

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1 9 3 6.

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

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References to the I. L. O. +

The August 1936 issue of Railway Labour, Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 11-6-1936 on the 76th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The May and June 1936 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a summary of the proceedings of an informal meeting of the Bombay Provincial Committee of the National Trades Union Federation held on 15-5-1936 at which Messrs. R.W. Fulay and Chelvapathy Chetty were given a warm send-off to Geneva to attend the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Illustrated Weekly of India dated 30-8-1936 publishes the picture of Mr. P.S.Sodhbans taken on his return from Geneva where he attended the 20th I.L.Conference as the Adviser to the Indian Employers' Delegate.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 14-9-1936 publishes a picture of the Indian delegates to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on the results of the 20th session of the I.L.Conference from "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 29-6-1936.

\* \* \*

The May and June combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a review of the work of the 20th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The July 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by the Government of India dated 10-7-1936 announcing the date and agenda of the 22nd(Maritime) session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The May and June combined issue of the Trade Union Record

publishes the date and agenda of the forthcoming maritime sessions of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Government of India Communique dated 11-9-1936 announcing the personnel of the Indian non-official delegation to the forthcoming 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L.Conference was published by the following: the Statesman dated ~~12-9-1936~~ 12-9-1936, the ~~National Call dated 13-9-1936~~ Hindustan Times dated 12-9-1936, the Hindu dated 12-9-1936, the National Call dated 13-9-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 13-9-1936, the Times of India dated 14-9-1936 and the Leader dated 14-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 11-9-1936 announces that Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Serang has been nominated the adviser to the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) Sessions of the Conference. A picture of Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Serang is also published.

\* \* \*

A picture of Messrs. Aftab Ali and Mohamed Ebrahim Serang, Indian Workers' Delegate and Adviser, respectively to the forthcoming Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference, is published in the Hindustan Times dated 24-9-1936, the Hindu dated 27-9-36 and the Leader dated 29-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The Government of India communique dated 25-9-1936 announcing the personnel of the Government delegation to the forthcoming Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference is published in the following: the Statesman dated 26-9-1936, the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 27-9-1936, the Leader and the Times of India dated 28-9-1936 and the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 30-9-1936. The Hindu dated 30-9-1936, in addition

to publishing the communique, gives the personnel of the non-official delegation also.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-9-1936 reproduces a statement laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 7-9-1936. The statement shows the expenditure incurred by the Government of India since 1924-25 in connection with Indian delegations to the League Assembly and the International Labour Conference.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 30-9-1936, publishes the summary of a speech on the work of the I.L.Conference at Geneva, delivered by Begum Shah Nawaz (Adviser to the Government Delegation to the 19th I.L.Conference), before the N.W.Railway Workers' Conference, on 28-9-1936. The speaker dealt at length with the problem of unemployment in India and the various measures advocated by the I.L.C. for relief of unemployment, and criticised the Government for not having taken adequate measures to deal with the unemployment situation, in spite of India having ratified the I.L.Convention on the subject.

\* \* \*

Federated India, Madras, dated 23-9-1936, publishes a note on the last meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations, which summarises the resolution on unemployment passed by the meeting.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 16-9-1936, publishes the usual weekly contribution of this Office to the paper. The contribution gives details regarding the meeting of the Joint Committee of Major International Associations held recently at Geneva. In the course of the article extensive references are made to the I.L.C.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 17-9-1936, publishes a short summary of two resolutions tabled by Mr. Hosain Imam and Sir Phiroze Sethna advocating India's withdrawal from the League and the reduction of India's contribution to the League respectively. The summary of the resolutions was published in all the papers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 23-9-1936, publishes a report of the debate on Mr. Hosain Imam's resolution referred to above, in the Council of State on 22-9-1936. The resolution advocated the withdrawal of India from the League. An amendment was moved to this Resolution by Sir Phiroze Sethna suggesting that India do not withdraw from the League, but that India should be allowed a substantial reduction in her financial contribution to the League. The report of the debate was published in all Indian papers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 25-9-1936, reproduces Sir Phiroze Sethna's speech in moving his amendment referred to above.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 25-9-1936, publishes an editorial article under the heading: "The League's Services to Humanity: Need for a Balanced Judgment". The article deals with the debate in the Council of State over the resolution advocating India's withdrawal from the League, and deprecates such a step. It says that the League has justified its existence in so many ways, especially in its efforts to alleviate the conditions of workers through the I.L.O. It states:

"In the zeal to haul the League over the coals for its failures in the political and diplomatic fields, its critics are manifesting a lamentable tendency to forget the very significant services that the League has rendered in the economic, social, and humanitarian fields. Political memories are notoriously short, and the failing, it would appear, has vitiated our judgment of the League also. The International Labour Organisation, which has

contributed so materially for the improvement of labour conditions the world over, and to whose beneficent influence on employer-employee relationships in India successive Indian employers' and workers' delegations to the I.L.Conference have borne eloquent and convincing testimony, is an important and integral part of the League machinery, and, whatever our criticism of the League itself might be, it will be sheer ingratitude for India to forget the very material services that the I.L.O. has rendered for accelerating the pace of labour legislation in this country and awakening public opinion about the imperative need for improving the standard of living of the worker and increasing his efficiency, and thus regularising the rhythm of industry and speeding up production."

\* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer, dated 26-9-1936, publishes an editorial note deploring the fact that the Resolution of Mr. Hosain Imam referred to above was not passed in its original form.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 16-9-1936, ~~xxxx~~ publishes a long editorial article under the caption: "Leave the League Quickly".

The article advocates Britain's withdrawal from the League.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 23-9-1936, publishes the report of a debate held on 17-9-1936 under the auspices of the Allahabad University on the question whether India should withdraw from the League or not. Many prominent persons took part in the debate, and the resolution advocating India's withdrawal from the League was carried.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 10-9-1936 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "Unemployment and Government's Dilatoriness".

In the course of the note reference is made to the tardy manner in which the Government of India has acted upon the suggestions of the I.L.O. to minimise unemployment.

\* \* \*

The Statesman, dated 30-9-1936 publishes a cable received from a correspondent of the paper to the effect that the International Cotton Committee which met during the last week of September 1936 reaffirmed its opinion that a 40-hour week in the

cotton textile industry <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ impracticable.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-10-1936, publishes the Government reply to an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 30-9-36 on the subject of Forced Labour. Sir Henry Craik, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in Charge of the Home Department, detailed the action taken by the Government of India to implement the I.L. Convention on the subject. The Government statement is published in all other Indian papers.

\* \* \*

The National Call, dated 17-9-1936 <sup>publishes</sup> ~~of~~ a short editorial note under the caption: "No 'Sweating' of Labour". The note refers to the allegations of "sweated" labour in Japan and states that there is no "sweating" of labour in that country if the evidence of disinterested and independent witnesses are to be believed. In this connection reference is made to M. Maurette's report on labour conditions in Japan.

\* \* \*

The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 17-9-1936, records the views of the Association on the point whether Silicosis should be included in the occupational diseases scheduled under the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 8-9-36, publishes a short editorial note on the recent plot to murder President Roosevelt. In the course of the note reference is made to the progressive labour policy of the President and to the wholehearted manner in which he is cooperating with the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 16-9-36 publishes an editorial article on the proposed conference of French colonial administrations. In



the course of the article, reference is made to the intervention of the I.L.O. in the matter of improving labour conditions in French India and to the sympathetic attitude taken by the French Government in the matter.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 15-9-36 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "British Labour and Communism: An Example for Indian Labour". In the course of the article warm support is accorded to the policy of the moderate section of Indian labour of working in cooperation with the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

A news item to the effect that <sup>the</sup> Indian labour leaders have sent a cable congratulating Senor Cabellero on his appointment as Premier of Spain is published in the following: the Hindu dated 8-9-36, the Hindustan Times dated 9-9-36 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 13-9-1936.

\* \* \*

The September 1936 issue of the Modern Student publishes an article under the caption "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article, extensive references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The issue dated 7-9-36 of the Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, publishes a short summary of the portions referring to the present economic outlook in the Presidential address of Sir Walter Citrine at the 7th Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Sir Walter's remarks regarding the present unemployment situation and the work of the I.L.O. in this field are also summarised.

\* \* \*

The Guardian, Madras, dated 24-9-1936 publishes an editorial article under the caption; "Intellectual Cooperation". The article reviews the various activities of the League in the sphere of intellectual cooperation. In the course of the article mention is made of the recent enquiry conducted by the I.L.O. in collaboration with the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation into the social consequences of progress in mechanisation.

\* \* \*  
No Indian newspapers <sup>\* /</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> periodicals <sup>\*</sup> received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*  
The following messages having references <sup>\*</sup> to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during September 1936 :-

1. A news item received from a London correspondent of the Statesman re. the decision of the International Cotton Committee re. proposal for a 40-hour week in industries.

Ratifications.

Silicosis not to be classed as Occupational Disease;

Indian Mining Association's Views. .

The printed report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Indian Mining Association, held on 17-9-1936 at <sup>Calcutta,</sup> ~~at~~ Calcutta, records that the Committee of the Indian Mining Association is in agreement with the views of the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should recommend the Associated Chambers of Commerce to ask the Government of India for an assurance that Silicosis would not be scheduled as an occupational disease under <sup>the Indian Act, and for a further assurance that,</sup> the Indian Act, and for a further assurance that, in respect of any legislation in connection with Silicosis, Government would only act within the limits of the resolutions attached to the recommendation in this regard of the 1934 International Labour Conference.

The circumstances leading to this expression of views of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association are thus set forth in the printed report of the proceedings of the Committee:

"A letter dated 22nd August had been received from the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association enclosing a copy of a letter they had addressed to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the question of Silicosis. The letter explained at some length the position of the Government of India as a result of the discussion which took place at the 1934 session of the International Labor Conference on the question of including Silicosis in the draft Convention concerning occupational diseases which was adopted at the 1925 session of the International Labour Conference. It appeared that in accepting the recommendations of the Occupational Diseases Committee to add "Silicosis with or without pulmonary tuberculosis, provided that Silicosis is an essential factor in causing the resultant incapacity or death" to the trades to be scheduled in this respect, namely, "those industries or processes which are recognised in national laws or regulations as involving exposure to the risk of Silicosis", the 1934 Conference qualified its acceptance by three resolutions setting out factors to be borne in mind, and the Government of India's Delegate on that occasion suggested, but did not press the point, that Silicosis should be excluded from the list of occupational diseases. The letter went on to say that in pursuance

of its obligations to consider ratification of this and other amendments to the Convention on occupational diseases, the Government of India had invited expressions of opinion from Local Governments and was now understood to be considering legislation to include Silicosis in the list of occupational diseases contained in Schedule III of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act. Under Section 2(3) of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, the Governor General in Council has power to make any additions to Schedule III, and may therefore include Silicosis therein, but not without giving three months prior notice of his intention to do so. In this connection, the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association suggested that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should recommend the Associated Chambers of Commerce to ask the Government of India for an assurance that Silicosis would not be scheduled as an occupational disease under the Indian Act, and for a further assurance that, in respect of any legislation in connection with Silicosis, Government would only act within the limits of the resolutions attached to the recommendation in this regard of the 1934 International Labour Conference".

The Committee of the Indian Mining Association realised that the matter was a very important one from the point of view of mining interests, and they have informed the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association that they supported the representations made to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Forced Labour in India; Action taken by Government  
of India on I.L. Convention. +

In answer to an interpellation in the Legislative Assembly on 30-9-1936 by Professor N.G. Ranga, Sir Henry Craik, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council in charge of Home Affairs, stated that acting on the recommendation of the Assembly contained in a resolution of the Assembly and the Council of State regarding the I.L. Draft Convention on Forced Labour, the Government of India had obtained from the Local Governments information of the forms of forced or compulsory labour obtaining in various provinces wherever these appeared to fall within the definition of forced or compulsory labour prohibited by the Convention. The Government of India have requested Local Governments to put a stop to them. The Convention does not require that forced or compulsory labour for public purposes should be suppressed immediately, but Local Governments have been asked to see that, where it cannot be immediately abolished, it is restricted to the narrowest possible limits, and abolished as soon as possible and, in the meanwhile, regulated as required by the Convention.

(The Statesman, 1-10-1936) +

National Labour Legislation.

The Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936:

Motion for Reference to Select Committee Lost. ✓+

Reference was made at pages 11-12 of <sup>our</sup> March 1936 report to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Council of the Madras Employees' Protection Bill, 1936, by Mr. C. Basudev. On 29-8-1936 Mr. C. Basudev moved in the Council that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The Law Member, on behalf of the Government, opposed the Bill. He said that the Government would not commit itself to a measure which was of an one-sided nature. The Bill was intended to give benefit only to a small number of people. The Bill would affect <sup>a large number of</sup> small but growing commercial and industrial concerns. The financial burden would be too heavy for those concerns to bear. Instead of a blessing, the measure might prove a drag on the employees also. If small concerns were affected, ~~these~~ <sup>in them</sup> employees would be thrown out of work and the problem of unemployment would become still worse. It was hardly fair to pass such a <sup>one-sided</sup> measure.

The motion, when put to vote, was lost by 44 votes against 25.

(The Hindu, 29 & 30-8-1936). +

The Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1936. +

Attention is directed to pages 1076 - 1080 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 22-8-1936, where <sup>is published</sup> the draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make in exercise of powers under Section 26 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, read with Section 22 of the General Clauses Act, 1897. The rules relate to procedure and relate to such subjects as form of application, presentation of application, registration of application, etc. ✓

Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulation, 1926:

Accumulation of Underground Coal Dust Prohibited. +

The Government of India have under active consideration <sup>certain</sup> measures calculated to increase safety in underground work in mines. An amendment has been announced by the Government of India to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, ~~1926~~ 1926, which lays down definite rules regarding the prevention of accumulation of coal dust in underground parts of mines, as also for the conducting of blasting operations in mines. The amendment to the Regulations is published at pages 1148-1149 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 29-8-1936. ✓+

Amendment to Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924:

Rules Re. Production of Documents. +

The Gazette of India dated 12-9-1936 publishes at pages 1180-81 of Part I a draft amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924. The amendment relates to rules regarding the production of documents and to applications presented to a Commissioner other than the one to whom they should have been presented. ✓

K. 13

The Madras Artisans' Protection Bill, 1936.

( Bill No.25 of 1936 ) +

Mr. Ganala Ramamoorthy has introduced in the current session of the Madras Legislative Council a Bill to regulate the conditions of work of artisans in the Madras Presidency. In the course of the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, it is pointed out that innumerable measures have been made for the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists, while the labourers employed in the cottage industries have been left alone, though they could have been brought under general workers and the provisions of the Indian Factories Act made applicable to them. The attention of the whole country is now drawn to the development of the village industries, but nothing tangible can be achieved in that direction without the aid of proper legislation.

