

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for November 1936.

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

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References to the I.L.O.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" sent from Geneva by the paper's Geneva correspondent reviewing the work of the last session of the League Assembly and the Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Statesman dated 8-11-1936 publishes a picture of Sir Firoz Khan Noon in conversation with M. Paal Berg at Geneva where they attended the recent Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference. (The photograph which was supplied by the Geneva Office was sent to the paper by this Office).

* * *

Pictures of the Indian Delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference were published in the following: the Hindu dated 9-11-1936, the Times of India dated 12-11-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-11-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 15-11-1936 and the National Call dated 23-11-1936.

(Photographs received from Geneva were supplied to some of the above papers by this Office).

* * *

The Statesman dated 15-11-1936 publishes a picture of Sir Firoz Khan Noon with his Secretaries taken at Geneva.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 18 & 27-11-1936 publishes the first two instalments of a long article under the caption "The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the London correspondent of the paper. The article reviews the work of the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 22, 25 & 26-11-1936 publishes the above article in three instalments, sent by the same correspondent

* * *

A communique reviewing the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L.Conference (issued by this Office on 17-11-1936) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 19-11-1936, the Hindu dated 22-11-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 24-11-36.

* * *

The National Call dated 27-11-1936 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article comments favourably on the work

achieved by the Conference. *The article also refers to the activities after I.L.C. during November 1936.* *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 29-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 20-11-1936 sent from Geneva by the paper's Swiss correspondent. The "Letter" deals with the discussions on the question of hours of work for seamen at the 21st (Maritime) Session.

* * *

The Hindu dated 3-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 24-10-36 sent from Lausanne by the paper's Swiss correspondent in the course of which the work of the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference is reviewed.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-11-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of Indian seamen held on 3-11-1936 in London under the auspices of the Hindustani Social Club. The meeting was attended by some members of the Indian delegation to the recent Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference. Mr. Aftab Ali, who addressed the meeting, reviewed the work of the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference, and expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished. The message was sent to the paper by its London correspondent.

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The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-11-1936 *publishes a* ~~of a~~ long letter dated 7-11-1936 from London from the paper's London correspondent reviewing the meeting of Indian seamen referred to above.

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-11-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 20-11-1936 publish a "Letter" from London dated 4-11-1936 from their London correspondents. In the course of the letter, reference is made to the activities in London of Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang, who attended the last two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L. Conference as representatives of Indian workers.

* * *

issued The Times of India dated 21-11-36 publishes a short statement on landing at Bombay ~~issued~~ by Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang on their mission to Geneva. In the course of the statement, they express ~~ed~~ satisfaction with the results of the two (Maritime) Sessions of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Times of India dated 25-11-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of Indian seamen held at Bombay on 21-11.1936 to review

the work done by the Indian workers' delegation at the 21st and 22nd Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mahomed Serang.

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 25-11-1936 publishes a report of a reception accorded to Mr. Aftab Ali on his arrival at Calcutta after attending the last two sessions of the I.L.Conference. In his speech on the occasion, Mr. Aftab Ali reviewed the work of the two sessions of the Conference.

* * *

A communique re. the 77th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 30-11-1936) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 2-12-1936.

* * *

The Times of India dated 30-11-1936 publishes a news item received by air mail from Geneva summarising the Report of the Director to the 77th session of the Governing Body.

* * *

The Times of India dated 26-11-1936 publishes a news item received from Geneva regarding the decision of the Governing Body to invite the League of Nations to co-operate with the I.L.O. in the matter of convening an international conference of the coal producing countries.

* * *

The Hindu dated 24-11-1936 publishes a "Letter" dated 14-11-36 sent from Fribourg by the paper's Swiss correspondent in the course of which the reasons for overlooking Spain's claims in connection with the election of the Chairman of the Governing Body at the last meeting, are explained. The letter also gives an appreciative review of M. Fernand Maurette's talk at Geneva on "The economic situation of today", delivered on the last Armistice Day.

* * *

A communique re. ^{the} activities of the I.L.O. during November 1936 (issued by this Office on 24-11-1936) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 26-11-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 1-12-1936.

* * *

A communique re. the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference (issued

by the Government of India) is published by the following: the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 14-11-1936, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 5-11-1936 and the October 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

* * *

The Times of India dated 21-11-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that several commercial bodies in Calcutta have recommended Mr. Karam Chand Thapar for nomination as the Indian Employers' delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference. It is also mentioned that Sir H.P.Mody has been recommended by numerous employers' organisations outside Bengal.

* * *

The Times of India dated 27-11-1936 publishes a news item received from Geneva regarding the proposal of the Polish Member in the Migration Committee of the I.L.O. to hold an International Migration Conference.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 5-11-1936 publishes a report sent by mail from Geneva of a luncheon party given by Dr. V.S.Ram of the League Secretariat on 9-10-1936 in honour of the Indian delegates to the League Assembly and the Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

A communique re. ^{the} World unemployment situation during the 3rd quarter of 1936 (issued by this Office on 27-10-1936) is published by the following; the Hindu dated 2-11-1936 and the Leader dated 5-11-1936.

* * *

The National Call dated 30-10-1936 publishes an editorial article on the above, in the course of which Government's apathy in collecting Indian unemployment statistics is deplored.

* * *

The National Call dated 6-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Training Camps for the Unemployed". In the course of the article, the suggestion is made that camps for the unemployed on the lines indicated in certain publications of the I.L.O. should be started in India.

* * *

The National Call dated 19-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Reduction of Unemployment in U.S.: Will Government of India follow Suit"? The article pays tribute ~~the~~

to the efforts of the Roosevelt administration to reduce unemployment in the United States and points out that the United States closely followed the programme chalked out by the I.L.O. in this behalf. The Government of India, it is suggested, should follow the lead of the United States and work on the lines indicated by the I.L.O. to reduce unemployment.

* * *
 The Hindustan Times dated 9-11-1936 ^{publishes} of a long and appreciative review of "The I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36". (The review was supplied to the paper by this Office).

* * *
 "Indian Finance", Calcutta, dated 7-11-1936 also publishes a review of the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36. (An extract of the review was sent to Geneva with this Office's ^{minute} H.1/1295/36 dated 11-11-1936).

* * *
 A communique re. the I.L.O. Year-Book, 1935-36 (issued by this Office on 19-10-1936) is published by the following: the October 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, and the November 1936 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay.

* * *
 The October 1936 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes a review of "Social Insurance in 1935" (Reprint of Chapter III of "The I.L.O. Year Book, 1935-36"). (A copy of the publication was forwarded to the Journal by this Office.).

* * *
 A statement issued by Mr. C.C. Biswas on his return from Geneva after attending the last League Assembly, is published in the following: the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times dated 7-11-1936.

Mr. Biswas expresses dissatisfaction with India's position in the League.

* * *
 The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above, supporting the views expressed by Mr. Biswas.

* * *
 The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 9-11-1936 publishes a note on the recent Japanese enactment prohibiting night work of women and young persons in Japanese mines. It is pointed out that this legislative

measure is the result of Draft Conventions prohibiting night work of women and young persons.

* * *

The November 1936 (Special Supplement) issue of the Commercial Review, Alleppey, publishes an article under the caption: "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. References are made in the article to the role of the I.L.O. in minimising the adverse effects of such competition on workers' standard of living.

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The Servant of India, Poona, dated 12-11-1936 publishes an appreciative review of the book: "The League of Nations" by Kathleen E Innes (Hogarth Press). The review makes incidental references to the I.L.O.

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The November 1936 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, reproduces the article: ~~on~~ "India and the 40-Hour Week" originally published in the Asiatic Review.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 5-11-1936 publishes the full text of the first of a series of broadcast talks on "The Human Factor in Industry" delivered by Mr. D. Shiva Rao, the President of the National Trades Union Federation. In the course of the talk, Mr. Shiva Rao traces the influence of the I.L.O. in promoting the working class movement in India. The text of the speech was published in several Indian papers.

* * *

The National Call dated 7-11-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Roosevelt returns to the White House: Promise of a New Economic World Order". In the course of the article attention is drawn to the support accorded by the Roosevelt administration to the programmes of the I.L.O.

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The Times of India dated 5-11-1936 publishes a short editorial note under the heading "French India Inquiry" in which the objects of M. Justin Godart's visit and his connections with the I.L.O. are reviewed.

* * *

The Report of the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 1935 contains the following references to the I.L.O.:

- (a) At pages 101-105 is published the I.L.O. Questionnaire (with the views of the Association thereon) relating to holidays with pay. The Association is opposed to the proposal.
- (b) At pages 128-132 is published the views of the Association on the I.L.O. Convention re. Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases. (Revised 1934). The Committee, while offering no comments in respect of other diseases, is of opinion that silicosis may be included as an occupational disease.

* * *

No Indian newspaper or periodical received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

* *& pictures* *

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during November 1936. :-

1. A report of a meeting of Indian seamen in London held on 3-11-1936 at which Mr. Aftab Ali spoke, sent by the London correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle.
2. A Reuter's message dated 3-11-1936 from London re. above.
3. A "letter" dated 24-10-1936 from Lausanne to the Hindu by its Swiss correspondent regarding 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference.
4. A "letter" from Geneva regarding the Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference, and published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-11-1936.
5. A message from Geneva regarding the luncheon party organised by Dr. V.S. Ram.
6. A picture taken at Geneva of Sir Firoz Khan Noon with his Secretaries.
7. Pictures of the Indian delegation to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference.
8. An article under the caption: "The Seamen's Charter" contributed by the Geneva correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika.
9. A "letter" dated 4-11-1936 from London regarding the activities of Mr. Aftab Ali in London.
10. A "letter" dated 20-11-36 from Geneva regarding the last Maritime Sessions of the I.L. Conference.
11. A "letter" dated 14-11-1936 from Fribourg regarding the election of the Chairman of the Governing Body.

12. A "Letter" dated 7-11-1936 from London regarding ~~the~~ a meeting of Indian seamen in London.
13. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the Report of the Director to the 77th Session of the Governing Body.
14. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the holding of an ~~x~~international migration conference.
15. A message from Geneva received by air mail regarding the international conference of coal producing countries.

National Labour Legislation.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1936

(Act XXI of 1936)

Reference was made ~~px~~ at page 7 of our October 1936 report to the passing by the Legislative Assembly on 13-10-1936 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1935, providing for prohibition of arrest and imprisonment of honest debtors of all classes. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 27-10-1936 and is published at pages 63-64 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 7-11-1936.

The Hazardous Occupations Rules, 1936:

Draft of Rules Published by the Government
of India.

Attention is directed to pages 1420 to 1423 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 31-10-1936 to the draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make ~~in~~ exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of Section 33 of the Factories Act, 1934. These rules will be taken into consideration on or after 31-1-1937. The rules are called:

1. The Hazardous Occupations (Miscellaneous) Rules, 1937.
2. The Hazardous Occupations (Aerated Waters) Rules, 1937.
3. The Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1937.
4. The Hazardous Occupations (Chromium) Rules, 1937.
5. The Hazardous Occupations (Cellulose Spraying) Rules, 1937.
6. The Hazardous Occupations (Sand Blasting) Rules, ~~1936~~ 1937.

