

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for December 1 9 3 5

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References to the I. L. O.

Communique re. Holidays with Pay for Seamen (issued by this Office on 22-11-1935) is published in the Times of India dated 2-12-35. (vide Enc.No.3 of H.4/1962/35 dated 5-12-35).

\* \* \*

Reuters message re. Mr. Joshi's speech at the Preparatory Maritime Conference is published in the Times of India dated 2-12-35 (vide Enc. No.8 of H.4/1962/35 dated 5-12-35).

\* \* \*

A communique re. Mr. N.M.Joshi's speech at the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference (issued by this Office on 9-12-35) is published by the following: The Hindustan Times dated 11-12-35; the Leader and Servant of India dated 12-12-35 (vide Enc.No.14 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-35 and Nos. 4 & 5 of H.4/2004/35 dated 19-12-35).

\* \* \*

Reuter's message re. decisions of Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference is published by the following: the Hindu dated 7-12-35, the Leader and Hindustan Times dated 8-12-35, the Times of India and the Statesman dated 9-12-35 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-12-35 (vide Enc. Nos. 7 to 12 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-35).

\* \* \*

A communique re. results of Preparatory Technical Conference (issued by this Office on 11-12-1935) is published in the Hindustan Times dated 12-12-1935 (vide Encl.13 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-1935).

\* \* \*

Communique re. 73rd session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 9-11-1935) is published in the November 1935 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, and Federated India, Madras, dated 18-12-1935. (vide Enc. No.18 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-35 and Nos 28 of H.4/ 32 /36 dated 9-1-1936).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 5-1-1936 and the National Call dated

7-1-1936 publish a statement issued by Mr. N.M.Joshi reviewing his ~~xx~~ work at the last meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and at the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 12-12-35 publishes a "Geneva Letter" dated 23-11-1935 sent by its correspondent from Geneva. In the course of the letter reference is made to the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference and to the demand scheduled to be made by the representative of the Government of India at the meeting of the Allocations Committee (League of Nations) for a reduction in India's contribution to the League funds.

\* \* \*

A communique re. items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference (issued by the Government of India on 30-9-1935) is published in the Planters' Chronicle, Madras dated 28-12-1935.

\* \* \*

A communique re. items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference (issued by the Government of India ~~for~~ 11-12-1935) is published by the following: the National Call, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Leader dated 13-12-1935 (vide Enc.No.15 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-1935 and Nos. 1 & 2 of H.4/2004/35 dated 19-12-1935).

\* \* \*

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for October 1935 announces the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L. Conference and states that the Chamber has recommended Sir Homi Mehta for nomination as the Indian employers' delegate to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 7-12-35 ~~dated 7-12-35~~ publishes a news item to the effect that the Employers' Organisation of India has recommended Sir Homi Mehta and the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay, has recommended Mr. Manu Subedar, for nomination as the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference. It also announces

that Mr. N.M.Joshi is likely to represent Indian workers at the Conference and that Mr. K.Basu of the Indian Mining Federation, Mr. H.Chandra of Patna and Mr. Ghosh of Jalpaiguri are likely to be sent as advisers.

\* \* \*

The Times of India, the Statesman, the Hindu, and the Hindustan Times dated 31-12-35 publish a news item to the effect that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recommended Sir Hormusji M. Mehta, Mr. Debes Chandra Ghose, and ~~Dr.~~ Sardar P.S.Sodhbans to constitute the Indian employers' delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The excerpts from the proceedings of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for November 1935, publishes a note setting forth the items on the agenda of the 20th session of the I.L.Conference and the recommendations of the Association regarding the personnel of the employers' delegation to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Hindustan Times dated 2-1-36 and the National Call dated 4-1-1936 publish a report of a meeting of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation held at Nagpur on 31-12-1935. The meeting recommended Rao Sahib R.W. Fulay, M.L.C. for nomination as the Indian workers' delegate to the 20th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 25-12-35 publishes a news item to the effect that the Council of the Metal Workers' Union, Jamshedpur, recommended Messrs. V. V. Giri, R. R. Bakhale, W.V.R.Naidu and Nagarkar to constitute the Indian workers' delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of

India, Bombay, dated 25-11-1935 publishes a note under the caption: "The 40-Hour Week Again". The note refers to discussions on the subject at a recent conference of delegates from the textile trade unions in Manchester.

\* \* \*

The Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 2-12-35 publishes a note under the heading: "The 40-Hour Working Week". The note summarises the decision of the 73rd session of the ~~XXXX~~ Governing Body on the question of the adoption of a 40-hour week in the textile industry.

\* \* \*

The November 1935 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes a short editorial note under the caption: "Five Day Week of 40-Hours". The note draws attention to the reduction of hours of work in Post Offices in the U.S.A. The note states that hours of work in post offices in India, on the other hand, are being increased on the plea of giving greater facilities to the public, in spite of the efforts of the I.L.O., of which India is a member, to secure reduction of hours of work generally.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 4-1-1936 publishes an article under the heading: "The Movement for Shorter Hours" ~~contributed~~ <sup>forwarded</sup> by this Office.

\* \* \*

H.E.H.the N.S.Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, for October and November 1935, reproduces from the Federated Railwaymen, the item : "Reduction of Hours of Work: The 40-Hour Week" included in the I.L.O.News Bulletin (No.6(a) June 1935).

\* \* \*

The November 1935 of "Labour", Calcutta, publishes a summary of the article on the 19th I.L.Conference published in the September 1935 issue of the International Labour Review. (Copies of the reprint of the article were forwarded by this Office to a few Indian journals).

\* \* \*

The December 1935 issue of "Insurance World", Calcutta, publishes a review of the article on the 19th I.L.Conference published in the September 1935 issue of the International Labour Review.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 29-11-1935 publishes an interview given by Dr. Aykroyd to its representative on the subject of the nutritive value of food-stuffs. Numerous references are made in the course of the interview to the resolution on the subject of the nutrition of the workers adopted at the last session of the I.L. Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 9-12-35 publishes an article under the heading "Nutrition Problems in India" contributed by this Office. References are made in the course of the article to the resolution concerning nutrition standards of the workers adopted at the 19th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

Several references were made to the I.L.O. by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta in his Presidential address at the 2nd session of the National Trades Union Federation held at Nagpur from 29-to 31-12-1935 and several resolutions having reference to the I.L.O. were also passed at the session. Reports of Mr. Mehta's speech and of the resolutions passed were widely reported in the press. (A copy of Mr. Mehta's speech was forwarded to Geneva by the General Secretary of the Federation. A summary of Mr. Mehta's speech and of the resolutions is given in the section of this report: "Workers' Organisation<sup>s)</sup>

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 23-12-1935 publishes statistics of unemployment in the United States of America during September 1935, which, it is mentioned, will soon be published in the International Labour Review.

\* \* \*

Federated India dated 1-1-1936 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. Year Book, 1934-35.

\*  
The Servant of India, Poona, <sup>dated 2-1-1936</sup> reproduced ~~an~~ an article under the caption: "Indian Labour Legislation" contributed by Mr. N.M. Joshi to the "Silver Jubilee Souvenir, 1910-1935" published by the Government of Bengal.

\* \* \*  
A Geneva communique re. unemployment among professional workers (forwarded by this Office) is published in "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 3-12-1935 (vide Enc. No. 9 of H.4/1962/35 dated 5-12-1935

\* \* \*  
Reuter's message re. Mr. "iddell's appointment to attend the Regional I.L. Conference <sup>to be</sup> held at Chile is published by the following: the Hindu dated 6-12-35, the Times of India, the Amrita Bazar Patrik and the Hindustan Times dated 7-12-1935, the Statesman dated 8-12-1935 and the Leader dated 9-12-35 (vide Enc. Nos. 1 to 6 of H.4/1996/35 dated 12-12-1935).

\* \* \*  
The Times of India dated 6-12-35 publishes an editorial note under the caption: "Women in Mines". The note comments on the Annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1934 and draws attention to the fact that India is doing her best to implement the I.L. Convention re. underground work of women in mines by gradually diminishing the number of women workers in Indian mines.

\* \* \*  
The Statesman dated 9-12-35 publishes a short editorial note on the League budget for 1936. It says:

"The benefit which this country received from membership of the League is considerable, and her delegates have contributed much of value to the League's deliberations on many matters of importance. There is, however, a widespread feeling that India's contribution to the League Budget is disproportionately high; and a case can be made out for a further scaling down of her share."

\* \* \*



The Hindu dated 19-12-1935 publishes a "Geneva Letter" dated 7-12-35 from its Geneva correspondent. In the course of the letter reference is made to the meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the League of Nations held early in December ~~1934~~<sup>1935</sup> and it is mentioned that the consideration by the Committee of the question of reducing India's contribution to the League was deferred. The letter supports the assertion that India is paying too huge a sum annually, and suggests that the Government of India should move in the matter of getting India's quota reduced at an early date.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 19-12-35 publishes a short editorial note on the above endorsing the suggestion of the correspondent.

\* \* \*

A communique re. minimum school leaving age of children (issued by this Office on 25-11-1935) is published by the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur dated 8-12-1935 (vide Encl. No.7 of H.4/2004/35 dated 19-12-1935).

\* \* \*

The November 1935 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on "Hours of Railway Servants in India", published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 26-8-1935.

\* \* \*

The same issue as above reproduces the note on the Office for International Labour Affairs in Greece, published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 30-9-1935.

\* \* \*

The annual Report of the Berar Chamber of Commerce, Akola, for the year 1934, contains the following references to the I.L.O.:-

- (a) The views of the Chamber on the Report submitted by Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai on the 18th I.L.Conference which he attended as the Indian employers' delegate.
- (b) The Chambers' recommendations regarding the personnel of the Indian employers' delegation to the 19th I.L.Conference. The Chamber's correspondence on the subject with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is also published.

\* \* \*

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them (The list is compiled only from newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses):-

The October and November 1935 issue of H.E.H. the N.S. Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, reproduces item: "Reduction of Hours of Work: the 40-Hour Week" included in the I.L.O. News Bulletin No.6(a) June 1935).

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during December 1935:-

1. A Reuter's message dated 5-12-1935 from Ottawa re. Mr. Riddell's appointment to attend the Chile I.L. Conference.
2. A Reuter's message dated 6-12-1935 re. decisions of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference.
3. A "Geneva Letter" dated 7-12-1935 from the Geneva correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, re. India's financial contribution to the League.

9

National Labour Legislation.

Rice Mills Brought under Factories Act in

Hyderabad: Government Order. +

The Government of Hyderabad have declared all rice mills in which not less than ten persons are employed on any one day in the year to be a "factory" within the meaning of the proviso to section 2, sub-section 3(a) of the Hyderabad Factories Act. Government deem it desirable that all rice mills should be subjected to the Factories Act, because the machinery in these mills is intricate, and, unless properly fenced, likely to be dangerous. Women are employed in these mills, and, unless prevented by law, they are made to work for as much as 14 to 15 hours a day in the season. Ventilation and sanitary conditions too are, in many instances, very unsatisfactory.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 8-12-35)+

Government of India Notification re. Exemptions from  
Indian Mines Act, 1923. +

Reference was made at page 8 of our October 1935 report to a notification of the Government of India relating to the exemptions, under certain conditions, granted to certain mines, groups of mines and classes of persons from the purview of certain sections of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. An amendment to that notification has been published by the Government of India at page 1565 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 14-12-1935. +

The Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1935.

Attention is directed to pages 1602-1607 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 28-12-1935 where the Home Department of the Government of India has published the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1935, as Notification No. F.50/20/34, dated 24-12-1935.

10

Conditions of Labour.