If home industries, it is remarked, have to be put on a sound basis, protection of the workers therein and extending <sup>the provisions of</sup> the provisions of the Madras Debt Conciliation Act, 1936, ~~to them~~ and those of the Madras Elementary Education (Amendment) Act, 1935, to the children <sup>of these</sup> employed in them, making elementary education compulsory for them, <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ imperative.

It is well-known that ~~these~~ artisans' workshops are kept under most insanitary conditions and that the employers are notoriously hard-hearted in <sup>troubling</sup> ~~teasing~~ even children by making them work till midnight, not very seldom the whole night. The workers are treated as slaves, as they are always indebted to the employers. A measure remedying all these defects is felt necessary. The present measure is therefore intended to secure the aforesaid objects and help the

rural, industrial and economic progress of the country.

The salient features of the Bill are provisions regarding inspection, health and safety of workers, ~~and~~ medical inspection of children, and regulation of hours of work. Children under 12 are not to be employed, and those between 12 and 15 are not to be employed for more than 5 hours per day. Hours of work for adults are <sup>to be</sup> 11 hours per day and 60 hours per week. No woman shall be allowed to work except between 6 A.M. and 7 p.m. and unless there are at least three women simultaneously employed in the workshop.

The Artisans' workshops covered by the bill are workshops where (1) Iron, (2) Steel, (3) Brass, (4) Bronze (5) Bell-metal, (6) Copper, (7) Zinc, (8) Tin, (9) Aluminium, (10) Wood, (11) Ivory, (12) Stone carving, Engineering, (13) Mounting of precious stones, (14) Machinery (tools), (15) Gilding and Electroplating, (16) Silver, (17) Gold and other metal work is turned out.

(Summarised from pages 314 to 328 of Part IV of Fort St. George Gazette dated 15-9-1936). +

#### The Mysore Maternity Benefit Bill, 1936. +

A Bill was introduced in the Mysore Legislative Council some time back to regulate the employment of women in factories sometime before and sometime after confinement, and to provide for the payment of Maternity Benefit to them. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that in the Mysore State there is no statutory provision on the subject at present, though there are certain rules for the grant of maternity benefit



to the women employed in the industrial concerns under the control of the Department of Industries and Commerce. It is proposed in the Bill to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to women workers for a maximum period of eight weeks, four before confinement and four thereafter. Provision is also made for prohibiting employment of women in factories during that period and for preventing them from working in any factory during the said period. The bill is based on the Bombay Act VII of 1929 as amended by Act V of 1934.

(Summarised from a copy of the Bill sent to this Office by the Government of Mysore.)

A copy of the Mysore Maternity Benefit Bill, 1936, was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute A.8/894/36 dated 6-8-1936. ✓

Prohibition of Slavery in Hyderabad: Hyderabad  
Penal Code (Amendment) Bill Introduced. ✓

By orders of the President of the Executive Council, the Judicial Secretary of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government has introduced an amending Bill to the Hyderabad Penal Code providing for the abolition of traffic in slavery. The Bill provides that the person importing or exporting slaves, selling, purchasing or otherwise trafficking, shall be liable to imprisonment for life or for a period extending to 10 years and also <sup>shall be</sup> liable to a fine. In the statement of the objects and reasons of the Bill, the Judicial Secretary points out that changed times require the total abolition of slavery. ✓

(The Hindustan Times, 20-9-1936) ✓

The Cochin Trade Unions Regulation, 1936. +

His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin gave his assent on 27-8-36 to the Cochin Trade Unions Regulation providing for the registration of trade unions and defining the law relating to registered trade unions in Cochin. The salient features of the Regulation are given below:

Definition of Trade Unions. - "Trade Union" means any combination, whether temporary or permanent formed primarily for the purpose of regulating the relations between workmen and employers or between workmen and workmen, or between employers and employers, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, and includes any federation of two or more Trade Unions:

Provided that this Regulation shall not affect.—

- (i) any agreement between partners as to their own business;
- (ii) any agreement between an employer and those employed by him as to such employment; or
- (iii) any agreement in consideration of the sale of the good will of a business or of instruction in any profession, trade or handicraft.

Registration of Trade Unions. - Any seven or more members of a Trade Union may, by subscribing their names to the rules of the Trade Union and by otherwise complying with the provisions of this Regulation with respect to registration, apply for registration of the Trade Union under the Regulation.

Cancellation of Registration. - The certificate of registration may be withdrawn or cancelled by the registrar (1) on the application of the Union for withdrawal (2) when the certificate was obtained by fraud or mistake, (3) on the extinction of the

trade union, or (4) on the contravention of the provisions of the Regulation.

Objects for which General Funds may be spent.- The General Funds may be spent, besides on salary, establishment and administrative purposes, on safeguarding the interests of members or *of the* union through legal proceedings etc., ~~Conduct~~ of trade disputes and payment of compensation to victims of disputes, payment of death, old-age, sickness, accidents or unemployment allowances, and on other measures of general welfare of the members.

Political Fund.- Registered trade unions are allowed to raise and maintain a political fund. ✓

(Summarised from a copy of the Regulation forwarded to this Office by the Cochin Government. A copy of the Regulation was forwarded to the Geneva Office with our Minute *D.8/ 1113/36* dated 8-10-1936) +

18

Conditions of Labour.

Defence of Common Employment in Compensation Cases

Not to Prevail in India: Decision of C.P.

High Court. +

Whether the defence of common employment should be allowed to prevail in India in compensation cases was discussed by a bench consisting of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Pollock at the Nagpur High Court in a long-drawn<sup>out</sup> civil suit filed by Mrs. Rukhmini Bai Godbole against the G.I.P. Railway administration for damages of Rs. 40,000/- as compensation for the death of her husband who was a time-keeper in the said railway.

Facts of the Case.- The facts of the case are that in October 1928, Permanent Way Inspector Patel and the deceased time-keeper, named Godbole, went on an unprotected trolley in a tunnel just about the time when a train was expected to pass through it. The occupants of the trolley found that the engine of the train was approaching and leapt from it, taking shelter close to the walls of the tunnel. The trolley, left unprotected on the railway track, was smashed by the running engine, the driver of which did not seem to have noticed its presence. A splinter of the trolley struck Time-Keeper Godbole, and, as a result of the injuries sustained, he died. His widow Rukhmini Bai sued the G.I.P. Railway under the Fatal Accidents Act, claiming Rs. 40,000 as damages. The trial court at Betul granted a decree of Rs. 26,000 against the G.I.P. Railway, against which order an appeal was filed by the Railway in the court of the Judicial Commissioner, Nagpur. Messrs. F.H. Staples and M.B. Niyogi, Additional Judicial Commissioners, heard the appeal and came to differ on all conclusions of law and facts.

Differing Views of Judicial Commissioners. - Mr. Staples, Additional Judicial Commissioner, held that there was no negligence on the part of the driver of the Railway Administration and that the defence of common employment was available to the Railway in barring the plaintiff in the matter of holding the employer railway responsible for the neglect of a common employee, like the driver.

Mr. Niyogi, Additional Judicial Commissioner, held that the defence of common employment was not looked on with favour in

England and that the Employers' Liabilities Act had reduced its value. He also expressed the opinion that in view of the conditions in India this defence should not be allowed to prevail, although this defence was a part of the common law of England.

The point of difference thus arose as to whether in India the defence of common employment should be allowed to prevail. The Allahabad High Court and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Sind, had held in favour of allowing this defence in favour of employers.

High Court Decision.- The point was then referred to a third judge, when the Judicial Commissioner's Court was succeeded by the Nagpur High Court. The bench concurred with the view of Mr. Niyogi, that such defence should not be allowed to prevail in India as a matter of equity and good conscience. The High Court has now issued a rule that the appeal of the G.I.P. Railway will be heard on such points as may not have been properly discussed by the Additional Judicial Commissioners, as also <sup>on</sup> the question of award of damages. ✓

(The Leader, 14-9-1936) +

Alternative Work for Women Eliminated from underground Work in Mines & Problem under Consideration of Government of India. +

It is reported that the Government of India are contemplating the provision of suitable work for women when they are eliminated from working underground after July, 1937. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad has suggested that they be trained in weaving institutes to be started in Jharia, Kustore and Sijua. There is already an <sup>weaving</sup> ~~in~~ institute at Kustore. ✓

(The Statesman, 21-9-1936).+

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various  
Centres in India for July 1936.

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India showed irregular changes during July 1936 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in July 1936 rose by 1 point to 101. The average in the year 1935 was 101.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (Base: Year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad remained unchanged at 71; in 1935 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (Base: Year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur remained stationary to 70; the average for 1935 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in July 1936 rose by 1 point to 59.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in July 1936 rose by 2 points to 57.

Rangoon.- The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers declined by 1 point to 90 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, July 1936).

(The cost of living index numbers for various centres in India during June 1936 were given at pages 26-27 of our August 1936 report).

Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 30-6-1936.

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the second quarter of 1936 ending 30-6-1936, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 49 disputes during the period, involving 42,740 workers and entailing a loss of 358,337 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 16 disputes involving 32,045 workers entailed a loss of 201,545 working days. Next comes Bombay with 12 disputes involving 3,714 workers and entailing a loss of 22,377 working days, Madras with 9 disputes ~~and entailing~~ involving 2,094 workers and entailing a loss of 16,465 working days, Assam with  $\frac{3}{2}$  disputes involving 633 workers and entailing 2,053 working days, the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the United Provinces with 2 disputes each involving 245, 929 and 849 workers and entailing losses of 2,455, 4,619 and 7,621 working days respectively, and Bangalore, Bihar and Orissa and Burma with 1 dispute each involving 1,800, 370 and 61 workers and entailing losses of 83,700, 17,441 and 61 days respectively, while no dispute was reported from Delhi.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 12 disputes involving 6,170 workers and entailing a loss of 28,055 working days, jute mills for 7 disputes involving 27,620 workers and entailing a loss of 161,420 working days. Other miscellaneous industries were responsible for 30 disputes involving 8,950 workers and entailing a loss of 168,862 working days.

Of the 49 disputes during the quarter under review, 27 were due to wage questions, 8 to personnel, 4 to leave and one to bonus, and 9 to other causes. In 9 disputes the workers were successful, in 7 partially successful and in 24 unsuccessful. 9 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report. (Strike statistics for the quarter ending 31-3-1936 are given at pages 22-23 of our June 1936 Report).

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Regulation of Leave <sup>to</sup> Bombay Mill

Operatives: Rules Framed by Millowners' Association, Bombay. +

The question of systematising the procedure for the grant of leave to Bombay mill-hands had for some months past been engaging the attention of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The matter was, in the first instance, considered in detail by the Labour Advisory (Managers) Sub-Committee, which submitted the following proposals, which it was suggested might be recommended for general adoption by all mills in Bombay:

(a) Requests or applications for non-urgent leave of more than 7 days' duration should be received by the heads of the departments only on two fixed days during the week.

(b) If the head of the department or the manager agrees to grant leave, the date for the commencement of the leave should be 3 days after the application date, that is to say, if the request for leave is received on Monday, the leave should commence from Thursday. The applicant should get his leave pass only on the day the leave is to commence.

~~(c)~~ The three days which would elapse between the application for leave and the date of departure, on leave would make it easier to arrange for suitable 'badlis' and payment of earned wages where necessary.

(c) In cases of sanctioned leave of less than 7 days duration, previous notice need not be demanded and the leave pass should be issued on the day the request for leave is made.

(d) If the head of the department or the manager is satisfied that leave exceeding 7 days is of an urgent character, then the rule regarding previous notice might be waived.

(e) It would be advisable to post notices in the departments and at the gate informing the work-people of the dates on which requests or applications for long leave would be received and the procedure which would be followed.

The Committee of the Association approved these proposals and advised member mills in the City to introduce the system in their mills. At the same time, the Committee also approved of a further suggestion made by the Sub-Committee in regard to the wages



to be paid to 'Badli'(substitute) operatives acting as Doffer and Line Jobbers. It was proposed that Badlis for the posts of Doffer Jobbers and Line Jobbers should be paid the rates of wages which were paid to the permanent operatives in whose posts the badlis were working. A recommendation to this effect was forwarded to all mills in the City and Island. ✓

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during August 1936). +

Wage Dispute in Ahmedabad Textile Mills:

Parties go in for Arbitration. +

Reference was made at pages 33-35 of our August 1936 report to the wage dispute in Ahmedabad textile mills. By the beginning of September, the millowners, as a result of mutual consultations and discussions, had indicated the urgent necessity for reduction of the working week due to large accumulation of stocks ~~of~~ or for a general wage cut. In the meanwhile, negotiations were being carried on between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association in regard to the standardisation of wages. The view of the majority of the millowners is that to achieve standardisation, action should be taken by the machinery for industrial conciliation set up by the Ahmedabad mill industry.

On 12-9-1936, the Secretary of the Millowners' Association addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Labour Association,

drawing the latter's attention to "the critical position of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry", and suggesting immediate relief in the shape of a wage-cut. The letter states that there is every danger of a number of mills being obliged to close down to the detriment not only of the mill industry but also of workers.

The Millowners' Association, therefore, finds it necessary to ask for the acceptance of a cut of 20 per cent in the present scale of wages with effect from October 15. In case the Labour Association is unable to accede to this request, it is urged that arrangement be made for very early arbitration in the matter, not later than September 20, so as to arrive at a final decision through all stages of arbitration by October 15. (The Bombay Chronicle, 14-9-1936). The Labour Association rejected the proposal, but agreed to arbitration.

Later reports show that Mahatma Gandhi has expressed his willingness to hear the case prepared by the Millowners' Association in justification of 20 per cent reduction in the wages of the mill employees as soon as the Labour Association has prepared its case against the proposed reduction. Representatives of both the associations will be going to Wardha soon for this purpose. Mahatma Gandhi will act as arbitrator on behalf of the Labour Association, and Beth Chimanlal Parikh on behalf of the Millowners' Association. The case will be submitted to an umpire in case of a difference of opinion between the two arbitrators.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-9-36, and the National Call, 26-9-1936) +

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Ambernath Match Workers' Strike.

The following is a brief summary of the developments in connection with the match workers' strike of the Western India Match Factory Company, at Ambernath.

Cut in Wages.- The Match Factory Workers' Union made repeated representations in December 1935, February and May 1936 to the management to restore the cut of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pie in the piece rate prevailing in the box closing department. The Labour Office of the Government of Bombay was also duly informed as early as in the month of December, 1935. On the 20th of July 1936 workers made a final representation for restoration of the cut. On the 24th of July 1936 the management turned it down. On the 25th July 1936 the workers of the Box Closing Department struck work. On the 27th July 1936 the management tried to work the box closing department with a contingent of new workers recruited from the Criminal Tribes Settlement. Workers in other departments struck work as a protest against this move of the management. A lock out was declared on the same date announcing that the re-opening of the factory would be subject to terms and conditions which the employers might deem fit to impose. On the 1st of August 1936 the wages for the first fortnight of July became due for payment. The employers refused to make payment until the chawls owned by the company were vacated. On the 8th August the workers formulated their demands and submitted the same to the Labour Office on the 13th of August. On the 13th August Mr. N.M. Joshi wrote a letter to the Home Member, Mr. Turner, requesting the Government to intervene in the dispute. The Labour Office was also approached.