1. Miscellaneous Rules. - These rules provide:-

(1) No child shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in the Schedule.

(2) No adolescent shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in items 1 to 8 inclusive of the Schedule.

(37) No female adolescent shall be employed in any factory in any of the operations specified in items 8 and 9 of the Schedule.

The Schedule is as follows:-

1. The manufacture or recovery of any of the following:
 - (a) Carbonates, chromates, chlorates, oxides or hydroxides of potassium, sodium, iron, aluminium, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, antimony, zinc or magnesium.
 - (b) Ammonia and the hydroxide and salts of ammonium.
 - (c) Sulphurous, sulphuric, nitric, hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, hydriodic, hydrosulphuric, boric, phosphoric, arsenious, arsenic, lactic, acetic, oxalic, tartaric or citric acids and their metallic or organic salts, and
 - (d) Cyanogen compounds.
2. A wet process,
 - (a) when carried on for the extraction of metal from ore or from any by-product or residual material; or
 - (b) in which electrical energy is used in any process of chemical manufacture.
3. The manufacture or production of carbon disulphide or the production or use of hydrogen sulphide.
4. The manufacture of bleaching powder or the production or use of chlorine gas in any process of chemical manufacture.
5. The distillation or use of gas tar or coal tar, or any product or residue of such tars, in any process of chemical manufacture.
6. The utilization of nitric acids in the manufacture of nitro compounds.
8. Melting and blowing glass and mixing, grinding and sieving glass-making materials.
9. Vitreous enamelling.
10. Handling wool, hair, bristles, hides and skins.
11. Mixing, grinding and sieving ceramic materials in the dry state.
12. Grinding materials for the manufacture of portland cement and burning and grinding cement clinker, in portland cement factories.
13. Mixing and handling yellow orpiment.

2. The aerated Waters Rules.- These Rules declare the manufacture of aerated waters and processes incidental thereto as hazardous and provide for adequate safety precautions, such as fencing of machines, provision of face guards and gauntlets, etc.

3. The Rubber Rules.- The Rubber Rules apply to factories where work on rubber mixing machines is carried on and the use of

any organic solvents in the manufacture of goods containing rubber, is involved. These **rules** prohibit the employment of children in such factories.

4. The Chromium Rules.- These rules declare operations involving the use of soluble Chromium compounds as hazardous and prohibit the employment of women, children and adolescents in factories involving such operations, and lay down certain stipulations regarding protective clothing to be given to workers.

5. The Cellulose Spraying. Rules.- The spraying of cellulose ester paints and lacquers is ~~is~~ declared to be a hazardous operation when carried on in any factory. The Rules prohibit the employment of children and adolescents in factories where such operations~~is~~ are carried.

6. The Sand Blasting Rules.- Sand blasting is declared to be a hazardous operation when carried on in any factory. The Rules prohibit the employment of women, children and adolescents in such factories, and lays down certain stipulations regarding the protective clothing to be supplied to adult male workers in such factories.,

Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad: Hyderabad

Penal Code (Amendment) Bill Passed. +

Reference was made at page 15 of our September 1936 report to the introduction of the Hyderabad Penal Code (Amendment) Bill in the Hyderabad State Legislative Council providing for the abolition of traffic in slavery. According to a communication received in this Office from the Government of Hyderabad State, the Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council, but has not yet received the assent of His Exalted Highness the Nizam. The text of the Act is reproduced below:

Preliminary.

Whereas, it is expedient to amend the Hyderabad Penal Code; it is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title
date of commen-
cement and local
extent.

1. This Act may be called "An Act to amend the

Hyderabad Penal Code"; and it shall come into force in the whole of H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions from the date of its publication in the Jarida.

Buying or selling ~~for~~ purposes of slavery.

After Section 307 of the Hyderabad Penal Code, the following Section 307A shall be inserted:-

307 A. Whoever habitually imports from any foreign country into H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions, or exports from the Dominions to any foreign country, or removes from one place to another or buys, sells, traffics or deals in slaves shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to the term of imprisonment for life; ~~and~~ and shall also be liable to fine.

In a communique dated 3-10-1936 issued by the Information Bureau of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government, it is explained that the introduction of the Amending Act is not to be construed as an indication that this iniquitous social system has hitherto been tolerated by H.E.H. the Nizam's Government. The fact is that slavery was abolished and made penal in this State simultaneously with the other parts of India, as ~~is~~ evident from the provisions of the Hyderabad Penal Code. The recent measure is designed merely to add to the Hyderabad Code the provisions of section 371 of the Indian Penal Code which relates to habitual dealing in slaves. +

15

Maternity Benefit for Bengal: Government

Decision to Enact Legislation. +

Reference was made at page 8 of ^{the} ~~our~~ January 1936 report of this Office to the intention of the Government of Bengal to undertake legislation for making compulsory the grant of maternity benefits to women employed in the perennial factories of the Presidency, and to a circular letter sent out in this connection by the Government to the industrial interests concerned. It is understood that the replies received by the Local Government indicated ~~that there is~~ a general consensus of opinion amongst employers in favour of the proposal. The Local Government have, accordingly, decided to proceed with the legislation which is modelled on the lines of the Bombay and Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Acts.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce for September 1936).+

The Indore Trade Unions Bill, 1936 + Introduced in

Indore Legislative Council. +

In the second week of November 1936, Mr. S.F. Dravid introduced in the Holkar State (Indore) Legislative Council, ~~the~~ Indore Trade Unions Bill, 1936, intended to provide for the registration of trade unions and, in certain respects, to define the law relating to registered trade unions in Indore. In introducing the Bill, Mr. Dravid pointed out it was essential that there should be some law for the proper control and expenditure of the funds of trade unions.

1.2.

Mr. Bhanwar Lal Sethi, opposing the Bill, said that there was no necessity for such legislation and ^{that} no useful purpose would be served by the Bill. He referred to the strikes in 1926 and 1934 in Indore and said that the unions failed to find a solution; ~~and~~ the disputes ~~was~~ ^{were} only settled by Government intervention. He added that the unions had not been successful elsewhere, and considered that the Bill would create unnecessary difficulties.

The suggestion of Rai Sahib Bhargava to circulate the Bill for public opinion was rejected. Mr. Rege moved an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the House. The proposal was accepted and the Select Committee, consisting of seven members, was asked to submit its report within three months.

The Bill is a non-official one.

(The Statesman, 11 & 12-11-1936).

The C.P. Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936,
Passed by Legislative Council on 7-11-1936.

Reference was made at pages 7-8 of our February 1936 report to the introduction by Rao Sahib R.W. Fulay on 27-1-1936 of a Bill to regulate the labour of women and children and to make provision for the welfare of labour in factories to which the Factories Act, 1934, does not apply. The Select Committee to which the Bill was referred submitted its report on 1-10-1936 ^{(The report} which was published at pages 645-660 of Part II of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 30-10-1936) The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was taken up for consideration on 7-11-1936, and was passed by the Legislative Council on the same day.

(The Times of India, 9-11-1936).

Besetting an Industrial Establishment Prohibited:

The C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936, Passed.

Reference was made at page 13 of our July 1936 report to the C.P. Protection of Debtors Bill, 1936. The Bill was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Council on 6-8-1936 by the Home Member with the Local Government and on the same day was referred to a Select Committee. The Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was passed by the Council early in November 1936. The Act is designed to protect debtors from money lenders and their hirelings, who rely on the threat of violence rather than on the processes of law. The measure makes molestation and intimidation of debtors punishable with simple imprisonment extending to three months or a fine of Rs. 500 or both.

(The Times of India, 9-11-1936)

Registration of Trade Unions in Travancore:

S.M.P. Assembly Passes ~~XII~~ Third Reading of Bill on 21-11-36.

At pages 18-19 of our August 1935 were given details of the Travancore Trade Union Bill. The Bill was taken up for discussion by the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly of the State on 20-11-1936. In the course of the discussion an amendment was moved deleting the provision relating to compulsory registration of trade unions; the amendment, however, was not adopted. Another amendment to the effect that "not less than three-fourth of the total number of officers of every registered trade union shall be persons actually engaged or employed in any trade or industry with which the trade union is connected" was adopted. The Bill passed through its ~~x~~ second and third readings on 21-11-1936.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1936)

Conditions of Labour.

Pondicherry Textile Strike: Agreement arrived at
in Rodier Mills. +

References were made at pages 30-32 of our August 1936 report and at page 26 of our September 1936 report to the labour dispute in the textile mills in Pondicherry. It is now understood that, as the result of the personal interest taken by His Excellency M. Crocid^ochia, the Governor of French India, a settlement between the management of the Rodier Mills and their workers has been arrived at on 31-10-1936. The salient features of the settlement are as follow:-

1. All the workers of the Mill who apply for resumption will be taken back, with the exception of 100 workers of whom 50 superannuated ~~workers~~ will be pensioned off.

2. The duration of work per day is fixed at 9 hours from the 1st November 1936, the duration of work per week being 54 hours.

3. The daily rate of wages paid to the workers under ^{Re} 9-hour day will be maintained at the rate which existed previously under a 10-hour day.

4. The wages for piece-workers will be so adjusted (under a 9 hour-day) that it will not fall below the old wages.

5. Workers who have put in a service of 25 years in the Mill will be entitled ^{to} for a pension of 40 per cent of their last wages.

6. On the request of the workers, the manager of the mills can form a Mutual Benefit Fund by deducting a 5 per cent of their wages which will bear an interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

7. The ~~spoiled~~ ^{spoiled} pieces during work will be handed over to the workers, ^{at a} ~~charge~~ ^{of} 75 per cent of their value.

8. In case of death of a worker, one of his sons will have the preference of appointment when it is filled.

9. For the year 1936 no bonus will be allowed. For the coming years, a bonus ~~will~~ which will be a sum equal to the wages of two fortnights will be utilised, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for welfare work ~~for~~ the workers.

10. Women-workers will enjoy maternity benefit of five weeks' leave with wages.

11. Overtime work during day will be remunerated at 150 per cent of the normal wages, and night work at 200 per cent of the normal wages.

12. Minimum daily wages of children working in the mill is to be 4 as. 3 pies.

13. A local Medical Officer will be posted permanently in the Mill during the hours of work.

14. Operatives who are disabled owing to accidents when at work will have free medical treatment and will be entitled to full wages during the period of their incapacity for work.

It is understood that a settlement is being effected in the Gaebele mills also. The Rodier and Gaebele mills started work on 18th November 1936.

(The Hindu, 3 & 17-11-1936)

M. Justin Godart's Mission. †

Senator Justin Godart, who has been deputed by the French Government to study labour conditions in the French Colonies, had a busy time in India since his arrival at Pondicherry.