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter Ending 30-9-1935. †

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 3rd quarter of 1935 ending 30-9-1935, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 41 disputes during the period involving 47,147 workers and entailing a loss of ~~2187~~ 171,133 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where 18 disputes involving 9,300 workers entailed a loss of 79,508 working days. Next come Bengal with 7 disputes involving 2,984 workers and entailing a loss of 9,730 working days, Burma with 5 disputes involving 1,625 workers and entailing a loss of 72,217 working days, Assam with 4 disputes involving 1,110 workers and entailing a loss of 1,875 working days, and the Punjab and the United Provinces with 2 disputes each involving 420, and 1,138 workers each and entailing losses of 5,403 and 1,916 working days respectively.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 13 disputes which involved 6,443 workers and entailed a loss of 62,208 working days, and jute mills <sup>for</sup> with 4 disputes involving 2,594 workers and entailing a loss of 9,294 working days. Other industries were responsible for 24 disputes involving 8,110 workers and entailing a loss of 94,631 working days.

Of the 41 disputes during the quarter under review, 22 were due to wage questions, 6 to personnel, 5 to leave and hours and 8 to other causes. In 9 disputes the workers were successful, in 4 partially successful and in 25 unsuccessful. 3 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 30-6-35 are given at pages 32-33 of our September 1935 report). †

Hours and Conditions of Work in Retail Shops:

Bombay Labour Office Enquiry. +

The Labour Office, Bombay, is at present engaged on making an enquiry into the hours of work and conditions of employment of work-people engaged in retail shops in Bombay City. It will be remembered that a Bill to regulate the hours of work in shops was moved in the Bombay Legislative Council by Mr. R. R. Bakhale and was read for the first time <sup>on 15-7-1935</sup> (vide pages 28-29 of our July 1935 report). The Labour Office enquiry is being conducted on the basis of a sample of 20 per cent and it is intended to cover all the shop areas within the limits of Bombay City. So far, over three thousand schedules have been collected and it is expected that a report based on the results of the enquiry will be ready for publication early in 1936.

(The November 1935 issue of Labour Gazette, Bombay). +

Enforcement of Conventions.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1934.\* +

The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous years the report deals with the following classes of mines: coal, iron, manganese, lead, silver, gold, tin, wolfram, chromite, copper, gems, mica, salt, slate, lime-stone, stone, clay and a few other minerals.

Number of Persons Employed.- During the year 1934 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 229,381, as compared with 206,507 in the previous year. The increase was 22,874 persons, or 11.08 per cent. Of these persons 120,216 worked underground, 50,604 in open workings and 58,561 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

|                   | 1934           | Men.           |               | Women.        |       |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|                   |                | 1933.          | 1934.         | 1933.         | 1934. |
| Underground ...   | 109,023        | 99,556         | 11,193        | 12,799        |       |
| In open workings. | 38,431         | 30,866         | 12,173        | 10,721        |       |
| Surface.          | 44,756         | 40,616         | 13,805        | 11,949        |       |
| Total             | <u>192,210</u> | <u>171,038</u> | <u>37,171</u> | <u>35,469</u> |       |

Number of Women Workers.- The number of women employed underground was 11,193, or 9.31 per cent of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 10.94, as compared with 13.14 per cent in 1933, 14.84 per cent in 1932, 16.81 per cent in 1931 and 18.39 per cent in 1930. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows:-

| Province.          | Number of women employed underground. |                |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                    | In coal mines.                        | In Salt mines. | Total.           |
| Bengal. ....       | 3,914                                 | ..             | 3,914            |
| Bihar and Orissa.  | 6,305                                 | ..             | 6,305            |
| Central Provinces. | 839                                   | ..             | 839              |
| Punjab.            | ..                                    | 135            | 135              |
| Total              | <u>11,058</u>                         | <u>135</u>     | <u>11,193 in</u> |

1934,  
as compared with 12,799 in 1933.

\* Indian Mines Act, 1923, Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1934 - Delhi: Manager of Publications 1935.- Price Rs. 2 or 3s.6d. -pp.167

The statistics furnished in the report show that the number of women employed underground is well below the permissible percentage on 1st July 1934. In many coal mines very few women are now employed.

Distribution of Workers: Coal Mines.- The number of persons employed in coal mines was 151,375, which is 6,668 more than the number employed in 1933. Of these persons, 46,698 were males employed in cutting coal, 20,303 were males employed as loaders of coal and 22,482 were women. Annual returns are now received of the number of persons actually at work, and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent, on a selected day in February of each year. The returns relate only to coal mines. The day to which the returns apply must be the day of a week selected by the Chief Inspector in which there is the largest turn-out of work-persons. The returns for 1935 show that on the day selected 209,674 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 58,299 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1934. Some of the more important district comparisons are as follows:-

|                               | Average daily attendance. | Attendance on selected day (absentees included) | Excess over average daily attendance. | Percentage excess. |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jharia Coalfield              | 65,241                    | 86,355  | 21,114                                | 32.36              |
| Raniganj Coalfield            | 50,157                    | 74,149  | 23,992                                | 47.83              |
| Central Provinces.            | 12,408                    | 16,630  | 4,222                                 | 34.03              |
| Salt Range Coal-field(Punjab) | 1,790                     | 2,118   | 328                                   | 18.32              |

Average Output of Coal per Person.- Figures showing the average output of coal per person employed are given below.

|                           | <u>Tons of coal per person employed.</u> |         |                         |         |
|---------------------------|--|---------|-------------------------|---------|
|                           | Underground and in open workings.        |         | Above and below ground. |         |
| <del>BRITISH INDIA.</del> | 1934                                     | 1932-33 | 1934                    | 1932-33 |
| British India.            | 187                                      | 175     | 134                     | 126     |
| Bengal and Bihar          | 191                                      | 179     | 137                     | 129     |
| Assam                     | 156                                      | 135     | 110                     | 95      |
| Baluchistan               | 69                                       | 66      | 64                      | 60      |
| Central Provinces.        | 156                                      | 157     | 116                     | 114     |
| Punjab                    | 110                                      | 94      | 70                      | 59      |

There was an all-round increase in the average output of coal per person employed. The increase, the report says, may be ascribed

partly to the increased demand for coal and partly to the increased output from the extraction of coal in pillars. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines.

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 78,006 which is 16,206 more than the number employed in 1933. 63,317 were men and 14,689 were women. Of the women, 135 worked underground in salt mines.

Wage Position. - In most cases there has not been much change in the average daily earnings. The daily earnings of coal miners, for example, in the Jharia and Giridih coalfields were 6 pies lower than in December 1933; and in Baluchistan coal mines 2 annas 3 pies lower, but in the Raniganj coalfield earnings were 1 anna 3 pies higher; and in the Punjab coal mines 9 pies higher; while in the Central Provinces daily earnings remained the same as in 1933. The earnings of mica miners were slightly lower, and there was a considerable decrease in the earnings of salt miners.

Action on Recommendations of Whitley Report. - Regulations were issued during the year prescribing (a) a maximum slope for footpaths in open workings along which loads are carried; (b) a minimum width for such footpaths; (c) the provision of suitable steps where the slope exceeds 1 vertical to 4 horizontal; and (d) that where women are employed in carrying loads the weight of the loads and the height and distance to which they have to be carried shall not be such as to involve risk of injury to the health of the women.

Employment of Women withdrawn from the Mines.- The gradual withdrawal of women from the underground workings of coal and other mines, a process which has been going on since 1929 has given rise to the problem of devising suitable kinds of employment for such women on the surface. For a time the problem was not one of serious moment as work was at first readily found on the surface for the women debarred from employment underground. As the number of women for whom it was necessary to find work increased the problem grew in dimensions and latterly has become acute. Many colliery owners are fully alive to the necessity of meeting the situation and some of the larger concerns have devised schemes which give promise of a large measure of success.



in the achievement of the object in view. As an example of what is being done, attention may be invited to the scheme recently put into operation at Kustore colliery in the Jharia coalfield. A welfare centre has been opened at the colliery. In order to make the scheme popular it was considered advisable to concentrate on forms of employment with which women are already familiar and which form part of their normal village life. Paddy husking, wheat grinding and basket making were started and although the scheme has only been in operation for about two months at the time of the report, employment has already been found for about one hundred women. It is confidently anticipated that work will eventually be found for about two hundred and fifty. Hand looms have been installed and experienced men engaged to teach weaving. Work is on the contract system. While the scheme aims primarily at providing employment for females, it has the added advantage of a Co-operative Society, as the produce finds a ready sale amongst the employees of the colliery who are assured of fresh and wholesome foodstuff and good cloth at reasonable prices.

Welfare Work in Metalliferous Mines.- At some of the larger metalliferous mines the arrangements for water supply and sanitation and the interest taken in the general welfare of the workers show commendable progress in recent years. As an example of what has been done some particulars of the amenities provided at the Punjab Portland Cement Company, Limited's Wah limestone mine may be given. About half of the work-people are resident at the mine and for these the company has provided houses constructed in concrete. The quarters are electrically lit and a piped water supply is led into the courtyards. The quarters are provided rent-free. There is a well-equipped hospital, with a resident doctor. A lady doctor visits the hospital once a week. A sanitary staff of one inspector and six assistants is maintained, who in addition to the ordinary routine duties devote part of their time to anti-malarial work. Provision is made for the education of the children and recreation for all. The women have been taught to knit. A canteen is provided for the use of the mine and factory workers and is very popular. Similar provision for the comfort and welfare of the work-people has been provided at other large metalliferous mines. At the large majority of the smaller mines, however, housing and sanitary arrangements still leave much to be desired.

Accidents.- During the year 1934 ~~at~~ mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 177 fatal accidents which is 35 more than in 1933 and 23 less than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 679 serious accidents involving injuries to 692 persons, as compared with 655 serious accidents involving injuries to 670 persons in the previous year. No record is maintained of minor accidents. The so-called "serious" accidents reported are those in which an injury has been sustained which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days. 209 persons were killed and 725 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 35 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 56 more than in 1933. One hundred and ninety-three persons killed were men and 16 were women. In two cases six lives; in one case five lives; in five cases three lives; and in eight cases two lives were lost.

Causes of Accidents.- There was an all-round increase in the death rate of men, and an all-round decrease in the death rate of women. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

|                                | No. of fatal accidents. | Percentage of total number of fatal accidents. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Misadventure. ...              | 117                     | 66.10  |
| Fault of deceased.             | 24                      | 13.56  |
| Fault of fellow workmen.       | 10                      | 5.65   |
| Fault of subordinate officials | 13                      | 7.35   |
| Fault of management.           | 12                      | 6.78   |
| Faulty material.               | 1                       | 0.57   |
|                                | <u>177</u>              | <u>100.00</u>                                  |

Safety in Mines.- The Chief Inspector calls the attention of owners, agents and managers of mines to the Coal Mines General Regulations (Lighting), 1934, which have been brought into force in Great Britain for improvement of lighting conditions below ground and announces that he proposes to require all new safety lamps to be of the standard required by the British Regulations.

Health and Sanitation.- (a) The Asansol Mines Board of Health held two special and eleven ordinary meetings during the year. The birth rate in the Mining Settlement fell from 31.3 in 1933 to 29.1 per thousand ~~per thousand~~ during 1934. The death rate rose from 18.2 to 22.3 per thousand.

The rise in mortality from fevers including malaria and respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia, was particularly noticeable. The health of the colliery population, i.e., miners and their families, continued to be good. The epidemic of cholera which raged in other parts of India during the year had its repercussion in the Mining Settlement. There were 355 attacks and 151 deaths from cholera, as against 89 cases and 29 deaths during the previous year. Vigorous efforts on the part of the sanitary staff were made to check the epidemic. There were 130 attacks and 23 deaths from small-pox during the year, as against 247 attacks and 33 deaths during the previous year. 50,363 vaccinations were performed during the year of which 13,840 were primary and 36,523 re-vaccinations.