Government Refuses to Intervene.- On the 26th August Mr. N.M. Joshi received a reply from the Government intimating their inability to intervene. On the 27th August the workers' delegates saw the management. On the 28th August the management informed the delegates that none of their demands will be granted and that there would be a reduction in the number of workers when the factory ~~will be~~ reopened. On the 1st of September the management tried to reopen the factory. The workers refused to resume work unless and until their grievances were redressed.

Repression of Workers.- On the 24th August, the Resident Magistrate of Kalyan, the district in which the factory is situated, ordered the arrest of several leaders of the workers. Arrests of leaders continued, till on the 16th September, Mr. Parulekar, a member of the Servants of India Society and a leader of the workers, was arrested, but he was released on 18th September by the orders of the Presidency Magistrate, Girgaum, Bombay. The strike is still continuing.

(The Bombay Chronicle,  
23 & 29-9-1936).

Labour Situation in Pondicherry. 4

Reference was made at pages 30-32 of our August 1966 report to the labour situation in the textile mills in Pondicherry, By the middle of September the authorities of the Gaebele Mills notified that they are willing to re-open their mills, subject to the labourers agreeing to certain conditions. The following are the conditions mentioned by the authorities :

For the present only day work will be resumed. Most probably the number of labourers will be reduced. Those labourers who agree to work in the Mills will be deemed to be bound by this condition. The Mill will work between 7 to 12 in the morning and 1 to 5 in the evening, and thus work at the rate of 9 hours per day. The salary fixed for every labourer will be given as daily wages. A labourer in the weaving department can work at two sets and thus he can try to increase his wages. The wages of other labourers will be reorganised.

Spoiled pieces will be given away to labourers at the rate of 12 annas per every piece worth one rupee.

No bonus will be given this year to the labourers. Five weeks of leave with wages will be granted to women labourers. One and a half <sup>times</sup> the ordinary wages will be given to the labourers for the extra work done over and above 54 hours in a week. The agreement reached on 3rd July which has not yet been enforced will be discussed at the next meeting of the Mill authorities when a favourable decision will be taken. Children below 15 years of age will not be entertained for work hereafter. The notification assures the labourers that their interests will be looked after by the mill authorities and that the benefits to which they are entitled will be extended to them gradually. (The Hindu, 16-9-66)

The Rodier Mills and the Savana Mills did not put up similar notices. The workers decided not to accept the conditions of the Gaebele Mills, which, however, engaged the services of some labourers to clean the machinery and to do other miscellaneous work. The strikers picketed the mills to dissuade workers from attending to this work. The situation worsened when the police arrested some of the picketers. No settlement has been arrived at till the end of the month.

Enforcement of Conventions.

Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar, 1935\* ✓ +

Number of Operatives and Inspection.— According to the Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1935, there were 1,017 factories (159 perennial and 858 seasonal) in C.P. and Berar on the Factories Register at the close of 1935 as against 972 in 1934. 56 new factories were registered and 11 factories removed in the course of the year. Of the 1,017 factories, 696 (152 perennial and 544 seasonal) were actually working during the year. The increase in the number of perennial factories is due to the registration of small weaving sheds and electric power stations and 14 rice mills (seasonal factories) being declared non-seasonal factories. The decrease in the number of seasonal factories was mainly in ginning and pressing factories. All the 696 factories were inspected during the year; 229 factories were inspected once, 243 twice, 138 thrice and 86 more than thrice. The total number of inspections was 1,558 during the year as against 1,764 in 1934. The average daily number of workers employed by the factories decreased from 60,503 (40,416 men, 19,624 women and 463 children) to 59,896 (40,501 men, 18,799 women and 596 ~~in~~ adolescents and children). Decrease in number of workers is reported in gin and press factories, while increases are recorded in cotton, spinning and weaving mills, distilleries and in cement and rice mills.

Health and Safety.— The report states that appreciable progress has been noticed in perennial factories with regard to the fencing and guarding of dangerous machinery. Suitable clothing was provided for

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\*Report on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1935. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P., 1936. Price - Re.1-8-0. pp. 36

certain classes of workers according to rules. Numerous requisitions had to be made for the provision of proper guards and safety devices and for the repair of existing ones in seasonal factories, where progress in this direction is too often hampered by continual changes in the management and lack of technical knowledge to carry out inspectors' suggestions in an efficient manner. Non-seasonal factories continued to maintain the improvement made to secure adequate ventilation. The general health of the operatives in all the factories was reported to be good. No report of ~~the~~ outbreak of ~~an~~ epidemic among the industrial population was received and no case of any occupational disease was noticed. The operatives took full advantage of the dispensaries maintained by the large perennial establishments.

Housing and of Operatives and Welfare Work.- It is observed that there has been no progress in the provision of houses to workers. The larger concerns which have provided housing accommodation to a majority of workers have maintained the quarters in a sanitary condition and effected repairs wherever necessary. Crèches do not appear to be wholly popular with the operatives; those attached to the seven cotton mills and one pottery works housed 187 babies. The mill management has, however, been trying to popularise the free use of crèches.

Accidents.- Altogether 564 accidents were reported during the year under review, of which 7 were fatal, 48 serious and 509 minor. There is a large increase in the number of minor accidents, some of which are of a trivial nature and do not need any explanation. The increase is mainly in the Bengal Nagpur Railway workshop at Nagpur and cement and textile factories.

Hours of Work and Holidays.- As usual the larger perennial factories conformed strictly to the rules regarding the hours of employment and weekly holidays. Breaches of section 37 (intervals for rest) were noticed in a few cases and prosecutions were launched against.

managers of four factories. Ten cases of breach of sections 34 (weekly hours) 36 (daily hours), and 38 (spreadover) resulted in conviction and fines. As a result of surprise visits, prosecutions were launched in seven cases for employment of women beyond the hours specified in section 42, and all the accused persons were heavily fined.

Wages.- There was a general fall in wages to the extent of 6.6 per cent., primarily owing to the continued trade depression.

Maternity Benefit.- The number of women who claimed benefit under the Maternity Benefit Act during 1935 was 552 as against 567 in 1934. Of these, 506, as against 511 in 1934, were found to be entitled to it and the employers paid Rs. 9,206 as against Rs. 8,908 in 1934.

(Factory Administration in C.P. and Berar during 1934 was reviewed at pages 21-22 of the Report of this Office for September 1935). +

Factory Administration in N.W.F. Province, 1935. +

The annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1935 states that during the year the total number of factories subject to the Factories Act increased from 27 to 29 which included 17 Government and Local Fund Factories. The water supply, lighting and general sanitary conditions of the factories were generally found to be satisfactory. The total number of operatives employed in all factories increased from 1,099 to 1,147, the increase being due to the newly-registered factories which found employment for 95 persons. Of the 1,147 operatives employed, 1,115 were males and 32 females. Four accidents were reported to have occurred during the year, one of which was serious. One factory fire was reported to have occurred during the year. There was, however, no loss of life or injury to any worker caused by the fire.

(The Statesman, 23-9-1936) +

Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of the All India Kisan Committee, Bombay,

21-8-1936: Fundamental Rights of Indian Peasants Enunciated.

A brief reference was made at pages 44-45 of our August 1936 report to the meeting of the All India Kisan (Peasants\*) Committee at Bombay on 21-8-1936, at which a manifesto and statement of demands of the Kisans of India were adopted. The following are the main points brought out in the manifesto.

Object of Kisan Movement.- "The object and main task of the Kisan movement are stated in the following resolution passed at the first All India Kisan Congress held at Lucknow on the 11th April 1936:-

The object of the Kisan movement is to secure complete freedom from economic exploitation and the achievement of full economic and political power for the peasants and workers and all other exploited classes.

The main task of the Kisan movement shall be the organisation of peasants to fight for their immediate political and economic demands in order to prepare them for their emancipation from every form of exploitation.

The Kisan movement stands for the achievement of ultimate economic and political power for the producing masses through its active participation in the national struggle for winning complete ~~and~~ independence."

Poverty of the Masses.- "The one outstanding fact of Indian economic life is the grinding poverty and utter misery of the vast peasant masses which comprise 80 per cent of its population. No political or economic programme which has the audacity to ignore their needs and demands can by any stretch of imagination be labelled a national programme. Every organisation claiming to represent the people of India must place the interests of the bankrupt and much exploited ryots, tenants and agricultural labour in the forefront of its programme if it is to vindicate its claim. Inasmuch as the Indian National Congress is today the only effective political body with a country-wide organisation claiming to champion the cause of the masses, it must necessarily make the solutions of the problems of the peasantry the chief plank of its political and economic policy."

Plight of Peasants.- "The terrible conditions of the Indian peasants is too well-known to need repetition. The tenants are oppressed by Zamindars, Talukdars and Malguzars, Inamdars and other landlords. The peasant-proprietors have to bear the yoke



of a harsh system of land Revenue. The Agricultural labour receive, if at all, starvation wages and work, and live in conditions bordering on slavery. But, unfortunately, while the condition of the peasantry dominates the whole political and economic life of the country, the peasants themselves have been most backward politically and organisationally. The results are twofold; firstly the peasants have been deprived of all the ameliorative legislation that could have been passed during the last 16 years, even by the present legislatures, if the legislators had felt obliged to satisfy the peasants and, secondly, the political movement itself in the country has remained more or less unconcerned with both the immediate and basic problems of the peasantry. The fundamental cause that makes for their present starvation is the land tenure and revenue and credit system.

Organising Peasants.- After expressing the opinion that the political ideal of the movement is independence and the form of Government which it favours is one which derives its strength and support from the peasantry, the Manifesto contains the following <sup>remarks</sup> as regards the organisation of the peasants:

"The Kisan Sabha means the unity of the peasants. By organising the peasants, by setting them on their feet, the Kisan movement not only enables them to put a stop to the thousand and one harassments and extortionate practices of the landlords, and land-revenue officers and Sowcars and their agents, but also advances them greatly toward the goal of political freedom, thereby strengthening as nothing else can the movement for national independence. Fortunately, the Kisans all over the country are becoming more and more conscious, politically and economically, of their basic problems. The All-India Kisan Committee is an expression of this awakening among the peasantry. They have at last realised that they must fashion out their own militant class organisations if they are to make any sustained advance towards their goal. The Kisan Sabha represent not only the rayat, the tenants and the landless labourers, but in some places the petty Zamindars also. In other words, it represents and speaks and fights for all those who live by the cultivation of the soil." ~~India, a Dependency of Britain~~

Fundamental Demands.- "India, a Dependency of Britain must be transformed into a free, progressive and democratic India of the masses. The fight for such an India can only effectively be conducted on a programme based on the grievances and demands of the Kisans of India. While the fight for these basic changes goes on, the peasants must also fight for all that can be gained within the framework of the existing economic order. Only in this manner can they prepare themselves for the bigger struggle, the objective of which must be kept ever present in the minds of the Kisans.

To this end, we frame the following charter of fundamental and minimum demands of the Kisans, the Provincial Kisan Sabhas having the right to supplement it by a list of their local needs:

(i) Abolition of Zamindari System.- Whereas the present systems of Zamindari (in the U.P., Orissa, Bengal, Behar, Madras,

and Assam), Talukdari (in the U.P., and Gujerat), Malguzari (in the C.P.), Ishtmdari (in Ajmer), Khotes (in Deccan), Zanmis (in Malabar), Inamdari, etc., involving as they do the vesting of ownership of vast areas of land and of the right of collecting and enjoying enormous rent income in persons divorced from land ~~is~~ iniquitous, unjust, burdensome and oppressive to the Kisans, and whereas the Zamindars, etc., rack-rent their numerous tenants while neglecting the irrigation sources, all such systems of the landlordism shall be abolished, and all the rights over such lands be vested in the cultivators; and these Kisans <sup>be</sup> made to pay income-tax like the Ryotwari ryots.

Whereas the present systems of land-revenue and resettlement imposed by Government in Ryotwari areas have proved too vexatious and resulted in the progressive pauperisation of peasants, all such systems of land revenue and resettlement shall be abolished and replaced by a graduated land-tax upon net-incomes of Rs. 500 and more (for a family not exceeding five as recommended by the Taxation Enquiry Committee).

(ii) Rural Indebtedness.— Whereas the peasants have been over-burdened by oppressive indebtedness and usurious rates of interest; whereas the lands of most of the peasants have either passed or <sup>are</sup> passing into the hands of ~~xxx~~ absentee landlords, sowcars and urban classes, the peasants shall be completely relieved from all liability to pay their old debts or interest thereon, and the State shall immediately put into operation the necessary machinery to provide agricultural credit for peasants' current needs.

(iii) Provision of Land to Landless Peasantry.— This Committee demands that landless peasants and those having less than five acres each be provided with land to cultivate on the basis of co-operative farming (without the right of alienation), and, since one third of the total cultivable land is still unoccupied and vested in Government, while there is a large number of landless peasants, this Committee resolves that all such lands be granted to the landless Kisans.

(iv) Minimum Demands.— The peasants will immediately take all possible steps to achieve the following minimum demands:

1. Cancellation of all arrears of rent and revenue.
2. Abolition of all land revenue assessment and rent from uneconomic holdings.
3. Reduction by at least 50 per cent of rent and revenue and also of water rates; in no case shall the rent charged by landlords be more than what the Ryotwari ryots have to pay to Government in the neighbouring District or Province under similar circumstances; and in regard to the tenants of the proprietary ryots suitable tenants' legislation must be passed for their relief.
4. Immediate grant of the right of permanent cultivation,

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without the right of alienation, to all tenants and actual cultivators of the lands of Zamindars, Talukdars, Inamdars, Malguzars, Ishmardars, Zanmis, Khotas, etc.

5. Grant of the right of remission of rent for all tenants of landlords whenever crops fail and the stoppage of all resettlement operations, and all kinds of enhancements of the rent or land revenue and survey and settlement of all Zamindari, etc., lands.

6. Immediate imposition of an adequate and graduated income-tax, death duty and inheritance tax upon all the agricultural revenues of landlords and merchants.

7. Abolition and penalisation of all feudal and customary dues and forced labour, including Begar and illegal exactions.

8. The declaration of a 5 years' moratorium for all agrarian indebtedness.

9. An immediate enquiry into the extent of amounts borrowed, interest thereon and the assessment of the assets and liabilities of the peasants.

10. Freedom from arrest and imprisonment for inability to pay debts, rents and revenue.

11. Immunity from attachment of all minimum holdings, stables, living quarters, household necessities, dairy and other cattle in execution of civil decrees and revenue and rent demands.

12. Rate of interest, charged by private money-lenders not to exceed 6 per cent per annum, compound interest being penalised.