On the 7th November, he was presented with an address of welcome by the Pondicherry Municipality. On the 15th November, a delegation on behalf of the unemployed men and women of Mahe waited on him at the Government House, Mahe, and presented a memorandum which pointed out that, as the result of the economic depression, migration of labour from Mahe to other parts of India and to oversea countries had ceased, ^{Mahe} unemployment was rife in Mahe. The memorandum urged the need~~s~~ for industrial undertakings and other ameliorative schemes, and pending their inauguration, prayed that the poorest might be given unemployment doles or subsistence allowance. On the 18th November ^{M. Godart} ~~he~~ visited Karikal where a civic address was presented to him.

On the 20th November, he returned to Pondicherry and on the 21st he attended the formal opening of the French India Assembly by M. Crocicchia, the Governor. At the conclusion of the ceremony, M. Godart addressed the members of the Assembly. ~~Referring~~ Referring to his mission, he said that he would not leave French India without having elaborated a definite ^{code} ~~text~~ of laws to govern conditions of work, which he would ask the Minister to promulgate here without delay, after having consulted those who were affected by it. He also pointed out that while it was essential that labourers should have the support of the law to obtain justice, it was also important that they should understand that, even if their rights had been

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proclaimed and sanctioned, they would not be in a position to get due respect until they knew how to organise and impose on themselves discipline and order.

On the 23rd November, a labour delegation, consisting of Mr. Giri, M.L.A., Mr. Guruswami, assistant secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and two Pondicherry labour leaders, met him to discuss labour legislation in French India. The following report of the interview is taken from a press statement issued by Mr. Giri.

48-Hour Week.- The first point that the delegation stressed was with reference to the introduction of shorter hours of work. They pleaded that at least the 48-hour week should be legislated ^{introduced.} M. Godart felt the force of the argument and thought that it may be possible to introduce 48-hour week legislation, providing for a transition period of about two years to realise this end.

Right of Association.- The next question the delegation stressed was in regard to the recognition of the right of association for ~~tax~~ workers for trade union purposes. The British Indian practice of providing for election of a few non-workers to assist the trade unions and at the same time to protect the worker office-bearers from fear of victimisation was discussed. This aspect was taken note of by M. Godart for consideration. The desirability of machinery for dealing with trade disputes was discussed at much length. The Indo-Chinese legislation which provided for conciliation and arbitration machinery was taken as the basis for framing future measures for French India for the settlement of disputes. M. Godart felt that this was a reasonable suggestion.

Implementing of Ratified I.L. Conventions.- The question of implementing labour conventions ratified by France, such as the conventions relating to unemployment and maternity benefit, workmen's compensation, old age pension, paid holidays, prohibition of employment of young persons in factories and also the employment of women and young persons during nights were discussed in great detail with a view to devising suitable measures for French India with the least possible delay.

Social Legislation.- The questions of unemployment insurance, provision for the constitution of employment exchanges, organisation of public works, compulsory education of children and regulation of fines and utilisation of the same for workers' welfare work were considered, and they received sympathetic attention at the hands of M. Godart.

labour Representation in Assembly.- Another important matter that was discussed related to the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of vocation. Representation of labour in the Assemblies and reference of all public measures that affected the interests of the labourers to them through the constitution of industrial councils were also dealt with.

Need for Labour Legislation.-The delegation strongly emphasised that the workers looked to their future only in the introduction of suitable labour laws for the improvement of their condition, and the settlement accepted in regard to the recent disputes was reached on the understanding that the ~~workers~~ ^{case} for grant of better conditions through legislation was not prejudiced. M.Godart agreed with this view.

Minimum Wages.- The need for minimum wage fixing machinery and suitable decrees for ensuring security of tenure were also stressed.

M.Godart's Reply.- In conclusion, M.Godart stated that while labour laws may improve the position of labour, the right solution lay in the ~~direction of~~ proper and effective organisation of labour. He assured the delegation that while French India may not have had as many labour laws as desirable hitherto, they would not only not be behind British India, but may even serve as a model.

It is understood that M. Godart will shortly be paying an unofficial visit to Delhi.

(The Hindu, 11, 17, 20, 23 and
24-11-1936). +

It is announced that M.Godart is arriving in New Delhi on 3-12-1936 and is staying here for two days.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-12-36)

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Ambarnath Match Workers Call Off Strike. *

Reference was made at page 25 of our September 1936 report to the developments in connection with the match workers' strike of the Western India Match Company, at Ambarnath, Bombay Presidency. After being on strike for nearly three and a half months, the workers decided to call off the strike from 5-11-1936. The decision is understood to be the result of fresh talks with the Management who have agreed to take back all the workers on the wages prevalent at the time of the strike. No new wage-cut will be made. The question of the black-legs employed at reduced wages during the strike, it appears, will be solved in a way that will not lead to any loss of employment to the old workers. The black-legs, obviously, will gradually be eliminated in the course of two or three weeks.

Chronicle
(The Bombay ~~6~~1,7-11-1936).1

The Ahmedabad Textile Strike Situation:

Prolonged Negotiations. +

At pages 17 to 18 of the report of this Office for October 1936, reference was made to the dispute with regard to wage cut in progress in the Ahmedabad textile industry. On the 30th October 1936, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, President, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, had a long conference with Mahatma Gandhi, one of the arbitrators, and on 1st November, the leaders of the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, also conferred with Mahatma Gandhi. (The Bombay Chronicle, 3-11-1936). On 3-11-1936, the Labour Association sent a letter to the Millowners' Association complaining of further inroads by the employers on the workers' rights even while the arbitration negotiations were going on, and threatening to initiate a general strike if no satisfactory reply was received. (The Times of India, 5-11-1936). On the 7th November the Millowners' Association replied to the effect that it was prepared to cooperate with the Ahmedabad Labour Union in all efforts made by it to maintain harmonious relationships between employers and workers. (The Times of India, 10-11-36). In view of the assurance given by the Millowners' Association, the joint representative board of the Textile Labour Association passed a resolution on 11-11-36 for postponement of the general strike. The resolution, however, insisted on a reference to arbitration of the question of unemployed workmen of mills which have employed new men at reduced wages, and urged the ^{grant of} ~~secretary to give~~ relief to workmen who have gone on strike, as well as the workmen who act as black-legs on account of unemployment. (The Times of India, 13-11-1936).

The long delay that has taken place in the arbitration proceedings is sorely trying the patience of the workers and on 22-11-1936, the Secretary of the Labour Association, voiced this feeling, when at a meeting of the workers, he announced that if the Millowners' Association created further delays in submitting the ~~the~~ question of the wage-cut to arbitration, the workers will declare a general strike in a week's time. Meanwhile, a strike is going on in seven mills which have reduced wages without waiting for the decision of the arbitrators. (The Bombay Chronicle, 24-11-1936).

Threat of General Strike on B.N. Railway:

Sequel to Demotions and Retrenchment.

About 600 members of the staff of the Loco and Carriage Department of the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Bhojudih initiated a strike on 6-11-36. The grievances of the strikers are the transfer of a number of old employees without consulting the Union, an increase in hours of work, and reduction of wages. The strike soon spread to other centres, and the Railway administration having failed to redress the grievances of the workers, an emergent meeting of the Central Council of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union held at Bhojudih on 15-11-1936 passed a resolution to the effect that notice for strike in all departments, branches and sections in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway should be issued immediately with a view to secure redress of grievances. Resolutions were also passed at the meeting requesting the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to support the direct action decided upon by the said Union, and also to give notice within a fortnight for strike on other

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railways affected by the offensive of the employers under the guise of economy. The period of notice is due to expire on 30th November and the strike is to begin on 1-12-1936, but as Mr. V.V.Giri, President of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union and General Secretary of the A.I.Railwaymen's Federation, has wired to Mr. Kalappa, General Secretary of the Union, not to initiate the strike before he (Mr.Giri) reaches Ehojudih, the strike is likely to be delayed by a few days.

(The Indian Labour Journal Special Supplement dated 29-11-1936, and the Hindustan Times, 27-11-1936). +

Enforcement of Conventions.

Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1935.* †

General Remarks. - The Chief Inspector of Factories, the United Provinces, remarks in his annual report on the administration of the Factories Act during 1935 that the new Factories Act came into force from 1-1-1935, and as was to be expected the introduction of an entirely new Act caused a certain amount of dislocation. For several months his office received a large number of enquiries and requests for explanation, in particular with regard to "adolescents", the difference between seasonal and non-seasonal factories, rest intervals, spread over and overtime. Absence of new rules increased the difficulties, particularly in respect of the various exemptions which had been issued in the past under section 30 of the Act of 1911; on the whole, however, the Act worked as smoothly as could be expected.

Statistics of Factories.- The total number of factories † on the Register at the close of the year was 579, as against 566 in the previous year; 55 factories were registered and 40 removed from the register. Of the 579 factories, 236 were seasonal and 343 non-seasonal. The total number of factories that worked during the year was 496 (296 non-seasonal and 200 seasonal) as against 477 (255 non-seasonal and 222 seasonal) 1934. Annual Returns were received from only 488 factories out of the 496 factories that were in commission during the year.

Number of Operatives.- The average daily number of workers employed in the registered factories, as obtained from the annual returns received, was 139,260, against ~~124~~ 125,986 in the previous year; nearly 95 per cent of this is adult male labour. About 64 per cent of the total number of workers were employed in perennial factories and 36 per cent in the seasonal concerns. The increase of over 10 per cent in the number of workers is mainly due to the

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1935 by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers.-Allahabad: Supdt., Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1936. Price Rs. 2-0-0. pp.48

existing factories employing more workers and partly to the registration of new factories. The number of workers employed in each class of factory is given in the statement below:

Class of factory.	Number of workers.		
	1935	1934	Increase or decrease.
Government and Local Fund factories.	17,880	17,372	+508
Textiles. ...	43,590	38,788	+4,802
Engineering. ...	6,395	5,845	+550
Minerals and metals...	529	381	+148
Food, drink and tobacco.	45,345	41,281	+4,064
Chemical dyes, etc....	5,143	4,155	+988
Paper and printing...	3,454	3,097	+357
Wood, stone and glass.	3,835	3,098	+737
Skins and hides. ...	3,716	3,447	+269
Gins and presses. ...	9,204	8,346	+858
Miscellaneous. ...	169	176	-7
Total...	139,260	125,986	+13,274

X Employment of Adolescents, Women and Children.- The average number of adolescents employed in factories was 1,220 (1,011 in non-seasonal and 209 in seasonal factories). Out of a total of 1,220 adolescents, 1,178 or 96.5 per cent are reported to have worked as adults and only 42 as children.

There were 5534 women in employment as against 5,383 in 1934. Of the 5,534 women workers, 5,390 or 61 per cent were employed in seasonal factories, as compared with 64 per cent in 1934. Since 1931 the number of women employed has steadily decreased, but in the year under report there was an increase of 151. The proportion of women to the total number ~~xx~~ of workers was however just under 4 per cent as compared with 4.3 per cent in 1934.

