Government promised to send them to those estates from where offers to absorb them had come and, in addition, offered to pay those who could not be provided thus with work, a bonus of Rs.10 per adult and Rs. 5 per minor. ~~in view of the fact that they could not be supported indefinitely at Government expense.~~ The Government also promised to find them work if they were prepared to work. A few accepted the offer and were sent to Vijayagarh Estate, while the rest refused to work and demanded to be sent back at Government expense to the colonies from which they had been repatriated. This, however, the Government were unable to do, as several thousands of others <sup>repatriates</sup> who have settled down might also

make the same claim; and <sup>as,</sup> in the second place, the colonies did not want to have them back. The demonstration was held by way of protest against this decision of the Government.

### Indian Money Lenders in French-Indo-China;

#### Threat of Expulsion. ✓

The news received in India about the third week of March of the expulsion of four Indian bankers, belonging to the Natu-Kottai Chetty community, Madras, from French Indo-China by the French authorities has created great public indignation in India. On 30-3-33 Mr. Ramaswamy Mudaliar moved an adjournment motion in the Legislative Assembly to discuss the situation. The following information regarding the circumstances that have led to the present development is taken from Mr. Mudaliar's speech in the Assembly:-

The Natu Kottai Chettiars under the encouragement and guidance of the French Government had invested money in Indo-China and developed that country. No less than 700 million francs or Rs. 100 millions ~~of~~ had been advanced by Chettiars on promissory notes alone. Indo-China, like other countries, had suffered from the depression. A lot of insolvencies had occurred, but in 95 per cent of these cases Chettiars were not the creditors, for the Chettiars were very considerate to their debtors.

The Indo-China Government issued instructions to their judicial courts to grant some sort of moratorium to debtors but when this instruction was withdrawn, Chettiars and others took recourse to the courts for execution of decrees. The French Government asked the Chettiars to accept 20 to 30 per cent of the dues and write off the rest of the debts. They refused to do so. Thereupon four of them were given notice of expulsion.

Mr. Mudaliar demanded that the British Government should intervene and protect the rights of these Indian emigrants doing legitimate banking business in Indo-China.

Mr. Metcalfe, Foreign Secretary, replying on behalf of the

Government of India said that the Government was actively bestirring itself in the matter and that Saigong, Delhi, London and Paris were already in correspondence to bring about a just settlement. He deprecated the possibility of any action being initiated by the Government of Indo-China against ~~the~~ Chettiars as a class by themselves