13. Licensing of all money-lenders.

14. Advancement of State credit, co-operative and land mortgage credit at not more than 5 per cent simple interest and for 40 years. Land Mortgage Banks shall be established in important centres.

15. Lowering of the freight <sup>rates</sup> upon the transport of agricultural commodities and third class railway rates, and the development of canal and road transport.

16. Abolition of all indirect taxes, particularly duties <sup>on</sup> salt, kerosene, sugar, tobacco and matches.

17. Introduction of one pie post card.

18. Prohibition of dumping of food products.

19. Stabilisation of prices of agricultural products at 1929 level by the necessary adjustment of exchange and currency policy and other methods.

20. Safeguarding the customary rights of peasants and workers to secure forest produce (grazing, timber, fuel), the abolition of grazing fees, the regulation of grazing and distribution of timber in forests to be vested in village Panchayats, the throwing open of tanks, rivers, etc. ~~xxxxxxx~~ to peasants, <sup>and</sup> granting of licenses to peasants for bearing fire arms to protect themselves, their cattle and crops from wild animals.

21. The administration of all communal lands howsoever originated, and grazing lands <sup>to</sup> vest in village Panchayats.

22. The enactment of a Peasants' Union Act to safeguard the <sup>peasants'</sup> fundamental rights by collective action.

23. Assurance of a minimum wage and the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act ~~xxxx~~ to all agricultural workers.

24. The redistribution of the burden of taxation, both Provincial and Central, jointly or variously so as to impose at least 75 per cent of the tax-burden upon the richer classes, and the redistribution of the public expenditure so as to spend and devote 75 per cent of it for the welfare of workers and peasants.

25. Compulsory fixation of a minimum fair price for sugarcane on a rising scale to give the fullest benefit of Sugar Protection Act to Kisans and to suitably protect the cultivators of jute and coconut by fixing suitable minimum prices.

26. Development of cooperative state-marketing and ~~thus~~ <sup>the</sup> prevention of the exploitation of peasants by middlemen, and Abolition of all kinds of "charity" deductions made by merchants, and transference of all such present funds to the peasants' associations.

27. Development of ~~the~~ irrigation and drainage facilities for protecting peasants from famines, the taking of all other steps to insure peasants against such calamities, and the establishment of tank restoration funds in all <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ areas, and financing the timely repairs and improvements of all irrigation and water supply sources.

28. The development of gardens and intensive cultivation, ~~to~~ <sup>of</sup> supply, cheap and tested seed and useful fertilisers, popularisation of latest methods of cultivation and the promotion of the agricultural and industrial operations of the State in close consultation and co-operation with Kisan Sabhas.

29. ~~The~~ provision of cattle insurance, fire-insurance and health insurance.

30. Establishment of a village Panchayat for the administration of the civic affairs of every village, the function of distribution of irrigation water supply being entrusted to it.

31. Vesting of power in the Kisan organisations, as in the case of the Sarada Act, to bring to book all those officials (particularly of the P.W.D., Excise, Revenue, Railway and Police <sup>departments</sup>) who take bribes from peasants and workers and exempt ~~the~~ <sup>peasants</sup> peasants and workers who are obliged to give bribes from any penal punishments.

32. Passing of an agricultural Insolvency Act.

33. Adult franchise and functional representation in all legislatures.

34. Repeal of all anti-peasant, anti-labour and anti-national laws, ordinance and regulations in British and Indian India and the release of all Kisan labour and political prisoners, whether sentenced or detained without trial.

35. Re-instatement of all peasants deprived of their lands, etc. <sup>As their connection with</sup> ~~the~~ movements for ~~the~~ economic and political freedom and also owing to their failure to pay revenue or rent during this economic depression.

36. Immediate establishment of free and compulsory education for girls and boys, medical and sanitary aid, provision for drinking water and a national housing policy.

37. The grant <sup>of</sup> the right to all peasants to bear arms.

The Committee recommended to the All India Congress Committee to incorporate the minimum demands enumerated above in the Congress Manifesto and make it obligatory on all Congress Candidates to pledge themselves to this ~~or~~ programme.

The Congress Manifesto (vide pages 75-77 of our ~~September~~ August 1936 report) did not however, incorporate all the points raised in the Kisan Manifesto.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-8-1936) +

Annual Meeting of Press Employees' Association,  
Calcutta, 1936. +

The annual meeting of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, was held on 26-9-1936 at the Indian Association Hall, Mr. Abdul Farim presided.

President's Speech.- The president, in the course of his speech, said that the watchwords of modern life and progress were combination, agitation and organisation. Trade Unionism was therefore the order of the day in every country and labour was everywhere organising to perfect and prove itself to make its voice felt in the conduct not only ~~of~~ social life, but even ~~of~~ politics. He was glad therefore that for 50 years they have done such useful work in their field as was proved by their general and sectional annual reports. He was also glad that they have forced recognition of their Trade Union status. ~~and secured the latest certificate of Registration under the Government of India Legislative Assembly Order of 1936.~~

Continuing, the speaker said that he was glad to note that the Government Press ~~has~~ generally given sympathetic hearing to their representatives, specially since the formal recognition of their beneficent activities in 1920. He hoped that they would continue to get and deserve more and more confidence and respect even from private presses by their effective service, helpful conciliation ~~and~~ arbitration, powerful organisation and unity. It was regrettable, however, that the Railway Press authorities seem unduly antagonistic to them although they have occasionally had to invite their opinions and suggestions in their difficulties. It was also regrettable that

1.7 36  
large printing contracts had been given to the outside presses, and at the same time, old hands in Government Presses have been reduced and retrenched on the plea of dearth of work.

Office-bearers, <sup>for</sup> 1936-37. - The following office-bearers ~~with a~~ ~~strong Executive Committee~~ were elected for the coming year:

President - Sj. Mrinal Kanti Bose, Vice-Presidents - Sjs. Satyendra Chandra Mitter, Maulvi Mohabul Huq, K.C. Ray Chaudhury, Proh~~ad~~ Chandra Ray, Beharilal Sen, Sailendra Nath Ray, A.K. Mazurdar, Munshi Golam Sarad and Amanuddin Chaudhury. General Secretary - Sj. S.C. Sen, Secretary - Sj. Hirendra Nath Ray. Organising Secretary - Sj. Indu Bhusan Sarcar.

Resolutions Adopted. - The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted:

All India Federation of Press Employees. - This meeting is of opinion that the establishment of an All-India Federation of the Press Employees would ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> a <sup>important</sup> great stimulus to the growth of fellow-feeling, co-operation and solidarity among the workers in general and the press-employees in particular and invites the respectful attention of press workers all over India to consider the practicability of such an institution.

Piece-Work System Condemned. - That this meeting is deliberately of opinion that the conditions under which the piece-system is worked in all Government and ~~mother~~ presses are iniquitous, complex and opposed to the principles of humanity, and this meeting urges the immediate abolition of the system.

Contracts given to Outside Presses. - That this meeting consider that the present practice of giving work to outside presses is detrimental to the interests of Government Press ~~Employees~~, without ~~there being~~ <sup>ensuring</sup> any substantial saving to the tax-payer, and urges on the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to abandon the practice as early as possible.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-9-1936) ↓

Economic Conditions.Steel Merger Scheme:Indian and Bengal Iron Companies to Combine. ✓ +

Arrangements are well in hand for a merger of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Calcutta, and the Bengal Iron Company. The scheme for the amalgamation has now been approved by the Boards of Directors of both Companies and efforts are being made both in Calcutta and in London to expedite the settlement of final details so as to enable the full detailed scheme to be placed before the shareholders of both the Companies at as early a date as possible for their consideration.

It is hoped that it may be possible to arrange for meetings of shareholders both in Calcutta and in London to be held at the latest by the middle of November 1936. The financing of the new Steel Company, it is proposed, will be undertaken by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. ~~and~~ in conjunction with Messrs. Burn and Co., Messrs. Bird and Co., and Messrs. Haes and Sons.

Bigger Merger Scheme Contemplated.- Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 5-9-1936, commenting on the proposed merger says:-

"After this fusion of Bengal Iron into Indian Iron is put through, the stage is set trim and ready for the flotation of what is really the much-talked-of steel merger. In the early half of 1936, the venue of discussions was Bombay; and, in the last few months, the scene has shifted to London where the representatives of Indian Iron, Bengal Iron, x Tata Iron and other interests had met constantly, exchanged ideas, clarified all relevant issues and arrived at an unanimous agreement. The outcome of these conversations is an agreement to provide Rs. 50 millions towards the capital of the new steel works".

(Indian Finance, 5-9-1936 and  
Bombay Chronicle, 2-9-1936). +

Indian Cotton Mill Industry;Steady Expansion in Production. \*

Attention is directed to an article under the caption "Indian Cotton Mill Industry: Steady Expansion in Production" published at page 363 of the Indian Textile Journal for August 1936. (This monthly publication is being regularly received in the Geneva Office).

The author points out that ~~steady~~ steadily increasing production at a satisfactory rate has been the special feature of the Indian cotton mill industry for some years past. The following statistics for the last three years from 1st April to 31st March of each year <sup>furnish</sup> ~~form~~ evidence of this growth:-

| 1933-34                        | 1934-35 | 1935-36 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| (Production in million yards). |         |         |
| 2,945                          | 3,397   | 3,570   |

Within two years the production went up <sup>by</sup> ~~to~~ 625 million yards or by more than 20 per cent.

Yarn Production.- The article also gives production figures of yarn. The yarn production according to the principal centres was as follow:-

|               | <u>1934-35</u>               | <u>1935-36</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|               | (Production in million lbs.) |                |
| Bombay City   | 265                          | 304            |
| Ahmedabad     | 179                          | 166            |
| Madras        | 103                          | 113            |
| Bengal        | 41                           | 41             |
| U.P.          | 99                           | 107            |
| C.P.          | 45                           | 46             |
| Indian States | 148                          | 155            |

Export Trade Position.- The exports of Indian piecegoods have shown some advance during the last three years, and in 1935-36 stood at 71,000,000 yards. The chief purchasing countries were Ceylon, Iran, ~~Six~~ Straits Settlements and Portuguese East Africa, while



Bombay and Madras were the chief exporting ports. The exports of yarn however suffered a heavy setback and fell from 12,000,000 lbs. to 9,000,000 lbs.

Effects of Japanese Competition.- Owing to the Japanese competition, India has lost much of the export trade that naturally belonged to her, for example in Nepal and Afghanistan. Japanese goods are first exported to India and thence re-exported to the neighbouring countries and get refund of duties paid. That is the reason why Indian industrial interests ask for modification of the terms of the existing Indo-Japanese pact.

(The Indian Textile Journal, August 1936.)  
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Employment and Unemployment.

Government of India Examines Sapru Committee's Report:

Provisional Conclusions Arrived at. ✓

At pages 43-47 of our January 1936 report was given a summary of the recommendations made in the Report of the Unemployment Committee of the United Provinces which was presided over by the Rt. Honourable Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. The Government of India has been examining that Report with a view to adoption of measures of an all-India character to solve the problem of educated unemployment, and it is now understood that the Government has arrived at certain provisional conclusions. It seems the opinion is held that so far as the educational deficiency of the existing system is ~~concerned~~ in turning out employable men, <sup>is concerned,</sup> steps may be taken to have a thorough enquiry conducted by experts from abroad. A number of such experts may be needed to cover the entire range of the subjects which may usefully be included, ~~by giving the present academic education a vocational tinge.~~ Enquiries about such experts are probably already being made from the authorities in England. With the help of Sir George Anderson, the Government of India is fully seized of the question, and though its conclusion may take time to mature for publication, it is reported that the examination of the subject has been conducted for months, and that the various aspects of the case have been examined, especially in the light of the opinions of the Sapru Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-9 -1936) +

Vocational Training of Ex-Detenus: Bengal  
Government's Scheme to Solve Unemployment.

During the last one year, the Government of Bengal was carrying on an experiment in giving vocational training to the many political detenus in Bengal jails. According to a Press Note issued recently by the Bengal Government, ~~on the subject,~~ it was in August 1935 that the Government decided to give to selected detenus ~~a~~ training at the expense of the State which would enable them to assist in developing the natural resources of the country both to their own profit and to the advantage of the country at large. It was anticipated that ~~that~~ it would take about a year to impart the necessary instruction in industrial occupations, but the great majority of the men selected for training have made such progress that it has been found possible to reduce this period by one-fourth. The first batch, numbering about 57, whose conduct and general attitude have been satisfactory, will finish their training by the end of September, 1936. They will then be released from all <sup>re</sup>straint imposed on them.

Financial Aid Necessary.- The question has naturally arisen as to whence the further assistance, if any, that might be required to enable the trained men to establish themselves in business is to come. The Government realise that such inability to obtain capital might result in some cases ~~on~~ the training which had been given at the expense of the tax-payer being entirely wasted, and have therefore decided to supplement the training by assuming also the responsibility for the provision of credit facilities. They propose to make available on loan for groups of four to eight ex-detenus, sufficient funds to provide premises, plant and ~~initial~~ initial working capital to enable them to establish small factories in the vicinity of Calcutta.

Advantages of Co-operative Working.- The advantages which it is hoped will be derived from the establishment of groups of partners working together are two. There will be a reduction in overhead charges, and the men, it is hoped, will continue to work,

as they have been trained, with their own hands. If factories were started by individuals they would almost certainly have to employ a number of skilled workmen in order to obtain an output sufficient to cover running expenses and furnish a profit; while one of the main principles of the system of training undertaken by the Government ~~was~~ that the detenus should not become employers of labour, but should themselves be practical craftsmen and perform the actual process of production.

Technical Advice.- To supply the guidance that will be required by the ex-detenus on the technical side of their ventures, there will be a small staff working under the Ministry of Agriculture and Industries whose duty it will be to provide skilled supervision and technical advice. A small marketing organisation will also be set up, whose function it will be to put the producers in touch with the best sources of supply and also with the most remunerative markets.

Conditions of Loan.- Loans to ex-detenus will carry interest at the rate of 6 per cent in view of the ~~x~~ rate charged on the Government loans to agriculturists. A small charge of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on turn-over will be made for the technical advice provided by the supervising staff, while the charge for the services rendered by the marketing organisation will be at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent also on turnover. Detenus now under instruction in agriculture at Moslandpur will complete their course of training in January 1937, and it is intended that assistance on similar lines should be given to them to enable them to establish small farms in groups of about 8.

Wider Application of Scheme: Development of Cottage Industries.- When the training scheme was inaugurated, the hope was also expressed that it might represent the beginning of a determined attack upon the general problem of unemployment. The Government consider that, so far as small industries are concerned, the general facilities for training which are available under the various schemes established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Industries during the last few years are reasonably adequate. But the bugbear of finance remains, and the Government have decided that they would not be justified in providing the generous aid which it is proposed to give to ex-detenus if they were not prepared at the same time to make a substantial contribution towards an endeavour to improve the credit facilities available generally to those who may be contemplating the establishment of small industries. The scheme which, subject to the approval of the Legislature, they are prepared to adopt will be dependent upon public support being forthcoming in the necessary degree, but they think it will be universally recognised that no attempt to solve the problems of unemployment can offer any hope of success in the long run unless it has not only the support of public opinion but the practical backing of the investing public so that it may contain in itself the elements of expansion according to the measure of initial success achieved.