The average number of children employed daily was 464 as against 387 in 1934. 398 out of a total of 464 children were employed in non-seasonal factories. The decline in the number of children employed, which had continued for several years, was checked in 1934 when there was an increase of 11; in the year under review there was a further increase of 77 child workers. The increase is due mainly to a printing press in Allahabad employing

a larger number of child workers and to 35 children being employed in the newly registered grass farms. The proportion of children compared with the total number of workers is still only a little over 0.5 per cent.

Inspection. - The number of inspections and visits made during the year was 1,250 against 985 in 1934, an increase of 245. 226 factories were inspected once, 135 ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ twice, 70 thrice and 61 more than three times; four factories were not inspected.

Sanitation, Fencing and Ventilation.- Sanitary conditions in most factories were on the whole satisfactory and considerably better than a decade ago. In a number of cases however warnings were given and attention drawn to the necessity of regularly flushing and cleaning drains and latrines. Ventilation is steadily improving, but in some of the older factories it is difficult sometimes to make much real improvement without drastic reconstruction.

Fencing and guarding has improved greatly during the past few years and in the majority of factories is of a high standard; wooden fencing is gradually being replaced by metal.

Accidents.- 2,133 accidents, 31 fatal, 449 serious and 1,653 minor, were reported during the year under report, as compared with 39 fatal, 412 serious and 1,648 minor in 1934.

Hours of Work.- In the non-seasonal category the weekly hours of 8 factories were not more than 42 and in 52 factories they were above 42, but not more than 48 hours. The weekly hours of 231 factories were above 48. In the seasonal category the weekly hours of 13 factories were not more than 48 and in 21 factories they were above 48, but not more than 54 hours. The weekly hours of 163 factories were above 54.

Ten cases were instituted by the Department for breaches of sections 34, 35, 36, 38 and 42 of the Act and convictions obtained in all the cases. The large majority of the factories worked to the full weekly limit of hours permitted by the Act.

Housing and Welfare Work.- 602 additional quarters, i.e.,

478 single and 124 double, were constructed in 23 districts during the year under report. Sugar factories were again responsible for the bulk of the new construction.

The Chief Inspector states that there is no notable expansion in the welfare sphere to record; the existing welfare work however continued as usual.

Health of Factory Workers. - The health of factory workers was generally good and no case of occupational disease came to the notice of the Department.†

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Indian Railway Conference Association Meeting,

New Delhi, 1936. +

This year's meeting of the Indian Railway Conference Association was held at New Delhi from 21 to 28-11-1936. The agenda of the Conference consisted of a large number of questions dealing with the work done during the year by the civil, mechanical and electrical engineering departments, review of the operation of the Railways, as also of the public health services on railways, and colour vision rules for employees.

The proceedings of the Conference was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy. In his opening address, His Excellency traced the part played by Indian Railways in the economic development of the country and dealt briefly with the serious financial condition of the railways during the depression. He stressed the need for effecting economies in railways and referred to the recent appointment of a committee with Sir Ralph Wedgwood as chairman, to examine railway finances and recommend such measures as will expedite their rehabilitation and further the co-ordination of transport. Concluding, he said that the depressing features of retrenchment would be largely mitigated if it is borne in mind that the prime purpose of economy should be to prepare the way for new enterprise and for better service to the public.

Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Commerce and Railway Member, Government of India, in his speech (read in Sir Muhammad's absence due to illness by Sir Guthrie Russell) at the opening session,

referred to the uneconomic competition from road transport and pointed out that with regard to passenger earnings at least, the situation is ~~not~~ capable of considerable improvement. Complaints, in many cases well-founded and justified, continue to reach Government of lack of consideration, want of courtesy and absence of helpfulness on the part of the railway staff towards passengers. There is a great deal of room for improvement in the arrangements for the booking of third class passengers, the standard of cleanliness of third class waiting halls and carriages, and the timings and connexions of trains.

The President of the Conference, Mr. H.N.Colam, Agent of the M. & S.R.Railway, in his speech referred to the present rating structure and said that there has been an insistent and fairly widespread demand for complete revision of this rating structure, and it would seem that the more important changes are:-

(i) that it should be correlated to some economic plan designed to effect the economic recovery of the country;

(ii) that the differences between the charges for the same commodity on different railways (and presumably in different localities on the same railway) should be abolished, largely and perhaps entirely;

(iii) that the charges at telescopic rates should be based on the total journey mileage and not on the separate journeys on different railways passed over as at present.

(iv) that the existing power of the Railways to quote special rates should be ~~abolished~~ abolished or at least severely curtailed and there is a demand that the charges to be made, should be decided by a body largely consisting of representatives of trades, business, etc.

Mr. Colam elaborately discussed the dangers in effecting changes in the present rating structure, as such a change, he argued, would bring about dislocation in trade. The President next referred to the question of road-rail competition and said that broadly

speaking, there are three ways of meeting the situation. If things are left as they are at present there can be only one result: railways will eventually have to be subsidized out of taxes one way or other, either directly, or indirectly by writing down the capital invested. If, however, lorry traffic is to be allowed to develop unchecked and railways are to be run as commercial concerns, it will be necessary, ~~x~~ sooner or later, to revise the rating structure so as to eliminate as far as possible those features which make a quite unnecessary present to the lorry of a considerable, and the most paying part of, the potential traffic. More valuable commodities and short-distance traffic would be charged less, and to compensate for the loss of revenue involved the charges on the less valuable commodities and on the longer distances would be increased. Failing acceptance of either of these two alternatives ~~or~~ bankrupt railways or a revision of the rating structure with all its attendant disadvantages ~~or~~ there would seem to be only one other course open, regulation and restriction of road traffic. The need for regulation is almost universally admitted and the points that require attention are known, but, he complained, very little is being done.

The Proceedings of the business meetings of the Conference were not open to the press. The session concluded on 28-11-1936. ~~xxx~~ Sir William Brayshay, Agent, B.E. & C.I. Railway, was elected president for 1937.

(The Statesman, 28-11-1936, and the Hindustan Times, 29-11-1936).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Union Movement in B. & O., 1935-36.* †

Number of Registered Unions.- According to the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year ending 31-3-1936, no Trade Union was registered under the Act during the year under report, nor was the registration of any Trade Union cancelled. There was no case of amalgamation of Trade Unions under section 24, nor of removal of the head office of any Trade Union from the province of Bihar and Orissa to another province or from another province to this province. The total number of registered Trade Unions in the province at the end of the year remained therefore the same as in the last year's report, namely 5. There was no case of refusal of registration.

Membership and Finance.- The total membership of the five trade unions during the year under review was 16,030 of whom 14,568 were men and ~~22~~ 462 women, as against 7,859 members (7681 men and 188 women) in 1934-35. The opening balance of the 5 unions during the year was Rs. 937-10-2, income was Rs. 4,592-2-6, expenditure was Rs. 8,534-6-8 and the closing debit balance Rs. 3,204-10-0.

Activities of the Unions.- No important activities of Trade Unions in general or developments of interest relating to the Trade Unions' movement during the year under report have been reported.

(The Annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Union Act in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1934-35 is reviewed at page 24 of our January 1936 report).

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year ending 31st March 1936. - Supdt., Govt. Printing, ~~XXXXXX~~ Bihar, Patna. 1936.- Price Annas 8 pies 6.- pp.3. †

Economic Conditions.

Economic Survey of Mysore State: Resolution Carried in
STATE ASSEMBLY

At the October Session of the Mysore State Assembly, Mr. T. Madiah moved a resolution on 31-10-1936 urging the Government of the State to conduct a survey of the economic condition of the people of the State. In support of the resolution, speakers emphasised the necessity for an organisation similar to the Board of Economic Advisory Council of Madras, to collect exhaustive and reliable statistics about the conditions of trade and commerce ~~and~~ exports and imports of Mysore State, which would give an accurate idea of their resources.

In opposing the resolution, the Government spokesmen said that the Government did not think that a special economic survey as such was necessary. Mr. S.G. Sastri, Director of Industries, referred to the approximate cost that a survey would ~~involve~~ ^{entail} the ~~State, in~~ and he asked the House to consider what the commensurate benefit ~~of that~~ was going to be. In view of the present economic condition, they could ill afford to spend a large sum in conducting a survey into the economic conditions of the people of the State.

The resolution was pressed to ^{the} division and was declared carried..

(The Hindu, 2-11-1936).

State Control of Economic Policy:

Viceroy's Speech at Chelmsford Club. +

Important pronouncements on the trend of world economic policies and on the increasing dominance of the doctrine of economic self-sufficiency were made by Lord Linlithgow at a dinner at the Chelmsford Club, New Delhi, on the 28th November, at which he was the guest of honour.

After referring briefly to the present conflict between the communist, the totalitarian and the democratic ideals, and stressing the fact that the stability of democratic institutions can only be brought about by a long period of disciplined evolution, the Viceroy directed attention to the rise and spread of the doctrine of economic self-sufficiency, and asserted that the tendency was of even greater import than the present day clash between different forms of government. The policy of economic self-sufficiency, the Viceroy pointed out, was being prosecuted by practically all States today, whether communist, totalitarian or democratic. Analysing the root causes of the tendency, he said that a more powerful motive than even the desire to maintain economic self-sufficiency during times of war, was the almost universal tendency of States to regulate and control their own internal economy. Elaborating this point, the Viceroy said:

"A great part of the world is moving rapidly in the direction of national control of those economic functions which have hitherto lain within the discretion of the individual, and in the future, international trade is going to be largely determined by that fact. whether under a Communist regime in Russia, a totalitarian dictatorship in Germany, Italy or Poland, or a political democracy in France, the United States, throughout the British Commonwealth and

in Scandinavia, governments are everywhere, to a greater or less degree, taking over responsibility for directing the economic activities of the individuals that compose the national State. And in truth it is not merely governments, it is society itself that is becoming in that sense interventionist."

Discussing the results of the tendency, the Viceroy emphasised the fact that the more closely States ordered economic activities within their own borders, the more were they compelled to order their external trade to conform to their internal policies. Thus economic self-sufficiency led inevitably to the regulation of exports and imports. Judging from present trends, he was inclined to think that the tendency was not likely to be short-lived. Unlike certain optimists, he did not think, for example, that the recent devaluation of French currency in terms of gold can be taken as a harbinger of any general sweeping away, in the near future, of international trade barriers. On the other hand, agreeing with the views of the League correspondent of "The Times", he was of opinion that the new protectionism was vastly more complicated and more effective than the old, that economic barriers, import restrictions, export subsidies and exchange regulations will be used increasingly as instruments of national policy in the years to come, and that Government direction of trade in accordance with national policy has introduced a new and incalculable factor the extent of which is only just beginning to be understood.