There were three maternity and infant welfare centres situated near important groups of collieries, managed by the Board of Health during the year, each in charge of a trained Health Visitor. A whole time lady superintendent was in charge of the welfare Scheme. A Health and Baby Week was organised in eight different areas. Besides a travelling Health Exhibition, Baby Shows were organised and special training in first-aid, home nursing and mother-craft was arranged for boys and girls. Two additional leprosy clinics were opened during the year making a total of eight, four of which were managed by the Board of Health and four by the Asansol Leprosy Relief Association. A re-organised scheme has been approved of providing for eleven trained health visitors and as many clinics for treatment of cases. Sanction has been obtained for the appointment of an additional leprosy officer to ensure efficient supervision. Definite improvement was noticeable in two of the areas taken up for intensive anti-malaria work. A third area, including an important group of collieries, was taken in hand during the year.

(b) Jharia.— During the year the Jharia Mines Board of Health ~~had~~ held twelve ordinary, five special ~~meetings~~ and three joint meetings with the Jharia Water Board. The estimated population of the Settlement was 530,022 persons. The death rate was 18.27 per thousand, as compared with 13.34 in the previous year. There was an outbreak of cholera in the coal-field, there being 916 cases with 413 deaths, as compared with 119 cases with 29 deaths in the previous year. The number of deaths on the collieries from cholera was 51 as compared with 7 in the previous year. The total number of anti-cholera inoculation

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performed was 35,001, which is a record in the history of this area. There were 959 cases of suspected small-pox with 71 deaths, as compared with 960 cases with 79 deaths in the previous year. Many samples of food were analysed in the Board's laboratory and prosecutions were ordered in all cases of adulteration. The improvement effected in ~~the~~ colliery housing was maintained but the moratorium granted in 1926 still continued in force. The Board's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme was further extended. A fully equipped Maternity centre was opened at Jharia, the largest town of the coalfield. During the year the Dhanbad Municipality also engaged a maternity nurse for child welfare work within its area. Anti-leprosy work continued in full activity.

Labour Associations.- There were three associations of mine labourers all registered under the Indian Trade Union Act. They are (1) the Indian Colliery Labour Union (7,517 members), (2) the Tata's Colliery Labour Association (1,737 members) and (3) the Indian Miners' Association (2,500 members).

Inspections.- During the year 989 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times; 2,604 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mineowners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large portion of the time of the Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground workings of coal mines and in dealing with underground fires.

(The Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act for the year 1933 is reviewed at pages 15-25 of our December 1934 report) \*

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Factory Administration in India, 1934\*

The following are the salient features in the annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for the year 1934, which has recently been published by the Government of India. (A copy of the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/33/36 dated 9-1-1936).

Changes in the Law.- The Factories Act, 1934, which repealed the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and subsequent amending Acts, received the assent of the Governor General on the 20th August 1934. The new Act came into force on the 1st January, 1935.

Number of Factories.- The total number of registered factories increased from 9,558 to 9,761; the most notable increases were 30 in Madras, 32 in Bombay and 35 each in the United Provinces and Assam. The number actually working, including 238 notified under Section 2(3)(b) of the Act, was 8,658 of which 4,023 were perennial and 4,635 seasonal. The percentage of the registered factories working during the year was 88.7 as against 88.4 in the preceding year. The number of new factories registered was 528 and the number struck off the registers 325 giving a net increase of 203 as compared with 127 in 1933.

Out of the 8,658 factories actually working during the year, 345 (343) were owned by Government or Local Funds; 528 (513) textile factories of which 319 (315) were cotton (spinning, weaving and other) factories and 100 (98) were jute mills; 643 (631) engineering concerns; 139 (139) minerals and metal works; 3,413 (3,322) food, drink and tobacco factories of which 1,608 (1,552) were rice mills, 1,025 (980) were tea factories; 439 (438) concerns dealing with chemicals, dyes etc. of which 220 (237) were oil mills; 390 (385) paper and printing factories; 371 (368) wood, stone and glass factories; and 2,238 (2,172) gins and presses. As in previous years, Bombay Presidency had the largest number of factories - 1,678, followed by Madras with 1,553, Bengal with 1,535 and Burma with 950. Industrial activity in other provinces was, as usual, slow.

N.B. - Figures in brackets in the above paragraph relate to the year 1933.

Number of Operatives.- The improvement in trade was reflected by a considerable increase in employment. The average daily number of operatives employed by different industries during the year rose from 1,405,402 (revised figure) in 1933 to 1,487,231. The most marked increases were in Madras (9,004), Bombay (19,006), Bengal (24,370), United Provinces (13,293), Punjab (6,355) and Bihar and Orissa (5,970) and were chiefly accounted for by the sugar, cotton and jute industries. The number of operatives employed in the cotton textile

\*Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1934 together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year - Published by order of the Government of India - Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1935. - Price: Rs.1-6-0 or 2s.3d. - pp.34

industry rose from 364,217 in 1933 to 385,065 in 1934; in sugar mills from 49,545 to 65,023 and in jute mills from 257,175 to 263,739. The increase in employment in the jute mills is mainly due to the re-starting of 2½ per cent of the 15 per cent of the looms which were sealed down in August 1932 in accordance with the scheme of restriction of production.

Women and Children.- In the report of the preceding year it was stated that there was a further fall in the number of women and children employed. The year 1934 registered a further reduction in the number of children employed from 19,091 to 18,362 but the number of women employed increased from 216,837 to 220,860. The percentage of women and children to the total factory population excluding the operatives in certain mills in United Provinces for which figures are not available was 14.8 and 1.2 respectively as against 15.4 and 1.4 in 1933. The process of eliminating child labour from the jute and cotton mills in Bengal continues. The reluctance to employ children has been mainly due to the rigorous application of the protection provided by the Act. In Bombay, the percentages for both women and children employed are the smallest since 1920. This may be attributed to the enforcement of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act as well as to the cheapness of male labour. Another factor contributing to the decrease in the percentage of women employed in the factories is that under the Factories Act women cannot be employed at night.

Hours of Work.- The normal weekly hours were generally unchanged. The position is summarised in the table below. Percentage of factories in which normal weekly hours are:

|            |     | Not above<br>48. | Between<br>48 & 54 | Between<br>54 & 60 |
|------------|-----|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Perennial. |     |                  |                    |                    |
| For men    | ... | 35               | 20                 | 45                 |
| For Women  | ... | 36               | 21                 | 43                 |
| Seasonal.  |     |                  |                    |                    |
| For men    | ... | 24               | 8                  | 68                 |
| For women. | ... | 32               | 9                  | 59                 |

The percentage of factories which fixed their maximum hours for children at not more than 30 per week was 30 (perennial) and 52 (seasonal), the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 35 and 46 respectively.

Wages.- In most provinces, the wages of skilled and unskilled labour remained steady or increased. An increase in the wages of the factory workers in Sind is reported and this is attributed to the general demand for agricultural labour. In Bengal, wages remained stationary; but it is reported that jute mill employers continued their efforts to improve the financial and social conditions of their workers, principally through schemes of welfare work. In the Central Provinces, the continued trade depression with consequent unemployment was responsible for a fall of about 6 per cent in wages. At the instance of the Government of India enquiries were made during the year into unemployment and wage cuts in the cotton textile industry. The results of these enquiries were published in book form by the local Government.

In the last report reference was made to the objectionable system obtaining in the Punjab of employing workers through contractors which involved the payment by the worker of a certain percentage of his wages to the contractor. The year under review shows that this undesirable system is becoming recognised in districts where unskilled labourers rely on factory work for livelihood during the cotton ginning season. The Inspector of Factories is reported to be continuing his enquiries into the matter.

Accidents.- The number of recorded accidents increased under all heads, the total being 20,787 as compared with 18,709 in 1933. Fatal accidents increased from 194 in 1933 to 233, serious accidents from 3,776 to 4,440 and minor accidents from 14,739 to 16,114. The incidence of all accidents per 100,000 operatives rose from 1,333 to 1,398 in the year under review. The increase in accidents is explained by increased employment and more extensive use of machineries together with the development of new industries the risks attendant on which are either not known or insufficiently appreciated.

Safety Work.- The safeguarding of machinery and plant continued to receive close attention in all provinces. In Bengal, the standard in this respect is now immeasurably superior to that which prevailed some years ago. In the smaller factories the inspectorate experienced difficulty in securing the observance of the relevant provisions of the Act. Thirty-five safety committees were functioning in the Bombay Presidency. During the year the number of safety committees rose from 13 to 30 in Bihar and Orissa; a manual for safety committees on safety, lighting and ventilation was issued free of charge to all I-Class factories, local Inspectors, District Magistrates and others for guidance in factory work. Particular attention was paid in Bihar and Orissa and Madras to secure the observance of the rule requiring tight clothes for oil men and others working near unfenced transmission machinery. In the Central Provinces, the progress in safety measures in the seasonal factories is frequently hampered by the continual changes in the management and lack of sufficient technical knowledge to carry out the Inspectors' requisitions in an efficient manner. A dangerous practice still exists in many ginning factories of allowing women in loose saris to pick particles of stained cotton from gin rollers in motion.

Housing and Welfare Work.- Appreciable progress in the provision of housing to factory employees was maintained in Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces. There were no radical changes or improvements in Bengal while little or no progress in this direction was made in the Central Provinces and Burma.

Steady progress was maintained by Madras, Bombay, Delhi, United Provinces and the Punjab. In Bengal welfare work was generally confined to extensions or alterations to existing amenities.

Convictions under the Act.- The number of convictions obtained during the year for offences under the Factories Act was 1,468 as against 1,325 in 1933. The seasonal factories were responsible for 749 convictions and perennial factories for 719.

In Bengal the limits of daily and weekly hours of work laid down in the Act have not been exceeded to any serious extent. The chief offenders in regard to illegal employment are the small factories, particularly the small printing presses, oil mills, etc. There is still a tendency in jute mills for women employed on a piece work basis to encroach on the time allotted to them for rest. There was an increase in irregularities in the employment of labour engaged on the bleaching of cloth in the Ahmedabad mill compounds. Most of this labour is employed by contractors who have endeavoured in spite of the fall in rates to secure the level of profits which formerly prevailed by overworking their labour. In the Central Provinces surprise visits brought to light 26 cases of employment of workers beyond the hours specified by the management while in the Punjab, out of 232 prosecutions that were instituted 150 were for overworking labour.

Inspections.— The number of factories inspected during the year was 7,705 being 89 per cent of the factories actually working. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 93.6 and 85, respectively, as against 93 and 80 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in the Central Provinces, Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi, Bangalore and Coorg. In Burma and Assam, inspections continued to be less complete than in other provinces but in the case of the latter some improvement may be expected in the future now that an assistant inspector has been appointed. In Burma, owing to lack of funds, inspections had to be confined mainly to the districts near Rangoon. The administration of the Act in all provinces is reported to be satisfactory.

(The Administration of the Factories Act in India for the year 1933 is reviewed at pages 25-31 of the December 1934 report of this Office)



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Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

17th Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers  
of Commerce in India, Calcutta, 1935. +

The 17th session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in India was held on 16 & 17-12-1935 under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Mr. G.R.Campbell. The meeting was attended by the Director of this Office by invitation.

The meeting was formally opened by H.E. the Viceroy. In his address, Lord Willingdon reviewed the economic conditions in the country. The following are a few extracts from his speech which will be of interest to Geneva.

Economic Recovery.- "During the past five years, India has passed, in common with the rest of the world, through a period of almost unexampled economic stress. It is therefore a matter of satisfaction to me that, in addressing you for the last time, I am in a position to point to some indications of a gradual movement towards economic recovery in the country. The steady decline in the general level of prices which commenced in the latter part of 1929 has now definitely ceased and an upward tendency appears to have set in. There is evidence also that the disparity between the prices of agricultural and of manufactured commodities which has so seriously affected the purchasing power of the great mass of the people of India is now less marked than before and that a more balanced price relationship is probably within sight."