Details of the Scheme. - The scheme proposed, which is avowedly experimental, is based upon that adopted in Great Britain with the approval of Parliament for dealing with the problem of the "depressed areas". The following is a summary of its main features:

- (1) An Industrial Credit Corporation to be set up as a public company registered under the Companies Act for the purpose of making loans to approved applicants to enable them to establish small industries in Bengal.
- (2) The Government to contribute towards the administration expenses of the company for a period of five years a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 a year.
- (3) In respect of the first loans issued, up to an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs, the Government to make good from public funds one-half of any loss incurred; and, as the first and subsequent loans are repaid and the sums thus set free are reissued as further loans, Government will similarly accept liability for one-half of any loss incurred. Profits earned after making adequate provision for reserves will accrue entirely to the shareholders.
- (4) Undertakings established with the assistance of loans to be systematically inspected under arrangements to be agreed upon between the Government and the Corporation, such inspection to include the giving of technical advice and guidance.
- (5) The position of the Corporation to be reviewed at the end of ten years with a view to a decision as to whether it should be continued with or without Government assistance or be wound up.
- (6) The arrangements between the Government and the Corporation to be embodied in a formal agreement which will contain such supplementary provisions as may be found necessary.

It is contemplated that on the establishment of such a Corporation, the finance required by ex-detenus, according to the scheme set out in the earlier part of this note, should be provided through that medium.

The Government reserve for further consideration the extension of the proposed credit facilities to exdetenus trained in agriculture and to other persons who may have completed satisfactorily an agricultural training in an institution approved by Government. Proposals for the establishment of one such institution are already under consideration.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, and the Hindu dated 1-9-1936). +

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Fighting Unemployment in C.P.: Local  
Government Appoints Committee. ✓+

The Government of India has offered to give provincial Governments the benefit of the advice of foreign experts in vocational training and this offer has been accepted by the C.P. Government. In order to do the exploratory work and collect data as a preliminary to consultation with the experts, the C.P. Government has appointed a committee of the following members:-(1) The Director of public instruction (chairman), (2) the Director of industries, (3) Sir Sorabji Mehta, Et., C.I.E., (4) Rao Bahadur G.R. Kothare, L.M.E., M.L.C., (5) Mr. L.G. D'Silva, B.A., (6) the Inspector of Industrial Schools (secretary), and (7) Dr. V.S. Jha.

In a communique issued during the first week of September 1936, the C.P. Government explaining the need for such a committee, says:-

Growing Menace of Unemployment.- The serious state of unemployment among the educated classes is engaging the attention of educationists all the world over. The gravity of the situation in this country has been emphasised by responsible bodies such as the Inter-University Board and the newly-formed Central Advisory Board of Education, both of which recommend a reconstruction of educational policy in such a way as to afford 'diversions' to pupils at the end of suitable stages of instruction. It is hoped, thus, to prevent the present overcrowding in a few selected professions and open out a greater variety of professions and occupations for the educated classes.

Vocational Education.- The present system leads inevitably from the primary school to the University, and one of the items in the educational programme of this province is the revision of the school course so that every child may be able to earn his living in a way best suited to his particular abilities and leanings. In order to effect a re-orientation of our educational policy, there is general agreement that the chief need of the moment is the establishment of separate vocational institutions where, in addition to an irreducible minimum of literary studies, a pupil can be taught the elements of a trade or profession and passed out fully equipped as a wage-earner. The addition of a vocational subject to the curriculum of the existing schools will not be sufficient of itself to divert suitable pupils from purely academic studies and will only serve to aggravate the present unsatisfactory position.

(The Leader, 2-9-1936) +

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Debate on Communism and Unemployment:

Sir P. Sethna's Resolution in Council

of State. +

On 28-9-1956, Sir Phiroze Sethna moved the following resolution in the Council of State:

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that, in order to prevent the growth of communistic ideas advocated and propagated by the President of the Congress and others, well-considered measures be adopted as early as possible for relieving unemployment, particularly among the educated lower and middle-classes and for reducing poverty and distress among the vast agricultural and labour population and for promoting their welfare generally."

Sir Phiroze Sethna's speech.- In moving the resolution, Sir Phiroze Sethna said:

Pandit The Advent of Communism.- The Government must have noticed ominous portents on the political horizon of this country. Recently, socialistic and communistic ideas have received an impetus from the vigorous propaganda carried on by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Indian National Congress. The rise of Socialism or Communism is not quite new in the country. There is a distinct Socialist Party within the Congress organisation which has been carrying on its activities and making a good deal of noise within recent years. Its influence within the Congress and outside is steadily growing, and the leaders of that party seem to be confident that the Congress will become a Socialistic organisation in the very near future. Communism also, though perhaps not so active, and growing in influence, seems to be capturing the minds and hearts of an increasing number of young men.

Pandit Jawaharlal's Advocacy.- Nevertheless, until Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the President of the Congress and began his propaganda in favour of what it is difficult to decide, whether it is Socialism or Communism, socialistic or communistic ideas did not receive widespread or close attention from those who believe and feel that such ideas are extremely harmful and are calculated to retard not only the political but the entire national development of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru enjoys amongst his countrymen an amount of influence and popularity which cannot be claimed by any other socialistic or communistic leader. His advocacy of Socialism and Communism have strengthened forces which seek to destroy the existing political, social and economic order, and raise on its ruins a new order, socialistic or communistic. I am using both these words because it is not quite clear whether he himself makes any distinction between the two.

Socialism and Capitalism.- My resolution does not content itself with a mere expression of disapproval. In the second part of the resolution I make some proposals for which I claim no originality, for these proposals are generally regarded not only as a cure but as a preventive against the spread of communistic ideas. A carefully adjusted socialistic programme without trying to destroy private property, without showing any unfairness and hostility to capitalism, without seeking to foment class struggle and to do away with capitalism altogether may not be open to any objection. But socialism in the unqualified and unrestricted form in which it is advocated is impossible without excessive governmental control and regimentation, and such control and regimentation is an evil which men cannot or ought not to submit to. These objections apply with greater intensity & greater force to Communism. Capitalism may not be all that it should be, There are undoubtedly bad capitalists and there are good ones. Capitalism might well be improved and liberalised. But because capitalism is not yet what it should be and some capitalists are not what they ought to be, it does not follow that capitalism and capitalists must be destroyed root and branch.

Need for Lessening Unemployment.- I now come to the second and constructive part of my resolution. The vital causes leading to communism are to be found in increasing unemployment particularly among the educated middle classes and in the dire poverty and distress among the vast bulk of the population. If there had been no such unemployment and if the British Government had long ago taken measures to reduce the poverty of the people and raise their standard of living, I have no doubt whatever that this problem of meeting Socialism and Communism would not have arisen at all. More than two generations have passed since the late Dadabhoj Nowroji drew the pointed attention of the Government to the poverty of India and constantly impressed upon them the duty of removing it. It is only recently that the Government seems to have awakened to the vast and deep seriousness of the problems of Indian poverty. Any further delay will make the situation so hopeless as to be beyond improvement. It ~~is~~ is the apathy—the culpable apathy—of the Government in this respect that is really responsible for the growing hold of socialistic and communistic ideas upon the people, in particular upon the youth of this country.

Sapru and Labour Commission's Recommendations.- The immediate problem before the Government is to concentrate their resources and attention ~~for~~ <sup>on</sup> relieving unemployment, reducing poverty and, in general, improving the economic condition of the people. Fortunately, we have at the head of Indian affairs a Viceroy who takes a keen interest in the material welfare of India and whose one ambition seems to be to raise the ~~the~~ standard of life of the people. His report on agriculture, when he presided over the Agricultural Commission, is a monumental document. If measures are taken in accordance with the recommendations in that report, with regard to the improvement of the condition of the agricultural population, and in accordance with the Sapru Committee's recommendations, as regards unemployment, and, further, if the recommendations of the Labour Commission are also carried out, the country feels confident



that within a short time socialistic and communistic ideas will die an inevitable death for want of sustenance, but not until and unless such measures are taken, will they die out.'

The Debate, - Mr. Barua, Mr. P.N.Sapru, Sir R.N.Choksy, R.B. Lala Ramsaran Das, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, Mr. A.G.Clow, Mr. M.G. Hallett and Sir Jagdish Prasad participated in the debate which followed.

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour in his speech did not deny that the problem of remedying Socialistic inequality confronted them on all sides, but the Government were doing their best even before Communism came to be understood as a real menace to India. The difficulty lay in making those in positions of power in industries, realise the necessity of treating labour as a living part of enterprise. As regards the welfare of labour, Mr. Clow recalled the conditions 16 years ago and now. Though welfare of labour was a provincial subject, labour legislation was a central subject. The progress made in these 16 years was very creditable and Mr. Clow hoped in the new Councils, with representatives of Labour, further progress would be made. There were still factory owners who victimized leaders of labour. Employers should recognize the need of collective expression of labour as in England.

Mr. M.G.Hallett, the Home Secretary, said that the Government of India always regarded communism and terrorism as public enemies, and dealt with them with laws which the Council had passed from time to time. The Communist Party was declared unlawful in August, 1934, and remained so till today. Mr. Hallett detailed some of the measures outlined in the debate in the Assembly on agricultural indebtedness, and said ~~When~~ <sup>that</sup> the new constitution starts ~~we will~~ <sup>have</sup> the new Governments ~~tackling~~ <sup>handling</sup> these problems with even greater vigour and efficiency.

Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, referred to irrigation schemes, the Agricultural Commission's report and the Debt Conciliation Boards in certain provinces. He believed that evolutionary changes, and not armed conflict, would benefit the people.

Sir P. Sethna, in his speech closing the debate, pointed out that it was noteworthy that no non-official speaker wanted Communism in India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the symbol of Communism and his doctrines were opposed by Congress leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Rajendra Prasad.

Resolution Carried. - The resolution was put and carried without a division.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1936) +

A reference to this debate, with a special mention of Mr. Clow's contribution to the discussion, might usefully be made in "Industrial and Labour Information". The verbatim report of the debate is published in the Council of State Debates of 28-9-1936. Mr. Clow's speech is reproduced in the Hindustan Times of 8-10-36; a cutting of the speech is sent with the press cuttings accompanying this Report.

Social Conditions.Criminal Tribes in Bombay Presidency: Working  
of the Settlements, 1935-36\*.

Population. - According to the Report on the Working of settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency, during the year ending 31-3-1936, the total population of settlements, as it stood on 31-3-1936, was 8,183 as against 8,199 in the previous year. There is thus a slight fall of 16. During the year, 158 registered persons with 283 dependents, were interned in settlements on the recommendation of the Police; 41 persons living in settlements and free colonies were registered and interned under section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act (together with their 68 dependents) as they had proved by their conduct that it was unsafe to release them from settlements or to allow them to reside in free colonies. About 19 persons for whom Government orders for internment have been obtained, had not yet arrived on account of some being in jail and others absconding. During the year 541 persons in all, were released on licence and 114 persons in all, were recalled to settlements for breach of conditions of licence. The population of the free colonies as it stood on 31-3-1936 was 7,099 as against 6,865 in the last year.

Employment.- The Report observes that owing to unstable economic conditions, and long continued trade depression and its after effects, great efforts were needed to keep the people in various settlements employed during the year. 1,525 men, 727 women and 93 half-timers are employed in the Spinning and Weaving Mills, Railway Workshops or Factories. It is remarked that all settlement managers found it very difficult to secure employment for the members of their settlements.

Health, Housing and Sanitation.- Most of the settlers live in huts of their own construction. These huts look untidy and frail, but settlers are gradually realising the advantages of a substantially built house. Where this is not possible, decent and spacious huts are being built.

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\* Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-3-1936- Part I.-Bombay:Printed at the Government Central Press 1936.-Price Annas 2 or 3d.-pp.33.

The general health of the settlers and of those living in free colonies, has been good on the whole, except for stray outbreaks of cholera in some of the settlements and Free colonies.

The infant welfare centres and the school children's clinics, in <sup>the</sup> Sholapur and Hubli settlements, have continued to do good work and the scientific treatment of venereal diseases at Hubli has proved to be of great value. Treatment for venereal disease has been introduced in the Reformatory Section of <sup>the</sup> Bijapur Settlement.

Education - General and Vocational.- Education in settlements is compulsory for both boys and girls. Out of a total population of 8,183 in the settlements proper, the numbers of children attending the day and night schools are 1,856 and 357 respectively, and out of a population of 7,099 in the free colonies, the corresponding numbers are 1,294 and 223. Thus the number of children attending day and night schools per thousand of the population is 270.4 for settlements and 213.6 for free colonies. In addition, 335 children from settlements and free colonies, attend outside vernacular schools and 16 children attend English schools. A few boys are being sent to English High Schools in the towns. 280 non-criminal tribe children, and 76 children of the Criminal Tribes from outside, attend settlement schools. In general, the school work has been satisfactory during the year and the results of Government settlement schools, in examinations are on the whole quite satisfactory and encouraging.

73 boys have been apprenticed in various trades, such as carpentry 31, tailoring 6, smithy 5, weaving 27, motor driving 3, and "chappal" making 1. There are 206 children in the manual training classes of settlement schools. During the year, 25 boys have passed the examination in carpentry and drawing, and 9 in the examination in weaving. Training in Agriculture is given to 44 lads in agricultural settlements. Special attention is paid to manual training in most of the settlement schools. But the problem of finding employment as masons and carpenters for boys leaving school has become increasingly difficult.

Cooperation.- The Co-operative Credit and Producer's Societies in settlements have had a satisfactory year. Special attention is being paid to increase the deposits from settlers in order to provide them with a small capital for purchasing lands or building houses on

the eve of their discharge on licence. The effect of <sup>the</sup> depression is seen in the accumulation of deposits. In Hubli alone, during 1934-35, the Co-operative Society advanced Rs. 5,820 as loans for house building. During 1935-36 the amount was Rs. 2,140. The Society has had to refuse some deposits and return other deposits as there was no useful demand for loans. The total deposits of all settlements as they stood on 31-3-1936 amount<sup>ed</sup> to Rs. 36,847-12-8. The amount of share capital was Rs. 17,875-6-0.

Discharge from Settlements.- During the year, 91 registered persons with 294 dependents have been discharged on licence from settlements to free colonies attached to settlements. 46 registered persons with their 110 dependants have been allowed to return on licence to their villages; thus the total number of persons discharged from settlements is 541 of whom 137 were registered persons and the rest were dependents. As against this, 114 persons in all were recalled to settlements for violation of the terms of the conditions of their licence. The total number of ex-settlers who were being supervised on licence at the end of the year was 1,000 registered persons with 3,260 dependents. The percentage of recalls of registered persons works out at 2.8 per cent.