Referring to the policy of the Government of India, the Viceroy said:

"Practical statesmanship today lies in facing facts and in applying ourselves to an endeavour in the world as it is to promote the greatest possible amount of co-operation between the different national economic systems; and within the constellation of States whose common bond is the British Imperial Crown, to shape our economic policies with due regard to those limitations upon international trade to which I have referred, and which, if I read the signs aright, are not destined soon to be removed." (The Statesman, 29-11-36) +

8th Industries Conference:

Session to be held in Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-36. ←

The Government of India have issued invitations to the leading Provinces and States to participate in the eighth Industries Conference which is proposed to be held at Lucknow on 7 & 8-12-1936. The dates have been selected to enable those attending the conference to visit the United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, which will open at Lucknow on 5-12-1936. The following items have been placed on the agenda of the Conference:

Review of Provincial Schemes.- Following the grants of funds by the Legislative Assembly, allotments amounting to Rs. 1,072,600 have been made to the different provinces, with the assistance of which various schemes have been ~~put~~^{put} in operation. The conference will be asked to review the progress of the provincial schemes and to consider allotments for the year 1937-38, including grants for holding exhibitions and competitions for cotton handloom fabrics or machinery in provinces, and a small special grant for the introduction of the hand-weaving industry among the women workers in Bihar who are excluded from underground work in mines.

Industrial Rules.- The conference will be asked to consider the question of rule-making powers under Acts affecting industry in the concurrent field, with special reference to electricity and boilers, to secure uniformity after the introduction of provincial autonomy.

Other Items.- The conference will also be asked to consider the following subjects:- The standardisation of weights and measures

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throughout India; the publication of fuller trade statistics regarding important manufactured and semi-manufactured goods produced in the country and the raw materials consumed therein, along with the figures of inter-provincial movements of these articles, and the removal of inter-provincial barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical and drug industry in India.

Development of Sericulture.--The minutes of the second meeting of the Imperial Sericultural Committee will also be placed before the conference for its consideration. Following that meeting, grants amounting to Rs. 82,000 were allocated to various provinces for the development of the sericultural industry during 1936-37. The Sericultural Committee will hold a session at Lucknow after the Industries Conference.

Encouragement of Small-Scale Woollen Industry.-- The Government of India have decided to make a grant of Rs. 500,000 spread over five years, for the benefit of the cottage and small scale woollen industries. They intend that this grant should be administered in the same manner as a similar grant given to the sericultural industry, and applied for the benefit of those provinces in which there is a substantial cottage and small scale woollen industry. The first meeting of the Woollen Industry Committee was held on 4-7-1936, and a second meeting is to be held just after the conference.

(Commerce and Industry, 1-12-1936), .

Extension of Protection for Sugar Industry:Appointment of Tariff Board under Consideration. *

As the existing protective duty on sugar ends by March 1938, an inquiry into this industry has to be instituted early in 1937. The Government of India therefore is actively considering the question of appointing a Tariff Board and an announcement regarding its personnel is shortly expected.

The necessity for an early inquiry is rendered urgent by reason of the fact that revenues derived from import duty on sugar have been fast diminishing in recent months. Whereas the import duty in 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 58.1 millions, that in 1935-36 was ^{Rs.} 22.4 millions, that is Rs. 5.7 millions ~~less~~. For the current financial year the Government of India estimated a revenue of Rs. 20 millions. But in the six months ending September 1936, the revenue derived is only Rs. 3.3 millions. This huge drop in revenue has seriously upset the calculations of the Government.

Whenever the inquiry is ordered, the Board will have a more than usually complicated task inasmuch as competition within the country has been so keen that it will be difficult to assess what a fair selling-price of sugar is. Moreover, the Board will have to determine what is a fair return to the sugarcane grower, and in this matter the position differs very much not only from province to province but even within the same province.

(The Statesman, 12-11-1936). *

Employment and Unemployment.

Sapru Committee's Report on Unemployment: Statement
re. Action taken on Recommendations by U.P. Government. +

The following is the summary of a statement showing the action taken by the Government of the United Provinces on the report of the Unemployment (Sapru) Committee which was laid on the table in the U.P. Legislative Council recently.

Schemes for which Funds were Allotted.

Commercial and Industrial Training Colony.- A selection committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J.A.H. Duke was appointed in connection with the appointment of a Superintendent for the Colony and its recommendations are expected soon. Negotiations for renting suitable premises are in progress. About half a dozen industries have been selected as prima facie suitable for the colony and lists of the requisite machinery and equipment have been drawn up.

Industrial Credit and Marketing Companies.- Substantive supplementary estimates are being presented to enable Government to make further progress with negotiations for the flotation of private companies.

Practical Training in Agriculture.- This scheme provides for the training of 20 students. Of these 16 were selected, but actually 13 have joined the farms. Since no change can be made in the curriculum of the Agricultural College, Cawnpore, without the approval of the Agra University, the scheme for instruction in estate management will take some time. The question of fitting in such instruction with the ordinary tutorial work at the agricultural schools is under examination.

Employment Board.- Government orders setting up a provincial Employment Board have already been issued. (vide pages 39-41 of our October 1936 report).

Subsidiary Agricultural Industries.- Three students for a two years' course for the Dairying Diploma have been selected and are under training at the Agricultural Institute, Naini. As the Lyallpur College has demanded a high fee per capita for training in the canning and preservation of fruits, the alternative of setting up such a course at Cawnpore has had to be examined. The syllabus for training in the organised supply of eggs, poultry, etc., has been drawn up and the selection of suitable candidates desirous of

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undergoing this training is expected to be completed soon.

Veterinary Training.- Selection of students for deputation for veterinary training has been made.

Rural Medical Practitioners.- Inquiries are in progress with a view to secure the selection of promising medical graduates and licentiates willing to settle down to medical practices in the rural areas, and applications have been invited. Government orders for placing the additional grant at the disposal of the Indian Medical Board have been issued.

Agricultural Centres.- Six centres of agricultural improvement in the canal areas have been set up and work has started.

Rural Dispensaries.- In connexion with grants for fixed rural dispensaries, the selection of dispensaries for the receipt of such subsidies is proceeding. Several of them have already been selected. The extension of the District Health Scheme to four districts has been completed, and the scheme for the revival of three travelling dispensaries is already in operation.

Recommendations for which Funds have not
been Provided.

Practical Training Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.- As recommended a committee has been set up and a circular letter has been issued to non-official members inquiring whether they would serve. Work will begin only on Sir William Stampe's return.

Medicine.- The question relating to the investigation of the efficacy of indigenous drugs, etc., is being referred to the authorities of the Medical College, Lucknow.

Public Health.- A rule has been drafted prescribing that one-third of the number of assistant superintendents of vaccinations should be recruited from among Licentiates of Medicine, but before its issue, certain points require examination and are receiving it.

Law.- The question of reorganisation and reform of legal education is under examination in consultation with the universities and other interests.

Government Service.- The question whether a Local Self-Government Service should be created and other connected recommendations will be left for the new Government. Some of the other recommendations are under examination.

Industries.- It is hoped shortly to issue a resolution on the reports of the Industries Reorganisation, Industrial Schools and other Committees.

(The Industries are, under the

Industrial Education.- Government orders asking the Director of Public Instruction to set up advisory committees charged with the duties of advising students as to careers and of endeavouring to find employment for the ex-students of the institutions have already been issued.

Educational Reorganisation.- A committee under the chairmanship of Right Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has been set up and the Secretary has started the preliminary work.

(The Statesman, 6-11-1936) +

Unemployment in B. & O.: Report of Enquiry
Committee Appointed by Government.* +

Reference was made at pages 74-75 of our July 1935 report to the appointment by the Bihar Government in July 1935 of an enquiry committee to devise ways and means of mitigating unemployment among educated youths in Bihar and Orissa. The Report of the Committee has been issued recently; the salient features of the Report are given below:

Features of the Unemployment Problem in the Province.- The Committee is of the opinion that unemployment, in its widest sense, is considerable among the educated classes, but it is mainly under the category of indirect and provisional unemployment where a person is unable to secure a post suited to his qualifications. It considers that while serving as a kind of insurance against unemployment, the joint family system has developed serious disadvantages inasmuch as it tends to sap initiative and to weaken individual effort. The fact that only a limited number of educated Biharis have secured employment in industry, even in posts for which they are qualified is to a large extent due to their reluctance to make a small beginning in industry. ~~like boys from other provinces.~~

Allowing for the overflow of candidates with higher qualifications, it is estimated that the number of matriculates in excess of the requirements of Government, local bodies, banks and private

* Report of the Unemployment Committee, Bihar 1935-1936. -Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1936. Price Re.1 -pp.226

educational institutions would be about 500 each year. Most of this excess could be absorbed in the industries and railways of the province, but the majority of these posts are now held by outsiders. The output of those with higher qualifications than the matriculation examination is slightly in excess of the number of posts requiring these qualifications, but the surplus is almost entirely absorbed in posts requiring lesser qualifications. The supply of graduates in arts and science is not unreasonably in excess of the demand, but an unduly large proportion study for the law with the result that the incidence of unemployment is shifted from the category of graduates to that of lawyers.

Absorption of Youths in Government Service.- The Committee has stated that Biharis are very poorly represented in the all-India services, and it is suggested that, in consultation with the University, the local Government should consider the possibility of making arrangements for coaching candidates for the examinations for these services. Young men, however, should be discouraged from pursuing their educational career with the sole object of entering Government service. Recruitment to all provincial and sub-ordinate services should, as far as possible, be made by competitive examinations, subject to communal adjustments. For Ministerial posts requiring matriculation as the minimum qualification, the age limit should be reduced; shorthand and typewriting should be made additional subjects at the competitive examinations for selecting candidates for such posts.

Recruitment to all clerical posts under local bodies should also be by competitive examinations. For other posts, selection should be made strictly on merit, subject only to communal adjustments.

The local Government should take steps to secure recognition of the civil engineering diploma of the Bihar College of Engineering for the posts of engineering supervisors and wireless operators under the Posts and Telegraphs Department. A representation should also be made to the Railway Board that vacancies in all the sub-ordinate services of the railways arising within the province should be filled up exclusively by local men.

Compulsory Retirement of Government Servants at 55.- All officers of Government should be compelled to retire at the age of 55, or even earlier if they have lost energy for active service, and this rule should not be relaxed except in the case of officers having specialised or expert knowledge.

Unemployment among Doctors and Lawyers.- The Committee found very little unemployment among the passed students of the Veterinary College. But in the case of medicine, about 30 per cent of the medical graduates and licentiates are unemployed or under-employed. While the towns are over-staffed with doctors, the rural areas are badly in need of medical aid. Doctors should be encouraged to set up country practices and should be induced to reduce their fees to suit the pockets of the villagers. The system of subsidising

country doctors should be extended.

About 40 per cent of the lawyers in the province, the Committee states, are unable to earn even a pittance, and only about 20 per cent are earning a decent income. It is suggested that the number of passes in law examinations should be restricted either by raising the standard or by some other means. The Committee finds that there is scope for the employment of more educated young men as insurance agents.

Settling Unemployed in Agriculture.- According to the Committee, the question of diverting educated young men to agriculture or at least preventing their migration to towns is very important. As subsidiary industries to agriculture, the Committee suggests fruit and vegetable gardening, canning and preservation of fruits as a cottage industry, poultry farming, dairy farming and cattle-breeding, bee-keeping, sericulture and pisciculture.