Industrial Development.- "The progress of industrial development has been well maintained in spite of the general depression and in some cases, notably in the cotton textile industry, greater advances have recently been recorded than at any time in the past. There was a noticeable improvement in the volume of export as well as import trade in India in 1934-35 as compared with the previous year when the lowest levels in recent times had been recorded, and this improvement has since continued unchecked. India's total visible trade now shows a favourable balance which is substantially higher than in the period preceding the War. Among the most welcome signs of improvement is the material reduction in the burden of interest charges which is a matter of such deep concern to both industry and agriculture".

(The Statesman, 17-12-1935)

Resolutions were passed by the meeting (a) requesting a general lowering of customs tariff; (b) urging higher customs duty on sports.

shirts and other knitted cotton apparel of non-British origin; (c) suggesting co-operation between the Railway Board and Provincial Governments in securing powers to construct and maintain feeder roads; (d) urging the grant of a special rebate on coal for export out of India; (e) suggesting the appointment of a Special Committee for co-ordination of railway freight rates; (f) requesting the removal of the present sur-charges on income-tax, super-tax and customs duties; (g) suggesting early action on the Road-Rail Conference resolution regarding the co-ordination of motor taxation and the unification of the motoring laws in British India; (h) urging legislation enabling the Commerce Department of the Government of India to deal promptly with commercial matters; and (i) proposing the imposition of a countervailing duty on imports of South African coal into India.

(Summarised from a communication addressed to this Office by the Secretary of the Associated Chambers of Commerce). +

## Workers' Organisations

### 2nd Session of National Trades Union Federation, Nagpur, 1935.

The Second Session of the National Trades Union Federation was held at Nagpur from 29 to 31-12-1935 under the presidentship of Mr. Jammadas Mehta. The session was attended by delegates from affiliated unions, prominent among them being Messrs. N.M. Joshi, B. Shiva Rao and S. C. Joshi. The Director of this Office was present by special invitation. Mr. R.S. Ruikar, President, and six members of the All India Trade Union Congress also attended the meeting.

In the course of his welcome address, Rao Sahib R.W. Fulay, M.L.C., Chairman of the Reception Committee, referred to the practice widely resorted to in recent times by Local Governments of promulgating Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code during industrial disputes and the extensive use of Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act to stifle strikes and condemned such repressive policy adopted by government against workers. Speaking about conditions of labour, Rao Sahib Fulay deplored the fact that no attempt has been made to bring unregulated factories under legislative control. He said:

" Nothing has yet been done to regulate and control the almost harrowing conditions of work in the unregulated factories. In this province there are over 30,000 persons engaged in the ~~bi~~ bidi and shellac industry. They work long hours by day and night, in dark, dingy, insanitary and crowded rooms; they have no fixity of service, no control is exercised in the payment of their wages from which all kinds of deductions are made. <sup>A</sup> Bill introduced in the local Legislature, in 1932, was opposed by the Government and thrown out. There were a few strikes in the bidi industry, but owing to lack of organisation and terrible unemployment outside, the strikes ended in failure and the wages of the workers in this industry, have been x

reduced enormously."»

He also condemned the present proposals for the representation of labour in legislatures and emphasised the desirability of establishing Trade Union Constituencies in preference to special labour constituencies. In conclusion he appealed to the various labour organisations to bring about unity among themselves in order to present a united front to the capitalist offensive.

Presidential Address.— Mr. Jammadas Mehta, in the course of his presidential address, briefly traced the progress of the Federation since its first session in 1933 and dealt with a number of important problems facing the Indian labour movement. He made extensive references to the I.L.O. and, quoting the preamble to Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles, he said that "the Government and the employing classes in this country should read, mark, and inwardly digest this preamble". The following is a summary of the main points brought out in the address:—

Apathy of Government of India to labour interests.— A vigorous Trade Union activity based on the united front between the Federation and the Trade Union Congress, on the one hand and the capture of political power through a Labour Party on the other, should be made the two immediate objectives of the working class in India. The Government of India and the Provincial Governments are the largest employers of labour; and while they are slightly better than the private employer, at heart they are as unsympathetic as the other employers and, so far as the political rights of the workers are concerned, they are the personification of rank reaction. It is true that the Government of India is an original member of the League of Nations and actively participates in the International Labour Conference at Geneva. It has ratified a fair number of the Conventions adopted by that Organisation and has also passed legislation about them.

Many Whitley Recommendations Shelved.— The Royal Commission on Labour made a moderately progressive report some five years ago but except in one or two important matters and in small details almost all its major recommendations have been placed on the shelf. India is still far away from the immediate world ideal of a 40 hours week.

The fixation of a minimum wage or anything remotely approaching it remains as distant as ever. Social insurance has made a bare beginning in some places. ~~The~~ Working class housing is still primitive; there is no provision for free compulsory education of the workers' children; sickness and invalidity find the workers without means or resources and there are no old age pensions. The Whitley Commission made in all 357 main recommendations and about 100 subsidiary ones. Of these 457 recommendations, after the lapse of a period of five years, 108 have been totally rejected by Government; 65 have been implemented; 8 are under legislation; 12 are 'noted'; 70 are under examination or consideration; 24 are considered unnecessary; in 68 cases no action is taken or action is deferred; about the rest it is difficult to understand what has happened or is going to happen.

Unemployment.- The saddest thing in India today relates to unemployment. The problem of unemployment has always been a most serious one in India and it has been rendered particularly acute since the world depression. People entitled to speak with authority have repeatedly drawn attention to it; they have estimated the number of unemployed in India to be 40 million; no attempt has been made by Government to ascertain the exact figures and hardly any scheme of finding work is either in force or is known to be under contemplation; with so many millions unemployed there is no measure of giving them unemployment insurance, assistance or relief. The attitude of Government in this respect cannot be too much condemned. The meagre contribution of Government towards the amelioration of the workers' lot is largely a pose made to save its face at the International Labour Conference. For all practical purposes Government's solicitude for labour is for Geneva's consumption.

Industrial Relations.- The average Indian employer regards a trade union as an anathema, a strike as an unspeakable presumption and trade union workers as the devils' associates deserving to be shot at sight if possible. That with four million industrial workers in the country the number of trade unions recognised by the Indian employer can be counted on the fingers' end is a sad proof of the primitive conception of industrial relationship in India; there is little wonder that industrial peace is so precarious in the country; and when trouble comes, the employer relies on the police and the armed forces of the State to take him out of the scrape.

The Political Situation.- Reviewing the political situation, Mr. Mehta said that the Government of India Act of 1935 was highly unsatisfactory. Mistrust, if not insincerity, is written large on every page of that piece of legislation. In almost every chapter and every section, powers are denied, withheld and hedged round with safeguards until the safeguards have swallowed even the semblance of what power for the people there may be in the Act. The new constitution has been made worse by the provisions about franchise and electorates; instead of being an instrument for advance towards freedom, it is calculated, by the clash of sectional, communal and special interests which it fosters, indefinitely to retard the building up of a truly national life.

The I.L.O. as Protector of Labour Interests.- Dealing with the weak, unorganised and disunited state of the Indian labour movement, Mr. Mehta said that the I.L.O. acted as a bulwark for the protection of labour interests. He said that the Government and the employing class in this country should read, mark and inwardly digest the preamble to part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles. The principles embodied in it are now the stock-in-trade of European opinion on industrial relationships and these principles should be steadily kept in view in organising the relation between capital and labour in India on a new basis.

Industrial Councils.- Advocating the formation of industrial councils to harmonise industrial relationships, he said a start may be made by holding an annual tripartite Conference at Delhi, Bombay or Calcutta where about a dozen representative industrial men belonging to the various industries should meet an equal number of labour delegates from those industries; the State should be represented by one delegate from each Provincial Government and three delegates from the Federal Government. Indian States which desire to be affiliated to this Conference on a similar footing should be allowed to do so. This Conference should have an annual session and a permanent secretariat. Its business should be:-

- (1) To initiate and examine proposals for labour legislation,
- (2) To encourage co-operation and understanding among those concerned with labour policy,
- (3) To dispose of complaints of breaches of any agreed policy on the part of Government, industry or labour,
- (4) Generally to act as a bureau of information and research in labour matters for the whole country.

The Conference should be self-governing in its international administration and while its decisions will not be mandatory, they should carry an obligation with them that both the Provincial and the Federal Governments and the Indian States should submit those decisions for rejection or adoption by their Legislative Bodies within a specified time.

Labour Representation in Legislatures.- The authorities are on the whole unduly suspicious of labour representation and are determined to be exceedingly critical in forming labour constituencies. Only in a few provinces have Government recommended trade unions as the basis of representation; special constituencies and direct election by workers are favourites of some Local Governments. If ultimately trade unions are accepted as the basis, signs are not wanting to show that attempts will be made to weaken the radical elements in the movement by refusing recognition to or withdrawing it from the Unions which show radical tendencies. Already communal unions are coming into existence and the unions which take their inspiration from official sources are beginning to look up. Indian Labour will need to be particularly careful if it wishes to tide over the danger which hovers over its head. The right way to do so and the sure way also is to have a closer understanding and all possible co-operation between the two premier organisations of labour in this country.

Participation in I.L.Conferences and Foreign Affiliations. - Two of the knottiest and toughest difficulties in the way of these two organisations getting together have been found to be the question of participation in the International Labour Conference at Geneva and the question of international affiliation, which will now include affiliation to the Asiatic Labour Congress also. Referring to the fact that labour leaders in imperialist countries unite with the capitalists in exploiting "coloured" populations, Mr. Mehta pointed out that the explanation for this lay in the fact that such labour leaders were not insincere but that they were impotent. He said:

"They also like ourselves are victims though to a much smaller extent of the same social order but they are votaries at the same shrine of world race and international brotherhood. If we avoid them, we weaken them without strengthening ourselves and we thereby prevent or postpone the fusion of labour opinion in the world. Foreign affiliations therefore with the full knowledge of their limitations should be cherished. They furnish a common meeting ground for working class representatives from the different countries, offer opportunities for exchange of views, for the study of conditions and are not without their reaction on ~~the~~ public opinion in those countries. What applies to these affiliations equally apply to ~~the~~ affiliation to the Geneva Conference.

In one respect Geneva is better fitted to bring out practical results as Governments are also represented there. The process of conversion is no doubt slow but an impartial examination of the results of the last nineteen Conferences will completely vindicate international collaboration in industrial matters. What little of trade unionism exists or is tolerated in this country is largely due to the existence of Geneva casting its halo over the Government of India; among the Conventions which that body has adopted will be found questions which have been in the forefront of labour demands all the world over; Geneva has solved quite a fair number of them; it is earnestly grappling with an equally large number and above all Geneva is the source of new ideas which become the starting point for fresh concessions to the demands of labour!"

Resolutions.- The following are some of the more important of the resolutions passed at the Conference:

All India Joint Labour Board.- (a) This Federation endorses the action of the General Council in organising an All India Joint Labour Board in co-operation with the All India Trade Union Congress and trusts that the Board will achieve results which will ultimately lead to the complete unification of the labour movement in India.

(b) This Federation also endorses the agreement entered into between the All-India Congress Socialist Party and the General Council with regard to joint action on agreed matters and hopes that it will help to conduct political and economic agitation on non-controversial lines.

Asiatic Labour Congress.- This Federation expresses its great satisfaction at the inauguration of the Asiatic Labour Congress the first session of which was held at Colombo in May, 1934, and fervently hopes that it will help to bring together under one organisation the workers in Asiatic countries and improve their standard of life.

~~The~~

This Federation deeply regrets that <sup>the proposed</sup> tripartite Asiatic Labour Congress under the auspices of the International Labour Office has not yet been held. This delay has caused considerable uneasiness in the minds of ~~the~~ Asiatic workers. The Federation, therefore, once more appeals to the I.L.O. to take early steps to hold the conference at no distant date.