Free Colonies. - The total population of free colonies stood at 7,009 during the year under review. The practice of building good houses on free colonies is continued. The free colonies at Hubli and Gadag are reported to be worthy of special mention. As reported in the last year, the policy of release on licence to villages, as distinguished from release on licence to free colonies, has been almost abandoned in respect of wandering tribes as there is very little hope of turning them into good cultivators. The only hope for members of these tribes is to keep them permanently in organised colonies in industrial areas under supervision and gradually absorb them in the ordinary population of the locality.

Special Institutions.- The Women's Home attached to Hubli settle-<sup>ment</sup>, which has been established for troublesome and immoral women of all settlements has continued its beneficent work. ~~During~~ During the year, 25 women were admitted and 21 were discharged. At the close of the year, 14 were left in the home. The Women's Home attached

to <sup>the</sup> Bijapur settlement contained all women at the time of submitting the report. This Home is intended for women who are too old and hardened to be suitably kept at Hubli Women's Home and who, it is feared, would have a bad moral influence on the younger women. The Children's Homes at Hubli, Sholapur and Baranati closed the year with 90 inmates of whom two are absconding. 21 children have been discharged from these homes and 26 were newly admitted during the year. Only in extreme cases are children separated from their parents and placed in these homes. The Children's Homes at Hubli and Sholapur have been declared as Certified Schools under the Children Act.

(The Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency during the year 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 78-82 of our July 1935 report).

#### Census of Vagrants in Mysore City: Economic and Health Conditions.

A census of vagrants in Mysore City, conducted at the instance of the president of the Mysore City Municipality, by the Statistics Department of the Maharaja's College, Mysore, in collaboration with the municipality, has just been completed.

In all, 527 vagrant families consisting of 701 persons, of whom 577 were males and 124 females were enumerated. The causes of vagrancy are varied and of deep human interest. Chief among them are domestic unhappiness, severe economic pressure, a religious complex and an inborn vagabondizing propensity. Those born with the tramp temperament are the most curious. A happy vagrant of this tribe admitted his preference of vagrancy to a job on Rs.10 a day. month.

Religion and Education.- By far the largest number of vagrants were Hindus, their number being 561(466 males and 95 females) out of a total of 701. Moslems number 122 (96 males and 26 females),

and Christians 18 (15 males and three females). There were many multi-linguists among the vagrants. More than 17 per cent (123) of the vagrants could read and write one or more of five languages. One of these vagrants had received training in shorthand and type-writing; one had studied up to the Secondary School Leaving Certificate standard and three had passed the Lower Secondary examination. Nearly half the number of vagrants were in the prime of manhood, that is, between the ages of 20 and 39, and over a fourth of the total were children and young persons below 19.

Economic Conditions.- Begging was the occupation of 146 vagrants. More than 300 were engaged in a wide variety of crafts and occupations. The economic conditions of the vagrants may be gauged from their personal effects and possessions as well as from their ascertained earnings. Several of them were in comparatively affluent circumstances. Some of them owned houses and jewels. Over a hundred had cash up to Rs. 40. Some earned more than a rupee a day. The earnings of others ranged from four annas a day to about a rupee a day. Some of the vagrants had dependants, earners among them being only 448 males and 31 females.

Health.- Some of the vagrants were suffering from contagious and loathsome diseases. Thirteen were insane; more than 40 were defectives, the scourge of blindness, full or partial being the largest single affliction.

(The Statesman, 13-9-1936) +

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Social Conditions.

1st Punjab Social Service Conference, 1936. +

Arrangements are being made for the holding of a Punjab Social Service Conference, the first of its kind, on 13 and 14-10-1936 at Lahore. A large number of experienced social servants and social workers are expected to assemble on the occasion for deciding upon and taking measures <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ social service to the people on non-political and non-communal lines.

The objects of the Punjab Social Service Conference are:-

~~To~~ To consider and take steps to form a federation of social service organisations in the Punjab. ~~with the following objects:-~~

*a.* To promote the study of social problems and to act as a centre of information and ~~an~~ advice for social service organisations and their workers.

*b.* To focus public opinion on the need of organising social service on proper lines throughout the province and to popularise the ideals of social service.

*c.* To collect and publish information about the various agencies engaged in the work of social service in the Punjab.

*d.* To provide opportunities for mutual exchange of views and experiences of social service workers about important aspects of social service.

*e.* To consider any other questions affecting social service work in the Punjab, as may be deemed proper.

(The Statesman, 16-9-1936) +

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operative Movement in India, 1934-35\*. +

The Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during 1934-35 give a detailed record of the main statistics relating to co-operative societies in the several provinces of British India (with the exception of Baluchistan, where the co-operative movement has, as yet, made little progress), and in the Indian States of Mysore, Baroda, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Kashmir, Travancore and Cochin for the year 1934-35.

Number of Societies and Membership.- The principal types of co-operative societies in India are (a) Central Unions (including Provincial and Central Banks and Banking Unions), (b) Supervising and guaranteeing Unions (including Re-insurance societies), (c) Agricultural Societies (including Cattle Insurance Societies), and (d) Non-agricultural Societies (including Insurance Societies). The number of societies of all kinds increased from 105,083 in 1933-34 to 106,011 during 1934-35. The number of societies per 100,000 inhabitants fell from 32.8 to 31.8 in British India and from 43.1 to 40.8 in Indian States for which figures are given and fell from 34.1 to 33 for the whole of India. The total number of members of primary societies in India increased from 4,316,222 in 1933-34 to 4,409,637 during 1934-35. The number of members of primary societies per 1,000 inhabitants fell from 13.5 to 13.3 in British India and from 17.3 to 16.3 in Indian States for which information is available, and fell from 14 to 13.7 for the whole of India. The working capital for all India rose from Rs. 957,258,000 in 1933-34 to Rs. 968,852,000 in 1934-35 and the

\*Seventeenth Issue. NC-SCM/35. Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1934-35. Published by Order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1936. No.3001. Price Re.1-10 or 2s.9d. pp. 21.



working capital of co-operative societies expressed in terms of annas per head of population decreased from 51 in 1933-34 to 50 in 1934-35 in British India and from 38 to 37 in Indian states for which statistics are given and from 50 to 48 in the whole of India.

Finances.- In 1934-35, 615 Provincial and Central Banks with a membership of 85,195 individuals and 89,084 societies had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 16,871,067, working capital amounting to Rs. 293,997,103 and profits amounting to Rs. 3,917,939. There were 92,920 agricultural societies with a membership of 3,008,152 in 1934-35 having reserve funds amounting to Rs. 72,474,951, working capital amounting to Rs. 342,234,574 and profits amounting to Rs. 11,209,977. Similarly, in the case of non-agricultural societies, 11,428 societies with a membership of 1,387,753 had reserve funds amounting to Rs. 18,634,126, working capital amounting to Rs. 216,247,151 and profits amounting to Rs. 7,222,310. +

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Women and Children.

11th Session of A.I. Women's Conference to be Held

at Ahmedabad in December 1936. +

~~On~~ The 11th session of the All-India Women's Conference will be held in Ahmedabad in the third week of December 1936 under the presidentship of either Rani Laxmibai Rajwade of Gwalior or Mrs. Cousins.

The resolutions to be moved at the annual session will be under three heads, educational, social, and labour. The educational resolutions will deal with the differentiation to be made in the status of the Matriculation and the School Final examinations; mass education and broadcasting in relation to mass education; hostels for women; need to withhold Government grants from communal institutions and abolish communal hostels; voluntary efforts for adult education; and summer camps for women.

The social and political resolutions will deal with support of legislation relating to the welfare of women and children, the introduction of Children Acts in those provinces and states where they do not exist; the establishment of rescue homes; rural reconstruction; the proper control of religious endowments; the removal of untouchability and the inclusion of women in Cabinets and ~~the~~ Administration under the new constitution.

The resolutions concerning labour will include the housing problem, social insurance, an All-India Maternity Act, and child labour.

(The Times of India, 26-9-1936) +

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Education.

Vocational Training in C. P.:

Committee Appointed to Reorganise Educational System. +

The Central Provinces Gazette, dated 28-8-1936, publishes a resolution of the local Government appointing a Committee to enquire into the present system of education with a view to exploring possibilities of giving it a vocational trend.

The resolution points out the following salient features of the present position:

"Diversions" to Suitable Professions.- The serious state of unemployment among the educated classes is engaging the attention of educationists all the world over. The gravity of the situation in this country has been emphasised by responsible bodies such as the Inter-University Board and the newly-formed Central Advisory Board of Education, both of which recommend a reconstruction of educational policy in such a way as to afford "diversions" to pupils at the end of suitable stages of instruction. It is hoped, thus, to prevent the present overcrowding in a few selected professions and open out a greater variety of professions and occupations for the educated classes.

Literary Weightage Undesirable.- The present system leads inevitably from the Primary School to the University and one of the items in the educational programme of the Central Province is the revision of the school course so that every child may be able to earn his living in a way best suited to his particular abilities and leanings. It is not desirable that only the interests of those whose training includes a university course should be considered; it is unfair that the educational programme should be heavily weighted on the purely literary side. The end of each stage of instruction should be regarded as a landing place from which a pupil can set forth on some satisfactory and profitable career. This applies particularly to the Middle and High School stages in which the courses of instruction, while broadening the minds of the pupils, should enable them at the same time to take up occupations for which other than literary skill is needed.

Separate Vocational Institutions.- In order to effect a re-orientation of the present educational policy, there is general agreement that the chief need of the moment is the establishment of separate vocational institutions where, in addition to an irreducible minimum of literary studies, a pupil can be taught the elements of a trade or profession and passed out fully equipped as a wage-earner. The addition of a vocational subject

to the curriculum of the existing schools will not be sufficient of itself to divert suitable pupils from purely academic studies and will only serve to aggravate the present unsatisfactory position.

Committee Appointed.- The Government of India has offered to give Provincial Governments the benefit of the advice of foreign experts in vocational training and this offer has been accepted by the Local Government. In order to do the exploratory work and collect data as a preliminary to consultation with the experts, the Government of the Central Province has appointed a Committee composed of the following members:-

(1) Director of Public Instruction - Chairman. (2) Director of Industries. (3) Sir Sorabji Mehta, KtD, C.I.E., (4) Rao Bahadur G.R. Kothare, L.M.E., M.L.C. (5) Mr. L.G.D'Silva, B.A. (6) Inspector of Industrial Schools. (7) Dr. V.S. Jha - Secretary.

The Committee has issued a questionnaire to collect data.

(Pages 747-751 of Part I of the C.P. Gazette of dated 28-8-1936)

*\*Reference to the appointments of this Committee is also made in the Section: "Employment and Unemployment" of this Report.*

Agriculture.

Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1933-34\*. †

The following details regarding agricultural statistics in Indian States are taken from Vol. II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1933-34. This volume deals with statistics for Indian States as far as reported. As in the previous issues, summary tables have been inserted to show the total figures relating to area, the classification of area, and the area under crops for each State or group of States, and the totals for all the reporting States. These statistics are defective for comparative purposes, as additions have been made in the number of reporting States from time to time. It should be noted that, for the reasons explained in subsequent paragraphs, the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Volume I. As these States comprise one-third of the total area of India, the importance of the statistics relating to them can scarcely be over-estimated.

Area and Population of Indian States.- The total area of Indian States is about 461 million acres (720,000 square miles), with a population of 81 millions according to the Census of 1931. These States are divided, for purposes of agricultural statistics, into two main classes, namely, (1) States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations, and (2) States having direct political relations with the Government of India.

States within the jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations.- The total area of these States is 34,093,000 acres, with a population of 5 millions. The agricultural statistics dealt with in this volume relate, so far as this class of state is concerned, only to 26 States in the Punjab and the United Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 26 States

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\* Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.-Agricultural Statistics of India 1933-34 Vol. II.-Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in certain Indian States.-Delhi: Manager of Publications 1936.-Price Rs.5 or 8s.3d. -pp.332

is 7,414,000 acres and the total population 1,644,000.

States having direct political relations with the Government of India.- The total area of States coming under the second category is 426,861,000 acres with a population of 75,807,000. Returns were received from 44 States in this category leaving a total area of 251,360,000 and population of 53,713,000. The total area of ~~z~~ all the seventy reporting States named above amounts to 258,774,000 acres with a population of 55 millions. These States, therefore, contain about 56 per cent of the total area, and 68 per cent of the total population, of the Indian States.

From the total area of all the seventy reporting States (258,774,000 acres), deduction must be made of 113,981,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on jagir, muafi, and other privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 144,793,000 acres by professional survey, or 144,953,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of Area.- The area of ~~z~~ 144,953,000 acres is classified, for purposes of agricultural statistics, under the heads shown below:-

|   | Thousand<br>acres | Per cent.  |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| Forests. ...                              | 17,476            | 12.0       |
| Not available for cultivation             | 27,329            | 18.9       |
| Culturable waste other<br>than fallow ... | 17,153            | 11.8       |
| Current fallows. ...                      | 11,791            | 8.2        |
| Net area sown. ...                        | 71,204            |            |
| Total.                                    | <u>144,953</u>    | <u>100</u> |

The net area sown, however, excludes areas sown more than once in the year. If areas sown more than once are taken as separate area for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 75,722,000 acres.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States was, as stated above, about 76 million acres in 1933-34. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each, so far as details are available, ~~are~~ are stated in the following table:

|                               | Thousand<br>acres. | per cent<br>of total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Food-grains                   | 52,976             | 70.5                 |
| Condiments and spices.        | 363                | 0.5                  |
| Sugar.                        | 242                | 0.3                  |
| Fruits and vegetables         | 665                | 0.9                  |
| Miscellaneous food crops.     | <u>1,734</u>       | <u>2.3</u>           |
| Total food crops.             | <u>55,980</u>      | <u>74.5</u>          |
| Oilseeds.                     | 7,195              | 9.6                  |
| Fibres.                       | 7,254              | 9.6                  |
| Dyes and tanning materials.   | 3                  | ...                  |
| Drugs and narcotics.          | 447                | 0.6                  |
| Fodder crops.                 | 3,086              | 4.1                  |
| Miscellaneous non-food crops. | <u>1,171</u>       | <u>1.6</u>           |
| Total non-food crops.         | <u>19,156</u>      | <u>25.5</u>          |

(The Agricultural Statistics for Indian States for 1932-33 are reviewed at pages 59-60 of our December 1935 report). +

Rural Indebtedness: Appointment of Committee  
of Enquiry Urged in Legislative Assembly. +

Mr. N.C.Chunder, M.L.A., moved in the Legislative Assembly on 24-9-1936 a resolution urging the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry into rural indebtedness and to devise ways and means and provisions of laws by which the interests of agriculturists could be fully safeguarded, and ~~whereby~~ <sup>thereby</sup> ~~extricate them from their present miserable plight.~~ In moving the resolution, he emphasized that agricultural indebtedness had been growing since Sir Frederic Nicholson had reported on the co-operative credit system. While the Banking Commission had estimated the burden at Rs. 9,000 million, Sir. M. Visvesvarayya had put the figure Rs. 500 millions higher. Anyway, every member of the agricultural population was indebted to the extent of Rs. 50. Britain and other countries of the Empire had made serious attempts to tackle the question as <sup>a</sup> national problem. The Government of India, he urged, should do likewise.