Employment in Industries.- There are more than 45,000 posts carrying a pay of Rs. 20 or more in the large industries of Bihar and Orissa, of which less than half are held by local men. Steps should be taken to secure adequate representation of Bihari educated young men in the industries of the province. In the iron industry, there are 17,218 posts carrying a pay of Rs. 20 or more at Jamshedpur of which only about 35 per cent are held by men from Bihar and Orissa. Most of these men are holding only inferior posts, the representation of Biharis being very poor both in supervisory and in clerical posts. To ensure better recruitment of Biharis to these senior supervisory posts, the Committee recommends that scholarships should be granted by the local Government to promising boys wishing to study mechanical and electrical engineering and metallurgy at Benares or abroad. Arrangements should be made for the practical training of boys in iron and steel works.

Industrial ~~State~~ Development. - The Committee advises the Government to obtain expert opinion on the possibility of generating electric power by steam at convenient places from which electricity can be carried by high tension distribution to the countryside. In the beginning an experiment in rural electrification may be made from the existing power stations at Patna and Bhagalpur.

The difficulties facing the coal industry in the province should be carefully examined by the Central Bureau of Industrial Intelligence and Research. The leading mica factories should be induced to take some unemployed Bihari under-matriculantes as apprentice-sorters with a view to their promotion to more senior posts if found suitable.

That the seasonal staff employed in sugar factories should be made permanent and engaged in the off-season in agricultural propaganda and distribution of seeds and manure, is another recommendation of the Committee.

Of other large industries which could absorb young men of the province, the Committee mentions the lac industry, and points out that the recent researches at the Lac Research Institute in

pressure moulding of lac and preparation of varnish are expected to have far-reaching effects on the industry by providing an independent market for lac in India. A few scholarships should be granted to selected science students for training in lac manufacture processes. ~~The~~ Agricultural Department should carry out experiments with new and improved varieties of tobacco in order to revive the tobacco industry. The Government should also develop the glass industry, for which Bihar has natural facilities.

For developing the large industries, Government should themselves start demonstration or pioneer factories with the help of experts. State aid should be granted liberally to finance educated young men in setting up cottage and small industries and in organising the manufacture and marketing of the products of cottage workers.

Expert to Advise on Suitability of Career.- The Committee also suggests that some selected educationist should be trained in Europe in industrial psychology and be attached to the staff of the Director of Public Instruction, keep in touch with local industries and advise parents and headmasters of schools on the suitability of careers for boys of school-leaving age.

Unemployment Census.- An unemployment census is not recommended as this would involve considerable difficulty and expense and would lose its value after a very short time. In place of such a census, all colleges and high schools, technical and industrial institutions and half-time vocational schools should maintain detailed occupation registers of passed students and submit annual reports, from which the Information Bureau should compile an annual statement for the information of Government and the public. +

(A Paper on the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D. 1351/36 D 3-12-1936).

Unemployment in Kashmir:

Questionnaire Issued by Enquiry Commission.

Reference was made at page 51 of our April 1936 Report to the resolution recommending the appointment of a Commission to devise ways and means to solve the unemployment problem in the State, which was passed by the Kashmir State Assembly. The Unemployment Commission appointed by the State pursuant to the resolution has recently issued a comprehensive questionnaire in connection with the enquiry.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-11-1936) +

Aid to Unemployed in the United Provinces:
Government Scheme to start State-aided Industrial
Credit Companies. +

The Government of the United Provinces, with the approval of the Legislature, has finally decided to float State-aided private industrial credit, marketing and financing companies for helping the youths unemployed/of the Province to set up small industries and market their products. The subscribed capital of the industrial credit company or banking corporation may be about Rs. 3.0 millions and its paid-up capital about Rs. 1.5 millions. This company will be expected to work with its own capital plus long-term deposits plus borrowing; but the company will have the power of issuing debentures subject to certain restrictions. It will be possible for the bank to accept certain classes of deposits, from the general public, and accept fixed deposits, maintain current accounts and do ordinary banking business for its ordinary customers, i.e., to whom it has furnished long-term loans.

Government's Assistance to the Company.- The Government's assistance to the company is likely to assume the following forms: (a) dividend on the paid-up capital may be guaranteed at a rate not exceeding a specified percentage, (b) interest on such debentures as may be issued with Government's previous sanction may be guaranteed at a rate not exceeding a specified percentage, (c) if necessary, Government may contribute up to a specified proportion towards the expenses of the management. The tax-payers' interests will be safeguarded by stipulating that Government's further assistance would be

liable to be withdrawn if the bank should go on incurring recurring losses or making net profits, exceeding specified limits. At the same time, in order to further the objects of the Government's industrial policy, the maximum rate of interest normally chargeable to industrialists will be prescribed. ~~Every effort is being made to~~

Every effort is being made to bring the scheme to maturity as early as possible, so that financial facilities may be made available to those unemployed educated youths who can and are willing to set up industry.

Marketing Scheme.- The scheme for a marketing and financing company is likely to remain linked to the scheme for the proposed credit company, as its capital has to be under-written by the marketing company. It is contemplated that a substantial portion of the capital so under-written should continue to be held by the credit company, and that the latter's directorate should be represented on the marketing company's board. The marketing company will be empowered to buy and sell goods, especially the produce and products of the U.P., to accept them on a consignment basis and do general commission work. In connection with the marketing company scheme, it is proposed to fix the rate of commission, interest and other charges leviable, so as to reduce the burden on small industrialists and dealers. The marketing company, apart from marketing the goods, will do a certain amount of educative propaganda. It will also make small advances for raw materials or against finished goods left with the company for sale.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-11-1936) †

Public Health.

Reducing Accidents in Industry: Award for Bravery
instituted by the Safety First Association of India.

The Safety First Association of India, started in 1932 (vide pages 51-52 of our November 1932 report), has been exerting itself to secure a reduction of accidents among industrial workers. The Association has set up an Industrial Safety Service. This is releasing each month an article dealing with the different aspects of industrial efficiency and safety. The Association, in its campaign to conserve life and property, has recently introduced an award for bravery. It takes the form of a silver medal with a ring and ribbon together with a diploma. The award is open to persons engaged in industry in India, Burma and Ceylon. Its object is to recognise "conspicuous acts of merit or gallantry involving personal risk or other special circumstances performed by any person to save human life and limb from accidental death or injury."

(The Times of India, 26-11-1936) +

Health Condition of Factory Workers in Punjab:
Medical Officer of Health of Factories Appointed.

The Royal Commission on Labour in India, in emphasising the necessity for taking measures to ensure the health and well-being of labour, remark at page 70 of their report:

"Many of the questions which arise in connection with factory administration require medical knowledge, and with the growing complexity of Indian industry, the need for this knowledge increases. It is in the larger factories that the need for inspection from a medical point of view is greatest; but there are few factories where some medical supervision is quite unnecessary. We recommend that in every province there should be one officer with medical qualifications appointed as an Inspector of Factories, who should be primarily responsible for inspection from the medical standpoint. In the less important industrial provinces, where there may not be work for a full-time officer, an assistant of the Director of Public Health could undertake these duties. In the chief industrial provinces there is ample work to justify the appointment of more than one such medical inspector."

In pursuance of the above recommendation of the Whitley Commission, the Punjab Government have appointed as an experimental measure, for a period of two years, an officer (a District Medical Officer of Health) specially conversant with industrial hygiene and diseases who should act as Medical Officer of Health of Factories. The new officer is also to act as Statistical Officer in the Public Health Department until financial conditions improve.

(The Statesman, 16-11-1936).

Nutrition.

India's Food Supply:

Note Published by Mr. V.K.R.V.Rao. +

Mr. V.K.R.V.Rao of the Andhra University has recently published a valuable note on the food supply of India. It is the purpose of the note to analyse the food supply of British India from the standpoint of its dietetic content in the form of proteins, fats and carbohydrates and to inquire how far the amounts available per adult equivalent of the population come up to the standards laid down as desirable by the British Medical Association. The statistics used in this note are based, partly on official sources, and partly on information collected by the author during the course of his research on "The National Income of British India". It must not be forgotten that, as the problem has been tackled from the point of view of national supply, questions of distribution have been deliberately left out of account and ^{the} our figures of the average quantities available per head are therefore in excess of what is actually available for the large mass of the population.

Food Supply per Adult.- The food supply available per adult equivalent of the population in 1931-1932 in British India came to 2.7 lbs. a day and was made up of the following items.

		lbs.
Cereals, including pulses	...	1.55
Vegetables and fruits	...	.60
Milk and milk products	...	.53
Vegetable oils	...	.03
Sugar	...	.14
Fish and Meat	...	.08

The value of this food supply in terms of proteins etc is given in the following table, as also, for purposes of comparison, the standard quantities considered necessary in an adult diet by the British Medical Association.

Description.	Quantity available per man unit.	Quantity required as per B.M.A.scale.	Surplus + Deficiency-
Proteins 1st class (in grams)	17	50	-33

Description.	Quantity available per man unit.	Quantity required as per B.M.A. scale.	Surplus + Deficiency -
Proteins 2nd class (in grams)	68	50	+18
Fats (in grams).	39	100	-61
Carbohydrates (in grams)	698	500	+198
Calorific value	3,575	3,390	+185

Deficiency of Proteins and Fat.- It will be noticed from the above table that there is a grave deficiency of first class proteins and fats in the food supply available per adult, while there ~~is~~ is an excess of second class proteins and of carbohydrates. It is true that there is an excess of second class or vegetable proteins, but vegetable proteins are more difficult of absorption, particularly in the case of India; and in any case they can never take the place of proteins of animal origin such as are to be found in milk, meat and fish. When it is further remembered that consumption of milk in India is usually restricted to the middle and upper classes, while meat and fish are only of occasional use, it is obvious that this deficiency of proteins must be even greater in the case of the large mass of the population. And even a casual glance at the weight, height and chest formation of Indian children makes it clear that they have lacked the necessary supply of protein in their daily food.

Problem of Animal Proteins.- The most important problem, that faces the Indian food reformer is how to increase the element of animal proteins in the nation's food supply. One way of doing it would be to increase the supply and consumption of meat and fish in the country. In spite of the efforts of enthusiasts like Dr. Moonje however, the growth of meat-eating in this country does not show any signs of expansion, and climatic and traditional considerations do not seem to favour any rapid rise in it either. Under the circumstances, hope for improvement has mainly to be placed on an increase in the supply and use of milk products.

Problem of Milk Supply.- According to the estimates which have been worked out in detail, the present milk supply of the country is placed at 36,000 million lbs. (with a margin of error not exceeding 25 per cent), giving a daily average of half a pound or a fourth of a seer per adult equivalent of the population. The liquid consumption of milk is estimated at .36 lb a day in this predominantly vegetarian country. The nation's output of milk needs to be increased immediately and in immense measure, if its food-supply is to contain the necessary amount of body-building proteins. This increase in milk supply is not impossible of achievement. The difficulty with Indian cattle is not in numbers but in quality. Mr. Duckham has appropriately summed up the situation with the remark that "the cattle population of India is the largest, the most dense per acre of cultivated area and person and probably one of the least efficient in the world". Bad breed and low feed

are mainly responsible for the small output of milk in this country. It is possible both to better the quality of the breed and to increase the quantity by improving the quality of cattle food.