Joint Industrial Council.- This Federation expresses its deep disappointment at the failure of the Government of India to form a Joint Industrial Council as recommended by the Whitley Commission and urges them to carry out this recommendation at an early date.

Wage-Fixing Machinery.- This Federation calls upon the Government of India to place before the Legislative Assembly without further delay for ratification the convention regarding ~~the~~ wage-fixing machinery arrived at by the ~~Indian Labour~~ International Labour Conference as far back as 1928. This action on the part of the Government of India has become all the more imperative in view of the fact that the Governing Body of the I.L.O. is drawing the pointed attention of the State members who have not yet ratified this convention to the necessity and the importance of doing so immediately.

Trade Union Movement.- This Federation is of opinion that the time ~~was~~ now arrived when it has become desirable and necessary to determine the manner in which the political and industrial activities of the movement should be conducted without subordinating the importance of one to the other.

This Federation therefore calls upon the working Committee to draw up a scheme by which the political and Industrial sides of the movement may be properly co-ordinated and linked together and to submit it for the approval of the General Council of the Federation.

Demands of Labour.- (a) This Federation views with alarm the present deplorable plight to which the industrial workers in India are reduced by methods of rationalisation, policies of wage cuts and retrenchment adopted by the employers, which have seriously reduced the purchasing power of the masses and thrown out of employment thousands of workers and which have disturbed the workers' social and economic life to the great detriment of national efficiency. The Federation strongly protests against the attitude of the Central and Provincial Governments who have so far done nothing to check the employers' attacks on the workers' standard of life; but, who, on the other hand, in the case of their own employees, adopted identical methods.

(b) While recording its conviction that social ownership and control together with international co-operation and co-ordination, furnish the only adequate and lasting solution of ~~the~~ industrial problems, this Federation believes that during the transition period vigorous efforts should be made towards the regulation of industries. It recommends the adoption, inter alia, of the following methods to achieve this object:-



(1) Immediate reduction of working hours to at least forty a week without reduction of pay and a drastic restriction of overtime, as a means of diminishing unemployment; (2) Restoration of the "economy" cuts in social services, in wages and salaries of the subordinate grades of public employees; (3) Increase in wages in private industries and the devaluation of the unit of currency as a means of increasing the purchasing power; (4) Initiation of carefully planned scheme of public works financed by the use of national credit; (5) Prohibition of child labour under 14 years of age; (6) Introduction of free and compulsory primary education and its enforcement in the case of all children upto 14 years; (7) Minimum wage-fixing legislation for all industries regulated and unregulated; (8) Introduction of ~~the~~ unemployment insurance and other social insurance schemes and their extension wherever they exist; (9) Provision for pensioning aged workers; (10) Holidays with pay; (11) Adoption of other possible measures of increasing ~~the~~ purchasing power and for planning the economic life of the nation in the interest of the whole people.

Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen. This meeting of the National Trades Union Federation urges upon the authorities concerned, viz, The International Labour Organisation and the Government of India, to expedite adoption of the conventions for (a) an 8 hour working day for Indian Seamen with overtime allowance for necessary extra hours of work; (b) Provision of holidays with pay in their articles of agreement in Indian as well as Home ports. (c) Manning scale in respect of all ocean-going steamers and (d) payment of wages to sea-men in case of sickness or accident till their return to the port of embarkation.

Resolutions were also passed: (1) urging the speedy implementing of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission, (2) demanding periodical meetings between the Government and the National Trades Union Federation on the analogy of the meetings of the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation, (3) condemning the new Constitutional Reforms, (4) urging the setting up of trade union constituencies and condemning special labour constituencies for purposes of labour representation in Legislatures under the new constitution; (5) drawing the attention of the Government to the imperative necessity for slum clearing in industrial towns and relieving congestion by initiating forward programmes of industrial housing; (6) condemning the attitude of the British Parliamentary

Labour Party in demanding the exclusion of Indian seamen from British ships; (7) demanding that protection granted to Indian industries should equally benefit workers therein; and (8) recommending to unions organisation of ~~summer~~ summer schools for training in trade unionism.

Office Bearers.- The Council of the Federation election unanimously Mr. B.Shiva Rao of Madras as President of the Federation for the ensuing year. Messrs. P.C.Bose, S.C.Joshi and Syed Munawar, M.L.C., were elected Vice-Presidents and Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta and R.R. Bakhale, as Treasurer and General Secretary, respectively.

Indian Labour Delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.- Rao Sahib R.W. Fulay was recommended for nomination as the Indian Workers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

(A copy each of the Presidential address and the General Secretary's Report of the National Trades Union Federation for the period 27-12-33 to 29-12-35 have been forwarded direct to Geneva by the General Secretary of the Federation). †

Trade Union Unity: A. I. T. U. C. & N.T.U.F. Resolutions:

Prospects of Early Settlement. †

References have been made in the earlier reports of this Office to the various efforts made since the split of 1929 for bringing about unity in the Indian trade union movement, ending with the setting up of a Joint Labour Board in August 1935 (vide pages 53-57 of our August 1935 report). The chances of an amalgamation of the All India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation leading

to ultimate trade union unity, have been brought nearer by certain decisions taken by the Executive Councils of both the organisations at meetings held at Nagpur during the Christmas week of 1935.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress, to consider the unity proposals, was held on 26-12-35 with Mr. R. S. Ruikar, President of the Congress, in the Chair. The following resolution on the subject of Trade Union Unity was passed by the Committee:-

(a) The Executive Committee of the Trade Union Congress views with satisfaction the growing desire for structural trade union unity in the trade union movement and the efforts made in this direction by the setting up of the All India Joint Labour Board, but strongly feels that the time has now arrived for structural unity by amalgamation of the All India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation on the following bases along with those decided on at Calcutta. (Vide page 556 of our April 1935 Report for details.) ~~(The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, 29-12-35)~~

1. No affiliation to foreign organisations;
2. The amalgamated central working class organisation to accept the principle of sending as delegates to Geneva those who are elected by the central organisation; no union to send any delegate to Geneva, in case the Government does not accept the nominee of the central organisation.

Note:- The All India Trade Union Congress is prepared to modify its position regarding the Geneva question in the aforesaid manner in the interest of structural unity materialising immediately or in the near future.

(b) The Committee, therefore, authorises the members of the Trade Union Congress on the Joint Committee appointed at Calcutta to carry on negotiations with the Federation to bring about structural unity immediately on the above bases and to take all the necessary steps for this purpose in consultation with the All India Joint Labour Board and the Federation. Members will be, inclusive of substitute members, as follows:-

Comrades R.S. Ruikar, R.A. Khedgikar, R.S. Nimbkar, Dr. Chitnis, P.L. Ghanekar, Charles Mascarnas, J. Ganguly, P.Y. Deshpande, A.M.A. Zaman Mote. (The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, 29-12-35)

The National Trades Union Federation at its open session on 30-12-35 passed a resolution referring to its General Council the proposals of the Trade Union Congress for structural unity with

the Federation. The General Council, with Mr. Shiva Rao in the chair, considered the question of unity and the proposals of the Trades Union Congress on 31-12-35. After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution moved by Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose (Bengal) was adopted unanimously:-

"This Federation cordially welcomes the proposals of the Trades Union Congress for effecting structural unity with this Federation and resolves that with a view to place structural unity on a stable basis, the activities of the All India Joint Board appointed in August last be extended on the following among other lines:-

(1) that the Central Labour Board do proceed to constitute Provincial Joint Labour Boards on the same principle on which the Central Board is constituted;

(11) that the Central Board and the Provincial Joint Boards should develop the points of contact between the two organisations by (a) organising joint propaganda meetings to advance the cause of Labour; (b) issuing from time to time joint statements affecting the interests of the working classes and on policies and measures pursued and adopted by the Government in regard to matters affecting Labour; (c) forming Legal Defence Committees to arrange for the defence in law courts of prosecuted labour workers and protect them from harassments by the police as far as possible; (d) inviting prominent leaders of either group to preside over and take part in the proceedings of meetings held by the Unions belonging to either group; (e) making joint demonstrations approved by the Labour Board, provincial and all India.

The Provincial Joint Labour Boards will report periodically, at the end of at least every three months to the Central Labour Board as to the spirit of co-operation that has been evoked and the activities undertaken. At the end of six months the All India Joint Labour Board will meet and take action in regard to structural unity in the light of the reports received from the Provincial Joint Labour Boards and on the basis of materials that will ~~have been~~ otherwise available.

Mr. Bose's resolution was unanimously adopted with a rider moved by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta that the question of investing the All India Joint Labour Board with further powers be considered by the Working Committee of the Federation.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-1-1936)

35

Organisation of Agricultural Workers:

Professor Ranga Reviews Progress Achieved. . . †

Though India is preponderantly an agricultural country and the number of the country's agricultural workers run into millions, organisation of agricultural workers into functional unions for collective bargaining purposes has up till now reached only a very rudimentary stage. In recent years, however, some efforts have been made to organise Indian agricultural workers. Professor N.G.Ranga, M.L.A., Secretary of the Peasants Group in the Legislative Assembly, has recently been touring the country for stimulating organisation of agricultural workers and his efforts have met with a certain measure of success. The following information about development of organisations of agricultural workers in India is taken from a statement ~~an~~ ~~2x~~ issued on 20-12-35 to the press by Prof. N.G.Ranga:-

Provincial Organisations.- It is only during the last five years that earnest attempts have come to be made in the various provinces of India to organise peasants, as a separate entity, into their own functional organisations. ~~The~~ Andhra has led the way and Malabar, Karnatak and Tamil Nad have all followed suit and, their Associations have all been affiliated to the South Indian Federation of Peasants and Agricultural Workers. The Bengal peasants have not been organised though the Praja Party, the Congress and the Congress Socialist Party have undertaken the work in different districts. The United Provinces, Bihar and Utkal (Orissa) have developed their peasants' associations, but the Punjab, Gujerat, the Central Provinces and Assam have yet to create theirs.

Agricultural Workers and Political Rights.- The impending constitutional reforms make it absolutely necessary for the peasants all over India to organise themselves into closely-knit associations all suitably federated into Provincial and All-India Committees. Agricultural workers have yet to develop their organisational strength. Hence their inability to think of forming their own parliamentary parties in the various presidencies. They cannot however sit quiet and allow the political parties to exploit them, obtain their votes and try to capture political power in the provinces and only continue to exploit them, as in the past.

K.2.

Minimum Demands to be formulated.- Agricultural workers have to bestir themselves and try to formulate provincial charts of minimum demands affecting their immediate functional needs and confront political parties with them at the time of the elections. They have to generate sufficient internal and organisational strength to be able to oblige political parties seeking their franchise to swear by their minimum demands.

Progress in South India.- The South Indian peasants have a fairly well-knit organisation. The South Indian Agricultural Workers' Federation ( vide pages 33-34 of our May 1935 report) has formulated minimum demands, published them widely, presented them to the President of the Congress and got his blessings. Through the three Peasants Marches and the five Peasants' Weeks, which have so far been organised during the last three years, the Andhra peasant has succeeded in demonstrating his growing self-consciousness. The Federation triumphantly celebrated the Peasants' Day on December 7, when Peasants' Marches were organised and taken to the offices of the Revenue Officials to communicate, through them to the Government and the general public, their minimum demands. Thus, the peasants have come to organise their referendum upon the various public questions affecting them specially and unanimously declared in the presence of the accredited representatives of Government, their opinion regarding the peasants' problems.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-12-1935). +

37

Economic Conditions.