Dr. De Souza's Amendment.- Dr. De Souza moved an amendment substituting the resolution by another recommending the Government to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, the Banking Inquiry Committee and the Civil Justice Committee for relieving agricultural indebtedness, and to appoint a special officer with three non-official advisers to suggest measures in consultation with local Governments on the lines of those recommendations. He said that it was true that agriculture was a provincial subject like public health, but asked had not the Viceroy announced that the Central Government would appoint a Board of Public Health? Similarly, the Central Government could lay down a policy for the provinces in the matter of rural indebtedness.

European Group's Views.- Mr. Morgan agreed with the mover in desiring to do something to relieve the indebtedness of the agricultural population, which was estimated at Rs. 10,000 millions, but he feared that the methods by which they sought to achieve a solution were bound to differ from province to province. Rural indebtedness, he pointed out, is a vast problem and a great deal has already been done by the Government. The House has voted funds for rural development Acts which have been passed by local



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legislatures, marketing boards have been set up, research institutes established, irrigation schemes put into operation, and so forth all with the object of improving rural conditions and anything which contributes towards the improvement of rural conditions cannot be entirely barren of good results. The very fact that the aggregate of these beneficent activities must present an impressive picture and yet the plight of the rural areas still leaves a great deal to be desired, serves to indicate the very vastness of the problem which has to be tackled.

Speaking on the causes of rural indebtedness, Mr. Morgan said that indebtedness is caused by a number of circumstances, some of which are within the control of the cultivator and some of which are, by the very nature of the work upon which he is engaged, outside his control. In the first place, there are ancestral debts which are inherited from generation to generation. There are debts incurred through improvident expenditure on domestic ceremonies, such as marriages. But the remedy for debts of that nature can only come with the progress of social education. Then there are the debts which are caused through failure of crops, the replacement of cattle and the rebuilding of houses destroyed by fire, flood and storm. These latter debts are for the most part outside the control of the cultivator. They are circumstances which are always present and which cannot be eliminated from agriculture. Then, finally, one might mention the usurious rates of interest which the cultivator is called upon to pay because his credit is not good. The rate of interest varies between 36 and 60 per cent and it is easy to see that, with such rates of interest, a small debt can soon grow to formidable proportions.

All the same, Mr. Morgan was not convinced of the necessity for a special committee. The problem is partly educational and no solution can be entirely effective or successful until the cultivator himself realizes the necessity for the avoidance of all unnecessary debts. The main problem, however, is to increase the cultivators' income. An improvement in agricultural prices is the first and most urgent requirement. There are also many other directions in which the problem might be tackled. There is the suggestion for the consolidation of holdings. Then there is the cultivation of ancillary cottage industries such as dairy farming and so forth, so that the cultivator may have other sources of income. There is the improvement of livestock and improved transport and marketing facilities. In the nature of things the problem of rural indebtedness is necessarily a provincial problem and must be tackled by the provinces themselves.

Government Reply.- On behalf of the government Sir G.S. Bajpai, Mr. M.L. Darling and Sir Henry Craik opposed the resolution. Sir G.S. Bajpai gave a recital of what had been done hitherto by provincial Governments and the Government of India, and advised the Assembly to wait until the volume of legislation recently passed by several provinces had borne fruit and their results studied. The Government of India did not disclaim responsibility merely on the ground that the subject could be handled by provincial

Governments, but the House must recognise the limitations of the Government of India. Three years after the Banking Inquiry Committee had reported there was a conference of provincial Finance Members and others when the question of rural indebtedness was examined. The Government adopted a policy of liberal remissions to cultivators, and efforts were also made to check the rates of interest on agricultural borrowings.

Sir Henry Craik felt that the <sup>case</sup> argument for an inquiry was unconvincing. Already 30 Acts had been passed in the provincial legislatures and a few more were under the consideration of provincial legislatures. A provincial Government was recently asked to report on the effect of these Acts on the position of indebtedness. Such replies as had been received indicated that it was too early to give any correct appreciation, but that so far as could be seen, the effect had been certainly favourable. ~~At any rate, the capacity of money lenders had been less of late.~~ Six months hence each province would have autonomy and if an inquiry was now instituted they would be perfectly entitled to say "We do not want a committee of inquiry". Why invite that certain rebuff from the provinces?

Resolution carried.- The House divided, on the resolution, which was carried by 74 votes to 41. +

(The Statesman, 25-9-1936)

Maritime Affairs.Reduction of Hours of Work in Madras Docks.

The Madras Port Trust has~~ed~~ revised the by-law relating to hours of work in the port docks~~xx~~ reducing them from twelve to ten hours<sup>per day.</sup> The new by-law has come into effect since 15-9-1936.

(The Hindu, 16-9-1936)-

Migration.Indians in Ceylon, 1935: Report of the Agent of the  
Government of India\*.

Statistics of Indians in Ceylon: According to the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1935, out of a total population of 5,617,000 in Ceylon, about 775,000 were Indians. The number of Indian labourers and their dependants on estates on ~~the~~ 31-12-1935 was as follows:-

|             |     | Total   | Men.    | Women.  | Children. |
|-------------|-----|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Workers.    | ... | 470,471 | 208,874 | 193,453 | 68,144    |
| Dependants. | ... | 203,553 | 5,351   | 11,286  | 186,916   |
| Total.      | ... | 674,024 | 214,225 | 204,739 | 255,060   |

Immigration Figures.- The number of Indian estate labourers who immigrated into Ceylon during the year 1935 was 43,018 as against 140,607 in 1934. It will be seen ~~therefrom~~ that with the exception of 1933, which was the worst year of depression, the figure for 1935 is the lowest since 1923. During the year under review, the number of Indian estate labourers who returned from Ceylon to India at their own cost was 43,036 as against 54,790 in 1934 and 46,626 in 1933. While during the years 1930 to 1933 departures exceeded arrivals from India, in 1934 there was an excess of about 85,000 arrivals into Ceylon over departures to India. In 1935, however, the numbers of arrivals and departures were about the same. The flow of immigration into Ceylon is generally a rough index of the prosperity of the tea and rubber industries in the Island. 1930 to 1933 were years of depression when there was a heavy fall in the immigration of

\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1935.-Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1936. Price Re.1-2 or 2s. pp. 59 +

estate labourers into Ceylon. At the beginning of 1934, the industries began to recover and consequently there was brisk recruitment of labourers from India, and a considerable excess of immigration over emigration. In 1935 the number of immigrants into Ceylon was considerably less in view of the fact that there was heavy recruitment during the previous year and the labour force on estates was slightly in excess of requirements. During this year the number of emigrants from Ceylon was also proportionately small.

Repatriation. - The total number of estate labourers repatriated from Ceylon to India during the year 1935 was 6,252, as against 2,304 in 1934 and 42,343 in 1933. A special scheme for the repatriation of those labourers who were discharged from estates which were closed down or placed on a "care and maintenance" basis, but could not secure employment elsewhere, was sanctioned by the Ceylon Government in April 1935. But no labourer was repatriated under this scheme.

Minimum Wages on Estates. - There was no change in the minimum rates of wages in estates during the year under review from those prevailing since 16-11-1934.

~~Workmen~~ Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. - The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which was passed by the State Council on 11-12-1934 was brought into force by a Proclamation in the Ceylon Gazette on 1-8-1935. The Controller of Labour is the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation. The total number of accidents during the year 1935 among Indian labourers, reported to have resulted in temporary disablements, was 546. Compensation in these cases was paid by the employer direct, and the information regarding the exact

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amount paid in each case is not available. There was no case of permanent disablement reported to the Commissioner. There were seven fatal cases of accidents among Indian labourers in Ceylon in which compensation was awarded during the year.

Trade Unions Ordinance.- This Ordinance came into force from 1-11-1935. The Controller of Labour has been appointed the Registrar of Trade Unions. The Ordinance stipulates that all existing Trade Unions should register themselves within three months from the 1st November 1935, and that all new Trade Unions should get registered within three months of their coming into existence. This does not, however, affect Indian estate labourers among whom there are no Trade Unions.

Indebtedness of Indian Labourers.- The Agent has called attention to the chronic indebtedness of the Indian labourer and has suggested remedies such as a fortnightly payment of wages to estate labourers, the starting of subsidiary occupations and the setting up of cooperative stores and thrift societies on estates. It is reported that there were 14 cooperative stores at the end of 1935 and that such stores are becoming very popular.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for 1934 is reviewed at pages 56-60 of our October 1935 report). 1

Restrictions on Indians: Position in  
British Empire. +

A statement showing the disabilities which Indians suffered in the Empire Countries was laid on the table of <sup>the</sup> Assembly on ~~31-8-1936~~ <sup>1-9-</sup>1936 by the Government of India.

New Zealand.- It showed that in New Zealand there was no restriction to enter that country, if the formalities regarding the possession of a valid passport were fulfilled. Nor were there any restrictions on temporary visits for the purpose of business. The only disability from which Indians suffered in this Dominion was their exclusion from the benefits of the Old-Age Pensions Act, but the practical consequences were not serious as the total Indian population was approximately 1,100 only.

Australia.- In Australia too there was no restriction for entry nor on visits for purposes of business. Business of course means wholesale business and does not include retail business and hawking. The resident Indians, so far as the Government were aware, were not subjected to any economic restrictions.

Canada.- As regards Canada (including British Columbia) the position was the same as in Australia. The only disability from which Indians suffered there was their exclusion from municipal, provincial and federal franchise in the province of British Columbia.

Union of South Africa.- Permission should be obtained before entering the Union of South Africa (which includes Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape Colony) as a visitor. Similarly, permission must be obtained before visiting the country for the purpose of business. ~~The~~ Entry for permanent settlement was not allowed and, in the Transvaal, Indians "may not own land or even occupy it in certain areas". There were certain restrictions against Indians in regard to ownership of fixed property, residence, franchise and trade licences.

British Guiana.- Absolutely no restrictions existed against Indians ~~in~~ in British Guiana and Trinidad. In the former country all immigrants landing there were required to show the police an amount of 96 dollars; while in the latter country persons not born or domiciled in Trinidad were required to deposit \$ 50 which amount was refundable at the end of twelve months.

Kenya and Jamaica.- Similarly, there were no restrictions against Indians in Jamaica and Kenya. In Jamaica, Indians who have been born there ~~xxx~~ or who have completed ten years' residence possessed the same political rights as the native population, while in Kenya Highlands in practice Indians were not allowed to to own or lease land for agricultural purposes. In Kenya,

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Asiatic or African emigrants, without visible means of support or who were likely to become paupers or <sup>become</sup> a charge on the colonial revenues, were required to pay a deposit of 200 shillings or furnish security to that amount.

Uganda, Tanganyika, etc.- Under the local laws there were no restrictions against Indians in Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland and Mauritius. In Uganda, Asiatic or African emigrants without visible means of support or who were likely to become paupers or a charge on the colonial revenues, were required to pay a deposit of 200 shillings or furnish security to that amount. In Tanganyika, a non-native entering the territory has to produce a passport duly issued to him not more than five years before the date of his arrival. He has also to pay a deposit of £ 100 for himself and £ 50 per child or each dependant. In Nyasaland, the Immigration Officer could demand a deposit of £50 from an immigrant on his arrival in the country which amount was returnable at the end of six months, if he were able to show that he was not likely to become a public charge. In Mauritius, all immigrants were required to prove on landing that they would be able to maintain themselves in the Colony for at least one year. Doubtful cases were required to deposit a security of Rs. 200.

Zanzibar and Northern Rhodesia.- There were no restrictions against Indians in Zanzibar and Northern Rhodesia too. In Zanzibar, under the ~~Alienation~~ Alienation of Land Decree 1934, the alienation of land by Arabs and Africans to others, including Europeans, was prohibited except with the sanction of the British Resident, and new immigrants were required on arrival either to deposit Rs.100 or give a guarantee of an equivalent amount. In Northern Rhodesia, there was no formal discrimination against Asiatics entering the Colony, but each individual case was scrutinised as to fitness to enter the Colony (i) on economic grounds and (ii) on standard or habits of life.

British Somaliland, Malaya etc.- There were absolutely no restrictions whatever in British Somaliland, British North Borneo, Malaya and Gold Coast Colony against Indians. The Government of India had no information regarding restrictions for establishment of industries, entering into services, owning residential and other property and for agricultural purposes in respect to the latter colony.

Ceylon.- As regards Ceylon, Indians did not suffer any restrictions. So far as the Government of India were aware, there was no statutory bar to the appointment of lawfully resident Indians to the Civil Services in all the Colonies and Dominions, except Ceylon and Malaya. Indians, like other non-Ceylonese, unless they were domiciled in Ceylon and possessed a Ceylon domicile of origin, could not purchase Crown land set apart for systematic development by "Ceylonese" under the Land Development Ordinance, No.19 of 1935.

Fiji Landing permit should be obtained beforehand from the Secretary for Indian Affairs before an Indian could land at Fiji



and the Immigration authorities might demand a deposit of ₹50 in the case of any person who was likely to become a charge on the colonial revenues.

Southern Rhodesia.- With regard ~~to~~ to the self-governing colony of Southern Rhodesia, an Indian was required to obtain permission before landing or before starting a business. Indians were prohibited from entering the Colony for permanent residence. Resident Indians enjoyed municipal and political franchise on the same basis as Europeans. There were, however, restrictions in regard to (1) the grant of licences to Indians for purposes of trade in Native areas and (2) the sale or lease to Indians of Crown lands situated in proximity to native areas.

No Restrictions on Dominion Nationals in India.- Finally, the statement mentions that the Government of India have placed no conditions on the entry into India of the nationals of any of the Dominions and Colonies above referred to.

(The Statesman, 4-9-1936) +

Indian Labour in Malaya: Statement on Conditions of Work laid in the Legislative Assembly.

A brief statement on the conditions of work on Indians in Malaya was laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly on 3-9-1936: The salient features of the statement are given below:

Standard Minimum Wage.- Standard rates of wages for Indian labourers in Malaya were fixed for certain key areas after an elaborate enquiry. They were not only based on a labourer's daily and monthly family budget, but included provision for dependents, passages and old age.