Indian Diet Compared with those of China and Japan.- This deficiency of the costly animal proteins and the accompanying excess of the cheap carbo-hydrates are precisely what one would expect in the case of a poor country like India. It is interesting to note that the peculiarities of Indian food supply are also to be found in other oriental diets; for, according to a recent analysis of some Chinese and Japanese family budgets, there was found a similar deficiency of animal proteins and of fats and an excess of carbo-hydrates. The need for food reform is evident; and economic considerations seem to suggest that the problem is one of undernutrition rather than of malnutrition.

(The Hindu, 18-11-1936) +

Food-Planning for India: Dr. Radha Kamal

Mukherji's Analysis of the Problem. +

Dr. Radha Kamal Mukherji gave a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station early in November, 1936 on "Food-planning for India"; the salient features of ~~from~~ the talk are summarised below:

Food Shortage in India.- Laboratory studies show that in India and China the average basal metabolism is about 10 to 15 per cent below American or European standards. McCarrison's estimate of 3,000 to 4,000 calories as the standard requirement of adult Indian workers seems, on this consideration, to be too high. The rice zone in India corresponds ~~with~~ with a warm and moist region, where an adequate diet would be represented by 2,400 calories and 70 grams of protein a day. Allowing for the entire Indian population a standard food requirement of 2,800 calories per adult, and deducting for seeds, wastage and export of food-stuffs, it has been estimated that there is food shortage in India at least to the extent of the amount needed for 40 million mouths, provided that every other "average person" obtains his or her physiological requirement. India threatens to reach 400 millions by 1941, and, in spite of her increase of total cultivated area and area under food grains, she shows a steady decline in her food position. The wheat acreage in India has been almost stationary and has remained at the level of 35 million acres since 1921; while the average yield has actually fallen in recent years. A food deficiency of 10 per cent

today ^{necessitates} ~~challenges~~ a new population policy and systematic food and crop planning on a country-wide scale, guided by agricultural science and sagacious social foresight.

A tour of investigation recently undertaken in the famine-stricken areas in Bengal by the speaker and others revealed that the dietetic standards fell to the level of 1,200 to 1,500 calories per adult worker in the test works, as compared with the physiological requirement of at least 2,000 calories. Raw skin surface, nutritional ~~xx~~ oedema, xerophthalmia, ulcer, and such malnutrition diseases revealed a state of chronic under-feeding.

Remedies.- Dr. Mukherji says that an attempt should be made to rationalise crops and diet. A survey of agricultural conditions shows that, on the whole, the cultivator sadly needs guidance in order that his agricultural adjustment in the cane ~~xxx~~ zones succeeds better than by following the principle that all will be to the good if he only directs his farming operations according to the market. As regards the Indian dietary, a more adaptive and appropriate method in India to enlarge and improve the dietary is the rationalisation of animal husbandry and improvement of supply of milk and milk products. Unfortunately, here we are handicapped seriously by ancient and time-honoured religious beliefs and prejudices. India maintains considerable numbers of inefficient and uneconomic cattle, which eat up the fodder required for the better and more efficient cattle, which might have provided nutrition for the people and increased the total outturn for the cultivator.

India must realise the urgency of her problems of food-inadequacy and unbalance. Within the limits set by the poverty of the cultivator, the smallness of his holding, the necessity of his producing several crops a year from the same acre, which definitely limit his selection of crops and hence of foods, much may be achieved by judicious crop-planning. Agriculture must now be approached from a new angle in India, viz, devising for each agricultural region an adaptive crop rotation which may ensure the most economical use of land and of man and animal labour on the holding and at the same time yield the highest number of calories per acre. That is the primary adjustment required. An increase in the production of peas, grams and pulses in substitution of grain, which yields less protein per unit of land, and of oil-seeds of various kinds yielding various oils and fats, encouragement of potatoes and all kinds of root crops, of vegetables, fruits, milk and fish, refrigeration, canning and fast transport, —all these would make the best out of a chronically deficient food situation. Above all, Indian dietary customs must become flexible and religious-beliefs modified, in order that Indians may eliminate all kinds of wastage and uneconomical beliefs which they can ill-afford in a land that cannot feed one-tenth of its people.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-11-1936).

Co-operation.

Re-organisation of Small Industries: Scheme Suggested

by Director of Industries of Baroda State. †

Mr. A.B.Pandya, Director of Commerce, Industries and Labour, Baroda State, speaking on "the Re-organisation of Small Industries" at the Rotary Club at Baroda on 13-11-1936 suggested three ways in which the reorganisation of the small industries could be made possible: (1) the decentralization or sub-division into independent units for production of different parts or processes; (2) greater use of cheap electric power in smaller industries and, (3) the starting up of organisations dealing with production, distribution and financing of the concerns, to be carried out either by private individuals with their instinct of profit and exploitation and, therefore, of initiative and successful competition, or by State agency. He thought it was a waste to allow a craftsman to buy his raw materials at a price enhanced by his need of credit or to see him sell his finished wares at a price determined solely by his need of hard cash and ability to resist a hard bargain that leaves him barely a fair wage.

Dealing with the question of the efficiency of Indian labour, Mr. Pandya said: "Some people have harped, in and out of season, on the inefficiency and costliness of Indian labour, seeming to believe that this was a condition peculiar to Indian people and not capable of remedy. I want to enter a strong protest against what is, I earnestly believe, a libel on the working classes. I would lay the blame entirely at the door of the employers and the labour managers. In a country where a carpet or a handloom weaver

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gets about two annas a day where workers in brass chase beautiful patterns on machine-stamped brass trays at the rate of Rs. 2 per 100; where itinerant blacksmiths offer a wrought iron ladle for half an anna, it is unjust to say that the labour is neither cheap nor efficient."

(The Statesman, 19-11-1936)+

Women and Children.

Y.W.C.A. Regional Conference, Colombo, -21 to 28-10-1936.

A Regional Conference of representatives of the Young Women's Christian Associations in Asia and the Far East was held at Colombo from 21 to 28-10-1936 under the chairmanship of Mrs. H.B.Hensman, President of the Madras Y.W.C.A. and one of the Vice-Presidents of the World's Y.W.C.A. India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Siam, China, Korea, Japan, the Netherland East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippine Islands were represented at the Conference. In addition, there were present at the Conference visitors from Great Britain, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Canada and the U.S.A.

Special Subjects Discussed.- The following four subjects were discussed by the Conference:- (1) The place and contribution of women; (2) The message of the Y.W.C.A. in Asiatic countries; (3) leadership; and (4) International relations. A short summary of the principal findings of the Discussion Groups on these topics are given below:

(1) The Place and Contribution of Women.- The Discussion Groups were of opinion that a thorough study of this subject should be encouraged in all the national Young Women's Christian Associations. Such a study should explore all the implications of the fact that it is not in married life alone that man and women form a complete whole, but also in the wider sphere of public life, where each has a specific contribution to bring, without which public life would be incomplete. It was urged that woman must be considered as a "person", and not only in her function as a wife or mother, economic independence being one of the important factors to be borne in mind. The study must also take into full consideration the varying conditions existing in different countries and even in various parts of one country.

In connection with this subject the following were recognised as special responsibilities of the Y.W.C.A.: (a) Education of girls and married women in order to enable them to raise the standards of home life; (b) Creation in married women a sense of responsibility towards society and a desire to give voluntary service. It was stressed that the Y.W.C.A. should also regard it as its task to take

.2.
an active part in national campaigns for social welfare, child welfare, etc.

(2) The Message of the Y.W.C.A. in Asiatic Countries. - On this subject the following points were emphasised: (a) Implications of Association policy: first, as regards individuals and social justice, especially as regards relations between the Association and its own employees; secondly, as regards its hostels - whether the object of the Association is to provide cheap board and lodging or to create a social conscience on underpayment and inadequate wages; and thirdly, as regards its policy in national and international politics. On the last point, the Groups were of opinion that the Association's identification with political movements was unwise, but that at the same time sympathy with legitimate national aspirations and promotion of the study of national culture were essential. Education of the Western public on the cultural value of Asiatic civilisations and interpretation of Eastern women to the West and of Western women to the East were considered as essential steps for breaking down the barriers of mutual distrust. (b) Membership. - It was found essential that the Association should reach out to all classes of people, and work with, and not for, even the poorest in the community.

(3) Leadership. - The Groups found that the Association should train indigenous leaders to guide the new generation and carry on the work of the Y.W.C.A. though considerable difficulty was being experienced in finding proper candidates to be trained for leadership.

(4) Y.W.C.A. and International Questions. - The Discussion Groups found that the contribution of the Y.W.C.A. to the solution of international difficulties is dependant upon its ability to make each National Association a working demonstration of cooperation between races and nationalities within its own life. There seemed to be general agreement that the Association, as an international Christian organisation, has a responsibility for making its members aware of international questions and of their own relationship to them. It was recognised that there are special difficulties in carrying out programmes of education on international questions in associations in countries under foreign control. If the Board is in the main made up of representatives of the governing nation, it may come to think that such a education is undesirable, for the development of national consciousness is often an inevitable result. It was suggested that in a world of close inter-relationships, the Association has a responsibility to correct misinformation and to arouse awareness of the relations between the policies of national governments and the creation of world discord or world co-operation. The Y.W.C.A. must help to bring about an understanding of the basic causes of international conflict.

How the Y.W.C.A. can help. - Through Conferences, Study Groups,

lectures, committee work, correspondence between the members of the Association in the various countries, personal contact with people of other countries, the use of material sent out by the World's Y.W.C.A. and the exchange of workers between countries, the Y.W.C.A.'s programme of education can be carried out. In countries where freedom of speech and group action are impossible, the National Association may have to rely more on informal ways of education in its own fellowship than on the building of public opinion.

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Agriculture.

Improving Agricultural Research in India:

Experts from England to hold Enquiry. +

The Government of India sometime back invited Sir John Russell and Dr. N.C.Wright, two agricultural research experts of England to examine the work done by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and to report on any further possibilities and to offer the Council general advice. The experts have arrived in India on 4-11-1936. Sir John will study questions relating to agricultural farming in all its aspects. Dr. Wright has considerable experience in dairying methods in various countries, and his knowledge and advice, it is expected, will improve the livestock and milk supply of this country. During their stay in Delhi, the experts will discuss with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research all questions regarding agriculture and dairying in this country.

(The Times of India, 5-11-36)+

Rural Development in U. P; Statement in

Legislative Council.