Trade of India in 1934 - 35.\*

Indian Industrial Conditions.- The year under review saw a small improvement in the volume of international trade. In India, signs of a further progress towards recovery were visible in many directions during the year under review. From such indications as are available, industrial progress seems to have been fairly generally maintained. The cotton mill industry did very well in the year under review; production recorded a large advance and the rate of clearance was also more satisfactory than in the preceding year. The jute industry had a good record. Production increased and exports advanced, the stock situation was ~~xxx~~ much easier, and jute shares appreciated in value. Conditions in the iron and steel industry were also satisfactory and there was an appreciable increase in production. From such returns of production as are available, it would appear that there was improvement to a varying extent in the output of cement, paper, and the chemical industries. In the case of sugar the total production for the season is likely to show an increase over the preceding season, while the production of matches in the latter half of the year showed an appreciable improvement. The output of petrol and kerosene also increased during the year under review. There was not, however, much improvement in conditions in the coal industry. As regards foreign trade, the increase in imports was much larger than in the case of exports, and the balance of trade in merchandise fell by Rs.117.5 millions. Exports of gold, however, continued on a large, though a more restricted, scale than in the preceding year, and India's position as regards foreign payments thus continued favourable. National credit stood high, and the conversion operations of Government were attended with marked success. The rate of interest on Government borrowings fell for the first time since 1896 to 3 per cent. The price of gilt-edge continued firm. The active circulation of currency notes was generally higher than in the preceding year. There was also an improvement in the net ton mileage of class I railways from 18,383 million to over 20,012 million. The index numbers of non-speculative industrial securities improved from 113 in April, 1934, to 133 in March, 1935, while those

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\* Review of the Trade of India in 1934-35 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. - Delhi: Manager of Publications 1935. Price Rs. 3-4 or 5s.6d. - pp.361

of speculative securities rose from 196 in April 1934 to 236 in the closing month of the year. As regards the agricultural situation, the output of some of the major crops was less than in the preceding season. There was, however, some improvement in agricultural prices, oilseeds and cotton showing a distinct recovery. During the second half of the year, jute prices also advanced. ~~Wheat~~ Wheat, however, fetched lower prices than in the preceding year while prices of rice improved to some extent. Tea had a disappointing year and prices could not be maintained at the preceding year's level. On the whole, the agricultural situation was distinctly better than in 1933-34, specially in the latter half of the year. Prices, however, were still at a low level, ~~xxx~~ while the overseas demand for Indian produce like rice, wheat, and most kinds of oilseeds had shown few signs of improvement.

Industrial Situation.- Industrial disputes during 1934 were more numerous, and resulted in much more loss of working days than in 1933. The general strike in the Bombay textile mills which lasted from April to June, 1934, and in which more than 90,000 men were involved, accounted for more than half the total loss of working days during the year 1934. The strike in the Sholapur Cotton Mills lasting from February to May and that in the Empress Cotton Mills at Nagpur from May to July were the other two industrial disputes of magnitude. The textile mills strike in Ahmedabad which began at the end of January, 1935, affected some 33 mills, but was terminated early in February.

Index Numbers of Prices.- The wholesale price level ~~is~~ in India did not show any marked appreciation in the year under review, though the steady tone noticed in the latter half of 1933-34 was fully maintained. The Calcutta wholesale price index number (July 1914=100) stood at 143 in September, 1929. In September, 1931, when Britain went off the gold standard, the index number stood at 91. The rupee, which was linked to sterling, reacted to the immediate consequences of sterling's departure from gold, and the price level improved to 98 in December of the year. This advantage was not maintained in 1932 which saw a steady decline to lower levels, the index number falling to 88 in December, 1932. The early months of 1933 saw further weakness, but thereafter the price level steadied itself, and in December, 1933, the index number stood at 89. January saw an improvement by one point which was lost in the succeeding month, while in March there was a



further fall to 88. During 1934-35 the price level generally fluctuated within a margin of two points from this level, the changes being more often in the upward direction; January, 1935, was however an exceptional month and saw a sharp rise by six points from 88 in the preceding month. This advance was only temporary and was due to a speculative rise in the price of cereals and oilseeds. In March, 1935, the index number stood at 87.

Imports and Exports.- The table below gives the values of the imports into, and exports from British India of private merchandise and gold and silver during the three years 1932-33, 1933-34 and 1934-35.

|                        | <u>Imports.</u>         |         |         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                        | (In millions of rupees) |         |         |
|                        | 1932-33                 | 1933-34 | 1934-35 |
| Private merchandise .. | 1325.8                  | 1153.6  | 1322.9  |
| Gold and Silver. ..    | 29.5                    | 19.1    | 51.7    |
| Total imports.         | 1355.3                  | 1172.7  | 1374.6  |

|                         | <u>Exports.</u>         |         |         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                         | (In millions of rupees) |         |         |
|                         | 1932-33                 | 1933-34 | 1934-35 |
| Private merchandise ... | 1354.9                  | 1497.3  | 1547.6  |
| Gold and silver. ...    | 677.4                   | 589.5   | 573.4   |
| Total Exports.          | 2032.3                  | 2086.8  | 2121.0  |

The total value

Imports.- The total value of the imports of foreign merchandise into British India during 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 1,320 million, and that of exports, including re-exports, to Rs. 1,550 million. Compared with the preceding year, there was an improvement of Rs. 170 million or 15 per cent in the case of imports and of Rs. 50 million, or 3 per cent, in the case of exports, including re-exports. Of the principal items in the import trade which showed definite progress in 1934-35, cotton and cotton goods, which advanced by Rs. 57.4 million, deserve mention first. Raw cotton and cotton waste together accounted for an increase of Rs. 17.2 million while cotton manufactures improved by Rs. 40.2 million. Imports of metals and ores improved by Rs. 18.8 million, iron and steel being responsible for an increase of Rs. 8.5 million, copper, wrought, for Rs. 1.5 million. Imports of vehicles improved by Rs. 18.3 million. The number of motor cars imported rose from 9,759 to 14,434 and the value of the imports from Rs. 17.7 to Rs. 25.9 million. The number of motor omnibuses imported rose from

5,496 to 9,973, with an increase in value from Rs. 6.6 to Rs. 12.1 million. The value of grain, pulse, and flour imported in the year under review showed a marked increase of Rs. 18.2 million (from Rs. 8.4 to Rs. 26.3 million). This was principally due to the larger imports of rice, both husked and unhusked. Imports of wool, raw and manufactures, were responsible for an increase of Rs. 13.1 million. Other increases of less magnitude were under artificial silk (+Rs. 8.5 million), instruments, apparatus, etc. (+Rs. 7.2 million), dyes (+Rs. 6.1 million), fruits and vegetables (+Rs. 3 million), chemicals (+Rs. 2.2 million) and oils (+Rs. 2.2 million). Imports of the following, however, recorded decreases: sugar (-Rs. 6 million), precious stones (-Rs. 2.5 million), silk, raw and manufactures (-Rs. 2.2 million), soap (-Rs. 1.5 million) and machinery (-Rs. 1.3 million).

Exports.- On the export side, the principal increase was under raw cotton (+Rs. 79.1 million). Compared with the preceding year, exports rose in quantity from 2,729 to 3,446 thousand bales, and in value from Rs. 265.9 to Rs. 345 million. Exports of lac improved by Rs. 8.4 million. Other noticeable increases were under gunny bags (+Rs. 5.3 million), ~~wolfram~~ wolfram ore (+Rs. 4.3 million), raw rubber (+Rs. 3.4 million), oil cakes (+Rs. 3.2 million), teak wood (+Rs. 2.9 million), fodder, bran, etc. (+Rs. 3.1 million), tea ~~(+Rs. 2.9 million)~~ (+Rs. 2.9 million), manganese ore (+Rs. 2.9 million) and mica (+Rs. 2.4 million). Exports of raw jute improved slightly in quantity, but the value realised was a little less than in the preceding year. There were also decreases in the case of a number of other articles. Seeds showed a decline of Rs. 31.2 million linseed, groundnut and rapeseed being responsible for Rs. 15.8, Rs. 7.0 and Rs. 3.9 million respectively. Raw skin fell in value by Rs. 12.1 million, and raw wool by Rs. 7.1 million. Exports of opium on private account recorded a fall of Rs. 6.6 million. Other decreases were under hides, tanned or dressed (-Rs. 4.3 million), gunny cloth (-Rs. 3.9 million), paraffin wax (-Rs. 3.7 million), coffee (-Rs. 3 million), rice (-Rs. 2 million) and cotton twist and yarn (-Rs. 1.9 million).

Re-exports.- The total value of the re-exports in 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 35.5 million as against Rs. 34.2 million in the preceding year, or an increase of Rs. 1.3 million. The most important increase in value was under raw skins (+Rs. 3.4 million), but there was a decline in the quantity exported from 262 to 193 tons. Other increases were silk manufactures (+Rs. 1.3 million), vehicles (+Rs. 1.1 million) and metals other than iron and steel (+Rs. 800,000). These increases were largely offset by decreases under cotton piecegoods (-Rs. 2.8 million), raw wool (-Rs. 1.5 million) and a few other and less important items, e.g., iron and steel, wool manufactures, hardware, raw cotton and sugar.

Balance of Trade.- The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1934-35 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 755 million as compared with Rs. 920 million in 1933-34. The transactions in treasure on private account resulted in a net export of treasure amounting to Rs. 525 million, as against Rs. 572.5 million in the preceding year. Net exports of gold amounted to Rs. 525 million,

while silver showed a net import of Rs. 3.7 million. Net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 3.7 million.

Rupee-Sterling Exchange.- The rupee-sterling exchange remained steady throughout the year helped by the continued exports of gold. The opening rate of the year at  $18\frac{1}{16}d.$  continued to rule for about a month when it began to ease down touching  $17\frac{31}{32}d.$ , the lowest point of the year on the 21st May, due to cheap money and comparatively small business in gold export. Towards the close of the month there was some recovery, and the rate improved to  $18d.$  at which level it remained till the middle of June. Thereafter the rate rallied to  $18\frac{1}{32}d.$  and remained at this level from the 21st June to the 20th December. With fairly large exports of gold and tightness in money, the rate firmed up and remained at  $18\frac{1}{8}d.$  from the 25th January to the 4th March, easing down on the following day to  $18\frac{3}{32}d.$ , with which rate the year closed. The average rate for the year was  $18\frac{1}{16}d.$

Tariff Changes.- During the year under review six Acts have been passed introducing various changes in the tariff. These are: (1) the Mechanical Lighters (Excise Duty) Act, 1934, passed as a necessary corollary to the imposition of a high duty on matches; (2) the Iron and Steel Duties Act, 1934, giving protection to the iron and steel industry; (3) the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, passed with a view to consolidate as far as possible the scattered provisions of the law relating to schedule of import duties into one measure; (4) the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1935, imposing protective duties on wheat and wheat flour; (5) the Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Act, 1935, which reduced the import and excise duties on silver bullion and coin to 2 as. per oz. and abolished the export duty on raw skins.

(The Trade of India in 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 66-75 of our December 1935 report). +

Employment and Unemployment.

3rd All-Bengal Middle-Class Unemployed Youth Conference;

Demand for Vigorous State Action.

The 3rd session of the All-Bengal Middle Class Unemployed Youth Conference was held at Calcutta on 30th November and 1st December 1935 under the presidentship of Raja Sir M. Ray Choudhry of Santosh, President, Bengal Legislative Council.

The following are important points from the President's speech:-

Need for Industrial Education.- The age we live in is conclusively for industrialism and agricultural pursuits based on up-to-date scientific lines. Commercial education, embracing agricultural studies and industrial training is sure to go a great way to solve the grave question of unemployment. It is the duty of those who are answerable for the present system of public instruction in this country to inaugurate such special teachings and establish such special institutions as will open new and lucrative avenues for our young men to explore. The need of the moment is to provide for scientific and industrial education on a very large scale to go hand in hand with cultural education. Our public instruction and university education should be so augmented and adjusted as to be able to create a business-sense in the individual and the community. Liberal provision should also be made for physical culture, so that our youngmen may learn to fix their gaze upon the glory of the body of man as much as on the glory of his intellect. They must be made physically fit for industrial and agricultural works and for military and police services.