Immigration Committee.- This is a statutory body composed of (1) The Controller of Labour, Malaya, (2) The Deputy Controller of Labour, Malaya, (3) The Director, Medical Services, (4) The Director, Public Works, (5) The Director, Drainage and Irrigation, (6) The General Manager, Federated Malaya States Railways, (7) The Chairman, United Planting Association of Malaya, (8) A planting representative from each of the States or settlements of Kedah, Province Wellesley, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore, (9) An Indian member representing the Colony, (10) An Indian member representing the Federated Malaya States, and (11) A prominent business man usually living in Penang. Out of 17 members, only 7 represent planting interests. It has also been

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invested with the functions of a wage board. In all enquiries relating to fixing of wage rates, the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya was closely associated and the rates were settled in consultation with him.

Labour Settlements.- There are a few successful Indian settlements in Malaya, e.g., at Bagan Serai in the Perak State, near Chua and in Sungei Ujong in Negri Sembilan, and it is understood that the question of inducing Indian labourers to settle down permanently in Malaya is receiving attention.

Housing of labourers.- Under the labour laws of the Colony, employers are required to build separate lines for labourers of different races according to standard designs. The usual back to back barrack lines type of housing is falling into disfavour and slowly yielding place to single line barrack type and to detached and semi-detached single room and double room cottages for married labourers. The housing conditions are reported to be, on the whole, satisfactory.

Co-operative movement.- The Co-operative Department has been doing excellent work, so far as estate labourers' societies are concerned, and gives promise of great advance in the future. The number of such societies has already increased from 172 to 198 and the number of members from 26,322 to 31,577. There are now seven Indian Co-operative officers.

Estate schools.- Under the local labour laws, schools have to be maintained by employers in estates where there are 10 or more children between the ages of 7 and 14. There are 581 Tamil schools (including one Malayalam and 3 Telugu aided schools) with 20,240 pupils of the labouring classes in Malaya. The number of aided estate schools has increased from 314 to 356 in the Federated Malay States and the grant-in-aid paid by Government which had been reduced to \$6 per year per pupil in Tamil schools has been restored to the original figure of \$8 per year per pupil.

Sex ration.- Under rule 23 of the Indian Emigration Rules, men who are unmarried or unaccompanied by their wives cannot be assisted to emigrate to any one country in any one year to a number exceeding one in five of the total number of persons so assisted. The rule has not so far been applied to Malaya, but there is no evidence that this has resulted in increasing the sex-disparity in that country. The exemption of Malaya from this rule, however, is not permanent.

Free emigration.- Recruitment of assisted emigration has been done by the headman of Indian labour gangs who are known as Kanganies, but in recent years only voluntary assisted emigration has taken place.

Steamer convenience.- On board the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company which runs a fortnightly service between India and Malaya, there are inspectors and inspectresses

to look after the emigrants. There are also food inspectors and there have been no serious complaints about feeding, etc., during the last year. Nor have there been any complaints about the treatment of females in the quarantine camps maintained by the Malayan Governments in Malaya.

Medical relief.- Hospitals are maintained by estates either singly or conjointly with a group of estates for the treatment of labourers. They are generally in charge of dressers, the majority of whom hold pass certificates for the local tests of 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade dresser. Where no qualified registered medical practitioner is employed, arrangements are made for periodical visits by such practitioners. Serious cases from estates are sent for treatment to the nearest Government hospital at the cost of the estates.

Maternity Benefits.- The labour laws provide for maternity allowances to working married women in case of child birth for one month before and after confinement. Women are often reluctant to go to hospitals for confinement and the provision of maternity wards in some estates themselves has proved ~~xxx~~ of great advantage.

Creches.- Creches are provided in most estates where young children are kept in charge of ayahs when the mothers go out for work and some estates provide free milk for children in the creches.

In some cases orphans are removed to the Indian Labourer's Decrepit Home in Kuala Lumpur where they are looked after and sent to school. Christian orphans are generally handed over to the nearest convent. In most cases orphans continue to remain on the estates in which their parents worked where they are adopted and looked after by other labourers.

Representation in Legislatures.- There is no political franchise in Malaya and members of all public bodies are nominated by Government. There is one Indian member nominated to the Legislative Council and one member to the Federal Council. There is also one Indian member nominated to the Negri Sembilan State Council. There have been nominations of Jaffna (Ceylon) Tamils to the Perak, Selangor and Johore State Councils to represent Indians and Ceylonese.

Repatriated Labourers.- Repatriation is allowed on grounds of ill-health, old-age, family affairs, etc., and the repatriates are sent to their villages on their arrival in India at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund. The very heavy repatriation that took place in 1931 was due to unemployment as a result of the economic depression. An asylum has been provided for disabled, sickly and decrepit labourers in the Home for decrepit Indians in Kuala Lumpur which is under the supervision of the Deputy Controller of Labour. They are kept in the Home till they are discharged as fit for work.

(Legislative Assembly Debates of 3-9-1936,  
Vol. VI No.4).-

Indian Labour in Ceylon;

Sir E. Jackson to Conduct Inquiry. +

The Ceylon Government has decided to appoint a Commission to inquire into the question of Indian immigration to Ceylon, with Sir E. Jackson as the sole member of the Commission.

Suggestion for Indian and Ceylonese Members.- When the vote for expenses for the immigration commission was taken up in the committee sessions of the State Council on 11-9-1936, several members criticised the composition of the Commission with Sir Edward Jackson as sole commissioner. Mr. Bandaranaike, Minister for Local Administration, who led the criticism, declared that such a commission would be valueless and favoured the association of one Indian representative with one Ceylonese.

The Chief Secretary explained that the post of sole commissioner was offered to Sir Edward Jackson, who accepted it on <sup>that condition,</sup> ~~those terms~~. He was already on the way to Ceylon, and he would have to be consulted before any change could be made by the Governor, though the speaker had no doubt that the Governor would take into consideration the views of the House. Mr. G.C.S. Corea, Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce intervening, expressed dissatisfaction that a member of the Board of Ministers who presented the whole estimate of expenditure with the seal of approval of the Board should come before the House and attack one item.

Mr. Natesa Iyer said that in his view the best arrangement was either to have all interests represented — Indian labour, Ceylonese labour and European planters — or otherwise have only one man in the commission, he being an independent individual.

(The Times of India, 14-9-1936).+

General.The Viceroy's Address to the Indian Legislature, 21-9-1936. +

The Marquis of Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, addressed both Houses of the Indian Legislature at a joint session on 21-9-1936. His speech, unlike the speeches on such occasions of his predecessors, did not deal in detail with the various measures which engaged the attention of the Government of India during the period reviewed. He made only a relatively brief reference to those questions which have come under the direct consideration of the Legislature or of the Government of India, but ~~devoted~~ <sup>devoted</sup> the major portion of his speech to reflections of a general character regarding India's political future. Portions of his speech dealing with subjects which are of interest to the I.L.O. are reproduced below:-

Middle-Class Unemployment.- "The first in importance among these matters is unquestionably the problem of middle-class unemployment. I have spared no effort since I assumed office to familiarize myself with the various aspects of this problem and with the possible methods of grappling with it. It is one with the complexity and the difficulty of which you are familiar. My Government are actively investigating the avenues opened up by the very valuable report of the Sapru Committee, and they are leaving nothing undone to devise methods of dealing with what is one of the fundamental issues of the present day in most countries of the world."

Indians Overseas.- "The position and the difficulties of Indians overseas have always been ~~our~~ matters in which Indian public opinion and this Legislature have shown the keenest concern. The past months have been marked by several developments of interest and importance. Representatives of the Government and the Parliament of South Africa are already in India, and I take this, the first public opportunity that has presented itself, of ~~to~~ extending to them the warmest of welcomes on behalf of India as a whole. My Governments have, I am glad to say, been able to afford Indians in Zanzibar the expert guidance and advice of one of my officers in connexion with the difficulties which they have been experiencing.

"The question of the reservation of the Kenya Highlands has been settled on a basis which represents the admission of the principle for which India has consistently contended. The decisions taken as to the future composition of the Legislative Council in Fiji may be regarded as satisfactory from the Indian standpoint. The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act of 1936 will be of material benefit to Indians in the Transvaal. It is but natural that India should display a continuing and active interest in the problems affecting her citizens overseas. ~~And it is a source of keen satisfaction to me on this,~~

zens overseas. And it is a source of keen satisfaction to me on this, the first occasion on which I address the Legislature, that the recent record of achievement in safeguarding those interests should have been so encouraging".

Problems of Nutrition: Central Public Health Advisory Board to be Established.- "Two problems to which I attach the utmost importance are that of public health, and the problem of nutrition as affecting human beings and animals alike. The problem of nutrition is at all times one of vital concern to any country, and on its solution <sup>hangs</sup> essentially the future of India as a whole. No effort that can be made to ameliorate conditions and to assist in the solution of this problem can be too great; and you may rest assured of my own continued and abiding personal interest in it.

"Hardly less material in its relation to the development and progress of India is the problem of Public Health. In this field, in particular, cooperation and the maximum degree of continued and coordinated effort between the Central and the Provincial Governments is essential. I am most anxious that all possible assistance should be available to those concerned with the investigations of the many difficult issues that arise, and with the practical application of such remedial measures as may be required. I am accordingly taking active steps for the establishment of a Central Public Health Advisory Board which, in collaboration with the Provincial Governments, and with a constitution somewhat analogous to that of the Central Advisory Board of Education shall apply itself to the realization of this idea".

Rural Development.- "I have, since I assumed my present office, done all that lies in my power to stimulate and encourage rural development, and the response after even so short a time has in my judgment been most encouraging. But in devoting my attention to agriculture and its problems, I have not ~~if~~ ignored the legitimate claims of industry, and I am taking a close interest in the problems of industry and in particular in the coordination and development of industrial research. In this connexion I cannot but affirm my conviction that no steps can be taken which will be more effective in promoting the expansion of commerce and industry than those designed to enhance the purchasing power of the rural population".

(The Statesman, 22-9-1936).

India's Membership of the League: Resolution  
in the Council of State Advocating Secession.

The Honourable Mr. Hosain Imam moved in the Council of State on 21-9-1936 a resolution urging the Government of India to give notice of withdrawal from the League of Nations and <sup>h</sup>stop forthwith payments of the annual contributions.

Mr. Imam's Argument.- In moving the resolution Mr. Imam said that the League has not fulfilled its purpose; ~~not that~~ India <sup>did not</sup> disbelieve ~~in~~ the League's ideals of peace and security. India was like a share-holder in a company; and when the managing agents mismanaged, the shareholder could only get out of the concern. The ideals which prompted President Wilson to start the League had all failed as the League took shape. The powers and functions of the League were left indefinite, flexible, diplomatically experimental. As regards the first ideal, disarmament, the League has so far failed. Since 1923, far from disarmament, there was a race in armaments followed by unilateral pacts with Powers even not belonging to the League. The League did not interfere in the quarrels between nations, as for instance, when China, which was for many years a member of the League, was robbed of her territory by Japan. The crowning shame was the conquest of Ethiopia by Italy. Though Ethiopia believed in the League's potentialities, nothing was done to save the Negus from the loss of his throne. Sir Samuel Hoare, ~~h~~ who had honesty enough to tell Ethiopia that she could not be saved was sacrificed. Was it conceivable that 52 nations were powerless to impose ~~their~~ <sup>of</sup> will in the face of one? Greater latitude given to Mussolini or Hitler meant greater weakness for the League. Had England, who regarded herself as protector of other people's liberties become so powerless even with her Army, Navy and Air Force?

The League had also failed as regards safeguarding of minorities. It failed too, regarding mandates. Mr. Hosain Imam referred to the fact that while Mesopotamia got self-government first and foremost and Syria had been promised a constitution, the situation in Palestine was allowed to go from bad to worse by making it a home for Jews, and the smuggling of 5,000 Jews annually was continued with the connivance of the mandatory power. When the Arab population protested, martial law was threatened. The only good the League had done was as regards social and economic welfare through the International Labour Organisation, ~~whereof~~ <sup>whereof</sup> India could be a member without being a member of the League even as Brazil was now a Member.

Sir Phiroze Sethna's Amendment.- Sir Phiroze Sethna moved an amendment to Mr. Hosain Imam's resolution, suggesting not India's secession but a substantial reduction of India's annual contribution, preferably from this year, as the League's ~~own~~ inability to prevent war had shaken India's confidence in the League. But India had a special grievance inasmuch as she had

never yet been made a permanent member of the Council of the League nor any Indian had so far been appointed to any position of control or direction, which, he pointed out, was due to the fact that the principal posts were filled according to diplomatic and political considerations. Sir P. Sethna averred that India's contribution of Rs. 1,450,000 annually was certainly not justified. The conduct of the League in the Italo-Ethiopian war was indefensible and if it (the League) was to be resurrected, the root causes <sup>of the failure</sup> should be removed. Sir Otto Niemeyer had emphasised utmost economy. Instead of the costly luxury of the League, the amount could be more profitably spent in the development of national services.

P.N.Sapru's Support to Sir Phiroze's Amendment.- Mr. P.N. Sapru agreed with Sir P. Sethna and disagreed with Mr. Hosain Imam, If India withdrew from the League, she would be deprived of the present opportunities of co-operating with the social and humanitarian work which the League was doing. The League was but an imperfect instrument in an imperfect world. India should co-operate with the progressive elements of the world in reconstructing the League.

Government Accept Amendment.- Mr. Spence, Secretary of the Legislative Department, said he would accept the amendment of Sir P. Sethna if he deleted the reference to a substantial reduction of the contribution this year. India's contribution was originally assessed at 65 units, but it had been reduced by progressive stages to 55 out of 951 units. If the Allocation Committee's view was accepted, India's assessment would be 53 units out of 935. On behalf of the Government, Mr. Spence promised whenever a further revision was undertaken to urge a further substantial reduction. India, he pleaded, should not withdraw from purely mercenary motives. In extenuation of the present high assessment, he said: A country which, for purposes of representation in the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has been included among <sup>states</sup> members of the "chief industrial importance," cannot in the nature of things expect to be assessed to anything but a very substantial contribution, and the most favourable recommendation which it appeared ~~at all~~ reasonable to anticipate was reduction of say 10 units in lieu of reduction of two units recommended by the Committee.

The Government strongly opposed the original resolution for withdrawal. He agreed that as regards the Italo-Abyssinian crisis the League had exhibited sheer failure and futility, but the test of statesmanship lay in setting aside emotion and reaching a decision in accordance with the dictates of reason. The League Assembly was now in session at Geneva, making earnest efforts to ensure the implementing of the primary purpose of its existence. This was not the proper time for the Council to betray levity of outlook. While three States, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, recently notified withdrawal, Egypt was on the point of seeking admission. Why then withdraw from the League, into which it would be difficult to seek re-entry later unless and until she attained a fully self-governing status.



Sir Phiroze Sethna's Amendment Carried.- The House divided and carried Sir Phiroze Sethna's motion for substantial reduction of India's annual contribution to the League by 35 votes against 6. The original resolution was therefore not put to vote.

(The Hindu and the Statesman, 23-9-36).

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