A statement showing the progress of rural development in the United Provinces, up to 30-6-1936, was laid on the table of the local Legislative Council by Sir Jwala Srivastava, Education Minister, in reply to a question on the subject. The following is a summary of the statement:-

Nature of the Schemes.- The rural development schemes of the United Provinces Government are in three parts: (1) the main scheme, (2) departmental schemes and (3) the Kumaun scheme. They are in force since October 1935. These three schemes are parts of a unitary and comprehensive scheme of rural development which is in operation in the 48 districts of these provinces. The departmental schemes are certain special schemes which are worked in close association with the main scheme. They supplement the local efforts and resources under the main scheme and primarily benefit the areas selected for development. The Kumaun scheme meets the special needs of the three hill districts.

The Main Scheme.- Under the main scheme, 270 rural development circles have been established in the province. Each circle comprises a group of twelve villages. A resident organiser is stationed in the central village of a circle. A village organisation has been set up in each village and there is in each district a rural development association, so as to co-ordinate the various activities for effecting improvements in the rural areas. A discretionary grant of Rs. 5,000 a year has been allotted to each district officer. This grant is to be expended by him on objects of public utility in the rural development circles of his district. An officer has been placed on special duty to supervise the working of the whole scheme. Educative propaganda is being carried on by holding fairs and exhibitions for farmers. During the comparatively short period of the operation of this scheme encouraging and satisfactory progress has been made. It has to a large extent succeeded in securing concentration of work, co-ordination of different activities, and a balanced all-round development of village life; the sanitary, the cultural and the economic aspects have all been taken up together and tackled fairly effectively.

As a result, local apathy and fatalistic resignation have given place in many areas to active interest, and there is a stir and a new note of hope. Agricultural improvements have received fresh impetus, demand for improved seeds is growing, demonstration plots are being opened in the village centres, seed unions are being formed, better agricultural methods and practices are being adopted and cattle breeding is being taken up with earnestness. A concentrated drive is being made for improving rural sanitation and hygiene.

Departmental Schemes: (1) Agricultural Schemes.- In areas which still remain unserved by canals and tube-wells, irrigation facilities have been provided by undertaking boring operations within existing wells of the ordinary type. Under this scheme 2,250 wells will be sunk and nearly one-third of this number have been repaired so far. In each case, two-thirds of the cost of boring has been met by the owner of the well. Another source of increasing the water-supply for irrigation purposes is by the construction of small village reservoirs or embankments. In this scheme also the villagers meet a part of the cost, mostly in labour.

In twelve selected districts of the province, fruit culture has been organised on an extensive scale in the rural development circles.

A special scheme for the improvement of goat and poultry is in force.

(2) Public Health Science. - Nearly 3,000 villages have been supplied with village medicine chests. These chests have proved extremely popular. Nine 'health units' have been established; each comprising a compact area of about 50 villages. Besides carrying on the general items of health work which include soakage pits, manure pits, ventilators, improvement of ~~raw~~ water supply, etc, the special features of the health units are the provision of medical relief by means of mobile dispensaries under the charge of medical officers, maternity and child welfare work under the care of health visitors assisted by trained midwives, the training of indigenous dais and general anti-epidemic work, such as inoculation, vaccination, etc. Intensive health propaganda has been carried out by lectures, homely talks, magic lanterns and cinema shows.

(3) Industrial Schemes. - To provide facilities for marketing the products of village cottage industries, 27 subsidised shops have been opened. Five supervisors have been appointed to organise cooperative societies of ghee producers and they are doing useful work. Five cooperative stores have been opened in order to help in the marketing of the products of selected industries.

(4) Propaganda. - Suitably selected papers and periodicals as well as departmental journals and pamphlets have been broadcast in the 3,000 odd villages included in the rural development scheme, as also in other villages. A few posters are being printed. Useful agricultural information dealing with the practical fruits of research is being translated into the vernacular and communicated in simple and homely language to the people in rural areas.

The Kumaun Scheme. - Special schemes are in force in the hill districts of Naini Tal, Almora and Garhwal. A lump provision of Rs. 25,000 has been made to Naini Tal and Rs. 12,500 each to Almora and Garhwal to finance certain approved schemes. In the Naini Tal district a scheme costing Rs. 6,500 for pipe water supply for Haldwani has been taken in hand. Twenty-five diggis (water tanks) have been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 10,000. The construction of anti-malaria drains is in progress. In addition, efforts are made to supply good agricultural seeds and improve ~~the~~ live-stock.

(The Leader, 13-11-1936). +

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Rural Welfare and Improvement of Agriculture
in Madras: Report of Sub-Committee of Provincial
Economic Council. *

Reference was made at page 43 of our November 1935 report to the appointment of a sub-committee of the Madras Provincial Economic Council in November 1935 to go into the question of agricultural development of the Presidency and to submit a ten-year plan for the purpose. The Committee has recently submitted its report. The salient features of the report are summarised below:

Supply of Seeds.-The Government should continue for the present to be the sole agency for the distribution of improved seed. Two more paddy breeding stations should be opened, one in the Vizagapatam district and the other in the Chingleput district, for evolving semi-dry, dry and drought resistant varieties of paddy and varieties suitable for cultivation in the months of September and October in the South-West monsoon. A farm should be started in the Godavari Agency areas for work on wheat, fruits, vegetables and other crops suitable to that locality.

Protection to Coconut Industry.- An increased import duty should be imposed on copra, cocoanut and cocoanut oil in order to afford some protection to the local cocoanut growing industry.

Propaganda.- A Deputy Director should be appointed to be in sole charge of propaganda and publicity which require greater attention and closer co-ordination. A suitable cinephotographic and projection equipment should be purchased and suitable films produced for propaganda purposes.

Organisation of Agriculturists.- Associations of agriculturists and others interested in the development and improvement of agriculture should be formed in every important village and for every firka, with a central Association to co-ordinate their work, the Associations working under the auspices of District Economic Councils.

Rural Uplift and Cottage Industries.- A trained Rural Guide should be appointed, one for each group of villages, in one or two taluks in each district to begin with, for rural uplift work under the guidance of the District Economic Council. The training of Rural Guides in suitable centres, preferably in Agricultural Farms and Schools, should be the concern of the Provincial Government. Effective steps should be taken early to develop cottage industries.

Fragmentation of Holdings and Unemployment.- Consolidation of cultivation on a large scale on a co-operative basis should be encouraged with a view to forming large scale farms. Steps should be taken to divert the attention of the educated youth to agricultural pursuits, and facilities should be made available to them on the lines of those adopted by the Travancore Government. Land Colonisation Schemes for Harijans and unemployed boys should be formulated. A survey should be made of waste lands and the possibilities of cultivation by tractors should also be examined.

Training in Agriculture.- The Director of Agriculture should be requested to examine the syllabus of the Agricultural College with a view to seeing whether the students can be given a few lessons in economics. Facilities should be afforded at Agricultural Farms for training elementary teachers in agriculture. An agricultural graduate should be appointed in every High School to supervise and conduct gardening classes, to teach nature study and generally to give an agricultural bent of mind to the students.

The Report also contains recommendations regarding the improvement of live-stock, increasing irrigation facilities, starting of research in fruit-preservation, extraction of sugar, etc. As regards the organisation of agricultural credit, the recommendations in the Report are:

Agricultural Credit.- Co-operative societies should forecast their requirements long in advance of the cultivation season, and get the loans sanctioned by the central bank, drawing the money only as and when necessary. Loans for the purchase of agricultural implements should not be disbursed in cash, nor new loans for payment of kist be paid to the members direct. Crop loans should be given to cultivators who agree to market their produce through loan and sale societies. A system of controlled credit should be adopted with a view to reducing overdues and preventing indebtedness. There should be a central committee at the headquarters of the Government, consisting of the heads of Revenue, Co-operative, Agricultural and Industries Departments, with non-officials representing co-operation, banking and agricultural interests and economists to plan credit work in the agricultural, co-operative and industrial departments. To carry out the plans formulated by the Central Committee there should be a committee in each district consisting of the local officials and some non-officials.

The Sub-Committee has, further, suggested to the Economic Council to conduct an enquiry into the subject of rural income and standard of living. It has also suggested that the Provincial Economic Council or a committee thereof might function as a board of economic inquiry and future economic inquiries should be conducted under its auspices.

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Migration.

Indian Labourers in Malaya; Government of
India Appoints Delegate to Enquire into their ~~their~~
Conditions of Work.

The Government of India has for some time had under consideration a proposal to send a deputation to Malaya to examine the conditions of Indian labour there. The Malayan Government itself expressed a wish that such a deputation should be sent, and the proposal *had* received the approval of the Standing Emigration Committee of both Houses of the Indian Legislature. The Government of India has now appointed the Right Honourable V.S.Srinivasa Sastri, as their delegate. Mr. Sastri will sail from Calcutta on 20-11-1936 and will be accompanied by Mr. G.S.Bozman, I.C.S., at present Additional Deputy Secretary in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, as adviser.

Terms of Reference.- The Delegation's terms of reference are:- To examine the condition of Indian labourers in Malaya with special reference to (i) the rate and payment of wages (ii) hours of work (iii) the provision made for residence, medical treatment and education and for subsidiary occupation, e.g., by the allotment of land for cultivation (iv) sex ratio (v) political and social status, and to make recommendations as to (a) what improvements are desirable in respect of these or any other matters in the interest of the Indian labour force already in Malaya, and (b) whether assisted emigration to Malaya should be permitted ~~in~~ in future, and, if so, on what conditions.

Background of the Problem.- There is an interesting background to the deputation to Malaya. As early as 1929, the Malayan Government invited the Government of India to send some^{one} to see things for himself and judge whether the Malayan Government was right in securing the exemption of Malaya from the sex ratio. This ratio was fixed by rules under the Indian Emigration/ Act, 1922, in order to prevent a recurrence of conditions in various parts of the world where Indian labour had gone in the past and suffered for want of a proper sex ratio. The rules fixed the ratio at 1,200 males to 800 females. Ceylon is free from the operation of the ratio and Malaya

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has also been hitherto exempted. The Government of India was thinking of sending a deputation in 1930 when a depression occurred in the rubber trade and resulted in the repatriation of about 150,000 Indian labourers. It was therefore not a proper time to send a deputation to Malaya. In 1934 prices began to look up and assisted non-recruited labour was subsequently allowed by the Government of India, after consultation with the Standing Emigration Committee of the Assembly, to proceed to Malaya.

Minimum Wages.- As wages had been reduced in 1930 by about 30 per cent in Malaya, the Government of India took up the question of raising the standard wage. The Malayan Government agreed to restore 10 per cent of the cut which had been secured by a pro rata reduction in the cash rate of daily wages for short work. As regards the rest of the wage cut, the Malayan Government argued that the cost of living had fallen in Malaya by about 25 per cent so that no hardship was caused.

Mr. Sastri's deputation will investigate whether the Malayan Government's contention was right and whether the wages offered were adequate or inadequate. In fact the primary function of the deputation will be to inquire into the question of wages, and the sex ratio, which was originally the main issue, is now probably a subsidiary one.

(The Statesman, 19-11-1936) +