Government should take the lead.- The foundational solution of unemployment must be productive work and there must be up-to-date and well-equipped State organisations with requisite funds to initiate, guide and augment enterprise to effect the economic development of the country on a scale, commensurate with the magnitude of the present depression. There must be a **Standing Committee** in Bengal, duly recognised by the Government, to effectively deal with the problem of educated unemployment and to prepare and maintain, on modern-scientific lines, a comprehensive register of the unemployed, with necessary and useful details of each individual case. Money should also be provided to give quick relief in urgent cases in the shape of doles or loans.

The Governor of Bengal, in the course of a message to the Conference referred to the action taken by his Government to mitigate the ill-effects of unemployment and reduce its incidence. The following is a relevant extract from the message:-

"Several opportunities are afforded by Government to mitigate your difficulties and to open out new channels of employment. Demonstration parties under the Bengal Unemployment Relief Scheme are continuing their valuable work of technical training; State-Aid to Industries Act is

ready to lend a helping hand to genuine organisers of small industries; a constructive effort backed by financial help is being made to rehabilitate the handloom industry, while a considerable ~~xx~~ portion of Bengal's share of the Government of India's Rural Development Grant will be devoted to stimulating cottage industries and undertaking works of improvement — all of which must assist in alleviating the difficult problem. Over and above these specific measures which must necessarily be limited in their operation, the Government of Bengal are striving by various means to improve the general economic and financial position of the province, believing that ~~in~~ the inter-action of trade, industry and agriculture ~~such improvement~~ represents the speediest and most effective means of increasing the general volume of employment".

The following are some of the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

Request for Committee of Enquiry.- Resolved that the Government of Bengal be requested to appoint a commission of enquiry to enquire into all aspects of the problem of middle class unemployment in Bengal and to prepare ~~a~~ statistics of the middle class unemployed youths ~~+~~ with a view to chalking out a definite programme for the amelioration of the condition of the unemployed.

Creation of a Bengali Army demanded.- Resolved that the Government of India be requested to take immediate ~~a~~ steps for the creation of a Bengali army with a view to provide military training and military appointments to the Bengali people.

Establishment of Unemployment Relief Bureau.- For affording immediate relief to the needy and deserving unemployed youths this Conference strongly urges the establishment of an Unemployment Relief Bureau.

Industrial Training of Detenues.- This Conference appreciates the scheme recently adopted by the Government of Bengal for the industrial training of the detenues and is confident that Mr. S.C. Mitter to whom the working of the scheme has been entrusted, will be able to earn greater estimation of the public, specially, the unfortunate families of the detenues by bringing about a change for the better in the general conditions of the detenues.

Separate Minister for Unemployment.- This Conference is firmly of opinion that if the Government of the Province were really determined to successfully grapple with the situation they should create a separate portfolio to be entrusted to a Minister, for effectively solving the unemployment problem, by centralising the resources of the Government and the country as well.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 1, 3 & 4-12-1935)

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Combating Unemployment in Mysore State:

Active Policy of Industrialisation. +

The Bangalore Correspondent of the Times of India, Bombay, in a contribution to the issue of the paper dated 25-12-1935 furnishes the following information regarding the policy of industrialisation pursued by the Government of Mysore as a palliative for unemployment in the State:-

During the five years 1930-35 the Government of Mysore has started the manufacture of sugar, steel, porcelain insulators, high grade silk fabrics, drugs and chemicals, and electrical goods. They have invested Rs. 4,812,563 in schemes in connection with these industries. Supplementary grants to the extent of Rs. 1,025,000 were recently sanctioned by the Legislative Council to improve the condition of the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills. A loan of Rs. 200,000 was granted for the purchase of cotton. Government sanctioned another loan of Rs. 300,000 to the Mysore Steel Works as additional working advance. The total extent of industrial loans granted by Government between 1926-27 and 1934-35 was Rs. 2,799,747, besides a sum of Rs. 909,069 for land improvement and Rs. 850,302 as takkavi loans.

The figures indicate how Government are doing their best to foster existing industries and start new ones. The Government is a strong believer in industrialisation as the chief remedy for the problem of unemployment in the State and for raising the standard of living of the people. The people of Mysore too are getting more and more industrially minded. Private enterprise which, till a decade ago, was very shy is seeking new fields for investment. The new Technological Institute, which is nearing completion and will shortly begin instruction in several basic industries, will give a further impetus to industrial progress in Mysore.

(The Times of India, 25-12-1935). +

Need for Planned economic action to combat unemployment:

Demand by 7th Session of National Liberal Federation

of India, Nagpur, 1935. +

The problems created by the widespread incidence of unemployment in India came in for consideration at the Seventh Session of the National Liberal Federation of India held at Nagpur from 28 to 30-12-1935 under the presidentship of Mr. T.R. Venkatarama Sastri. In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Sastri made the following remarks on the ~~am~~ unemployment problem.

If the masses of the population, now steeped in poverty, are to have a reasonable standard of living, the country must ~~send~~ expend its energies in devising a practicable programme and carrying it out. The relief to agriculturists whose poverty and distress are on the increase in these depressing times, the condition of landless labourers in agriculture and urban workers in unorganised industries and the problem of the educated unemployed call for immediate attention. The pressure on agriculture necessitates industrialisation chiefly by the introduction of cottage and village industries as a new or an additional occupation for the rural population. Nationalisation in certain directions is no longer a matter for discussion. In transport, in Posts and Telegraphs, in public utilities such as electricity, broadcasting, etc., nationalisation has become an established fact. Liberalism, unlike Socialism, reserves freedom of judgment in each case on the merits without making a fetish of nationalisation as applicable in all circumstances and to all departments of economic life. Fair conditions of life and fair distribution of the profits of industry as between capital and labour must be secured if need be by careful legislation. Taxation as an instrument for securing social justice and redressing inequalities in the distribution of wealth is well-known. I can see no end or goal which cannot be more easily and promptly achieved by social legislation than by the doubtful and difficult paths of Socialism.

The following resolutions relating to unemployment and rural indebtedness were adopted by the Conference:

Unemployment. - The National Liberal Federation is gravely concerned by the acuteness of the problem of unemployment which is on the increase among the middle classes. While it is glad that certain aspects of it have formed the subject of investigation in some provinces, notably in the United Provinces by a committee under the Chairmanship of the Right Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the Federation urges that measures calculated to reduce it should be adopted without delay in the shape of planned economic development and the reorganisation of the system of education (without prejudice to the

wider diffusion of higher education), so as to train young men for wealth-producing pursuits.

Rural Indebtedness.- While approving the object of the laws passed in some provinces for the relief of agricultural indebtedness, the Federation is firmly of opinion that they will fail to produce a beneficial effect unless the Government (1) take suitable steps to provide adequate finance at a cheap rate of interest, (2) advance money for the repayment to creditors as Mr. Gokhale suggested in the Legislative Council of the Governor-General in 1906 and (3) supplement the legislation for the better organisation of rural credit including the establishment of land mortgage banks and the extension of the co-operative movement.

While the Liberal Federation notices with satisfaction the practical interest which Government are at last evincing in rural uplift it regrets that they are working with inadequate funds and mainly through official agency and are spending an excessive part of the available money on salaries of staffs and establishments. In the opinion of the Federation the work can be done economically yet efficiently through trained unofficial agencies as far as possible.

(The Hindu 30 & 31-12-1935). \*

Educational Reconstruction and Unemployment:

Memorandum by Educational Commissioner with the Government of India

Sir George Anderson, Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, submitted a Note on "Educational Reconstruction and Unemployment" at the first meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education, held on 19 & 20-12-1935. (A report of the meeting of the Board is given in the section of this Report: "Education"). The following is a brief summary of the Note.

The Magnitude of the Problem.- There is no doubt regarding the magnitude of the evil; the waste of human material and opportunities; the squandering of money and teaching effort; the growing danger to the social and economic structure of the country. During the last three decades a 'drift' of unsuitable and (from the point of view of



literary studies) of incompetent boys, not only to the universities but also to the senior classes of high schools, has been taking place. The congestion of universities by these unsuitable students degrades inevitably the standards of university teaching and examinations; the more gifted students do not receive that training and teaching ~~and teaching~~ which they deserve.

The effect of this 'drift' is that as the Punjab University Committee remarked, "the University is becoming more and more an administrative machine (and less and less a seat of learning)". In this connection it is a matter for regret that suitable measures have not been taken to counteract misguided and extravagant competition between universities, especially in higher studies and research. There is thus a danger not only of financial, but also of educational, bankruptcy. The eighteen universities tend to become lifeless replicas of each other. An even greater <sup>loss</sup> is the large amount of money spent on these unprofitable students.

Possible Solutions:- (a) Industrial Expansion.- There are only two practical methods of attack: to increase the volume of employment, and to reduce the supply of aspirants in the over-crowded fields. But expansion of industry would enlarge the field more for unskilled labour than for university men and, more over, the present output of universities and even of high schools is too embedded in the literary rut and is too averse <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~ practical work to be suitable for practical employment.

Industry, even in its present stage of development in India, already offers opportunities of employment to those who have received a suitable measure of general education, and have not prolonged it unduly so as to become unsuited to, and averse <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~, practical

employment. Similarly, there are a number of occupations such as those held by soldiers, policemen, post-men, shop-assistants, waiters, servants and so forth which, in England for example, are held by those who have received a general education up to fourteen or fifteen years of age in a primary school or perhaps a little later in a secondary school. The reason why these posts are often unsatisfactorily filled in India is because their incumbents have either received no education at all or have been content with a few years of ~~age~~ primary education, which is only too often almost valueless. The reason, again, why these posts are not filled by matriculates is because they have prolonged unduly their literary studies and have become averse ~~from~~<sup>to</sup> such occupations; in a word, they have become unemployable. There is also the question of prestige. The root of the trouble, therefore, lies far deeper than in universities; it lies in the large numbers of 'over-age' boys in the schools. The present ~~xxx~~ trouble is not so much unemployment as the large numbers of unemployables. The remedy lies in a drastic reconstruction of school education.

(b) School Reconstruction.— Proposals have been put forward for imposing restrictions on University entrance; by raising Matriculation standards; by prescribing an upper-age limit for Matriculation; by raising fees; by instituting the practice of superannuation and so forth. The main objection to these proposals, however, is that they would merely aggravate the evil in the schools by prolonging still further the literary studies of these boys for the purpose of passing Matriculation.

Sir George points out that unemployment is due mainly to defects in the educational system, that a remedy should be sought by the

reconstruction of that system, and that the application of palliatives would accentuate the disease. The evil is deep-rooted in the schools; it should therefore be attacked in the schools and not primarily in the universities. His suggestions are:

(a). As the first step, the Board should not be content with tamely acquiescing in the various educational proposals put forward, but should demand, as an essential preliminary to the reduction of unemployment, the formation of a definite stage of general education, which would ordinarily be terminated by pupils at approximately the age of fifteen.

(b) The Board should then suggest as illustrations ~~may~~ many avenues of appointment which would be suitable to pupils who had received a general education up to, but not above, that age, and had subsequently in many cases, received suitable vocational instruction.

(c) The Board might also offer general suggestions regarding vocational training. Such training should not be too specific, but should be more general in character. Its aim should be to train pupils in certain specified qualities, which would be applicable to most forms of practical employment. The teaching of English, for example should not be linguistic, as in universities, but should provide training in the vehicle of speech and thought. It is not within the scope of educationists to decide the directions of vocational training; it is for the leaders of industry and commerce to state broadly their requirements and for educationists to supply those requirements. If, therefore, vocational training is to prosper, it must be organised in close contact with employees.

Government Service.- The hope of gaining admission to Government

service is a powerful incentive to young men proceeding to university degrees; and the work and training of universities are lowered both in spirit and in standard by the insistence of Government upon the possession of university credentials for admission to Government service, even to posts which should not ordinarily require university training from their incumbents. This important matter demands earnest attention from the Board. Sir George expresses the view that the whole arrangement for conditions of service and recruitment in the Government clerical establishments ~~is~~ on wrong lines, and that drastic change in the system is imperative.

(Summarised from a copy of the Note forwarded to this Office by the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.)

(A copy of the Note was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/ 2011 / 35 dated 19-12-1935). +

Social Conditions.

Indian Population Problems:

Conference to be held in January 1936. †

It has been decided to hold at Lucknow the first session of the Indian Population Conference on 27 & 28-1-1936, with Sir U.N. Brahmachari as General President. The conference is to be held under the auspices of the Institute of Population Research, India, which was organised in February 1935. Dr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, head of the Department of Economics and Sociology, Lucknow University, is the Convener of the Conference. The Conference will devote itself to a discussion of problems of ~~Social~~ Biology, Hygiene, Vital Statistics, Nutrition, and ~~P~~roduction and ~~P~~opulation trends in the different provinces, on which the Institute has been inviting papers and research work.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-11-1935) †

Public Health.

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, 1934-35\* +

According to the annual report on the administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year ending 31-3-1935, the scheme comprises 207 chawls of 16,204 rooms and 353 shops. During the year there was no conversion of rooms for occupation as shops. During the year under review 133 chawls were occupied. Of the 16,524 rooms and shops, the number of occupied rooms and shops, which on 31-3-34 was 7,343 gradually increased to 7,912 towards the end of the year under report. The beginning of the year 1934-35 synchronised with a big general strike of the mill operatives which coming as it did on the top of acute economic depression and widespread unemployment adversely reacted on the tenancies in the Development Department chawls. The situation had been rendered worse by the closing down of <sup>the</sup> Mills of the Currimbhoy and Sassoon Groups (in the previous year), but the calling off of the strike towards the end of June 1934 eased matters and since then the return of several Mill operatives to Bombay has led to an increase in the number of occupied rooms.

Scale of Rents.- The scale of rents for single-roomed tenements at the four centres remained unchanged throughout the year, viz. DeLisle Road Rs.8, Nalgaum Rs. 7, Sewai Rs. 7, and Worli Rs. 5. Re. 1 extra is charged for corner rooms and Rs. 2 extra are charged for rooms in which additional water taps are provided at the option of the tenants.

The rents fixed for two and three-roomed tenements remained unchanged. The rent of two-roomed tenements varied from Rs. 19 to

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\* Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme for the year 1934-35 - Bombay: Government Printing and Stationery, -Price Anna 1 or ld.- pp.9.

to Rs. 17-8 (top floor) per month and that of three-roomed tenements ~~at~~ at Rs. 27/- per month.

Rent Collections.- The collection of Rs. 558,777 out of the assessment of Rs. 565,911 as rent for the occupied rooms and shops gives a percentage of 98.7 for the year under report as against 98.6 for the previous year. The standard of collection improved slightly on that of last year. Collection is reported to be satisfactory when it is remembered that the commencement of the year coincided with an unprecedented depression in the textile industry resulting in wide-spread unemployment and hardship.

~~Vital Statistics.~~ During the year 1,069 tenants involving rent of Rs. 12,308-8-0 absconded as compared with 1,581 tenants involving Rs. 14,813 in the previous year. Out of the former amount of Rs. 12,308-8-0 and the previous years' balance of Rs. 13,066-1-7, Rs. 3,729-5-0 were recovered after tracking the absconders and Rs. 11,474-7-7 had to be written off leaving a balance of Rs. 10,170-13-0 to be recovered.

Vital Statistics.-

| Locality.        | Vital Statistics and Sanitation |         |                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
|                  | Approximate Population.         | Deaths. | Death-rate per 1,000 approximately. |
| Naigaum ...      | 13,475                          | 289     | 21                                  |
| DeLisle Road ... | 9,255                           | 280     | 24.8                                |
| Worli ...        | 13,345                          | 307     | 23                                  |
| Sewri ...        | 3,485                           | 26      | 7                                   |
| Total            | 39,560                          | 852     | 21                                  |

The average number of occupants per room has been taken as five for the purpose of calculating the specific death-rate. During the previous year the specific death-rate was 18 per thousand. The sanitation of the chawls at all centres was satisfactory.

(The Report of the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 58-60 of the November 1934 report). †

Women and Children.

10th All India Women's Conference, Trivandrum, 1935. +

The 10th Session of the All India Women's Conference was held at Trivandrum, Travancore State, from 28-12-1935 to 2-1-1936, under the presidentship of the Junior Maharani of Travancore. The Conference was attended by many delegates from all parts of India.

The following is a summary of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference.

Health of School Children. - Miss Cocks moved a resolution emphatically expressing the opinion that the health of children, and special-ly school children, and college students was of vital importance to the well-being of the country. <sup>the Conference</sup> and therefore considered it essential that matters connected with school hygiene and sanitation, medical inspection of school children, school clinics and care committees, health education in schools, physical culture, adult classes for studying child-welfare and child hygiene and dietetics with special reference to children's food should receive special attention and appointed a sub-committee to study the questions and report.

Birth Control. - Mrs. Anna Chandy moved a resolution which reiterated the Conference's previous resolutions supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of birth-control through recognised clinics and called upon all constituencies of the conference to make special efforts to induce municipalities and other organisations for maternity and child welfare to open centres to impart such knowledge to those who were in need of it.

Rural Reconstruction. - One of the resolutions urged every constituency to carry out a constructive programme of village reconstruction in one of its villages at least during the year. "The industrial development of the country", stated the resolution "is an essential factor in relieving the great problem of unemployment. It is necessary for the Government and the people to help in every way to develop indigenous industries in the country. With this end in view, the Conference urges women in India to encourage Swadeshi, by using articles made in the country as far as possible."

Labour Problems. (1) Appointment of Factory Inspectress. - Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, (Lucknow), moved a resolution calling upon the Government to appoint Factory Inspectresses throughout India as recommended by the Whitley Commission.

She pointed out the need for appointing paid inspectresses who were qualified and to whom the women labourers could represent their grievances.



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(2) Women in Mines. - Mrs. Kale, (Nagpur) moved that, in regard to the recommendations of the Mining Enquiry Committee they noted with regret that no action had been taken by the authorities in the mining area regarding <sup>the</sup> recommendations made by the investigation Commission of the All India Women's Conference which visited the mines last year. They <sup>also</sup> regretted that no action had been taken to discontinue the outstill system in Bihar, and urged that this system should be abolished as soon as possible.

Mrs. Kale observed that <sup>the</sup> recommendations of the Whitley Commission were not generally implemented.

Miss Copeland (Bihar) differed from the mover and said that the recommendations of the Whitley Commission were being carried out and she gave an account of the bills that were passed and were under consideration in the legislature. She proposed the addition of the following clause. "We urge the Bihar Government to introduce compulsory primary education for women in the coal fields area". This was accepted and the resolution as amended was carried.

Child Labour and Hours of Work. - Mrs. Raji (Bombay) moved the following resolution on child labour and hours of work:-

"This Conference wholeheartedly supports Mr. Bakhale's Bill introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council to prohibit employment of children under 12 in shops and urges that all-India legislation on similar lines limiting the hours of work and fixing the minimum age of children in non-industrial undertakings be introduced."

The mover spoke on conditions of work in Bombay, where boys were employed in restaurants and hotels without any regulated hours or wages.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa (Madras), seconding the resolution, spoke of the miserable conditions of work and the life of boys working in beedi factories. Boys under 12 were employed in these factories under unhealthy conditions and boys were veritable little slaves.

Miss Copeland and Miss Van Owen supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Office Bearers. - The following office bearers for 1936 were elected:

President: Mrs. Mukherji; Vice-Presidents: Rani Lakshmbai Rajawade, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Rajakumari Amrit Kaur, Mrs. Hamid Ali, Mrs. M.E. Cousins and Mrs. Kunjan Pillai; Honorary Organising Secretary: Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan; Treasurer: Mrs. G.J. Bahadurji; Secretary of the Education Section: Miss Reuben; and Secretary of the Social Section: Mrs. Doctor.

(The Hindu, 28, 30 & 31-12-1935 and 2 & 3-1-1936)†

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Agriculture.

Agricultural Statistics of Indian States, 1932-33\* +

The following details regarding agricultural statistics in Indian States are taken from Volume II of Agricultural Statistics of India, 1932-33;- 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, x from time to time. It should be noted that the agricultural statistics of Indian States are incomplete. They are also of far less accuracy than those of British Provinces published in Vol. 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. The total area of these States coming under the first category is 73,536,000 acres, with a population of about 13 millions. The agricultural statistics dealt with in this volume relate only to twenty-six States in the Punjab, and the United & Provinces, for which alone information is available. The total area of these 26 States is 7,021,000 acres and the total population, 1,644,000.

The total area of States coming under the second category is 389,079,000 acres with a population of 68,672,000. Returns were received from 44 States under this category having a total area of 251,381,000 and population of 53,706,000. The total area of all the seventy reporting States coming under both the categories amounts to 258,402,000 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.

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\*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Agricultural Statistics of India, 1932-33. Volume II. Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, and Land Revenue Assessment in Certain Indian States. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi; Manager of Publications, 1935. Price Rs. 4-6 or 7s.3d. pp. v + 332.

From the total area of all the seventy reporting States (258,402,000 acres), deduction must be made of 114,553,000 acres, comprising chiefly unsurveyed areas and lands held on jagir, ~~ma~~ muafi, and other privileged tenures, for which statistics are not available. The net area actually covered by these statistics is, therefore, only 143,849,000 acres by professional survey or 143,838,000 acres according to village papers.

Classification of area.- The area of 143,838,000 acres is classified, for purposes of agricultural statistics, under the heads shown below:-

|                                    | <u>Thousand acres.</u> | <u>Per cent.</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Forests                            | 16,896                 | 11.8             |
| Not available for cultivation      | 26,741                 | 18.6             |
| Culturable waste other than fallow | 17,855                 | 12.4             |
| Current fallows                    | 12,378                 | 8.6              |
| Net area sown                      | 69,968                 | 48.6             |
| Total                              | <u>143,838</u>         | <u>100.0</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 73,849,000 acres.

Classification of Area Sown.- The gross area cultivated with crops in the reporting States was, as stated above, about 74 million ~~ma~~ acres in 1932-33. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each, so far as details are available, are stated in the following table:-

|                              | <u>Thousand acres.</u> | <u>Per cent of total.</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Food-grains                  | 51,707                 | 70.8                      |
| Condiments and spices        | 431                    | 0.6                       |
| Sugar                        | 272                    | 0.4                       |
| Fruits and vegetables        | 753                    | 1.0                       |
| Miscellaneous food crops     | 1,333                  | 1.8                       |
| Total food crops             | <u>54,496</u>          | <u>74.6</u>               |
| Oilseeds                     | 7,051                  | 9.7                       |
| Fibres                       | 6,690                  | 9.2                       |
| Dyes and tanning materials   | 3                      | . .                       |
| Fodder crops                 | 3,154                  | 4.3                       |
| Drugs and narcotics          | 458                    | 0.6                       |
| Miscellaneous non-food crops | 1,194                  | 1.6                       |
| Total non-food crops         | <u>18,550</u>          | <u>25.4</u>               |

(The Agricultural Statistics for Indian States for 1931-32 are reviewed at pages 87-89 of our March 1935 report). +

Migration.

Indians in South Africa, 1934:

Report of the Agent of the Government of India. †

The Government of India has recently published the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for the year ending 31-12-1934. A copy of the Report should by now have been received at Geneva from the Government of India direct. The salient features of the report are summarised below.

The Indian Colonisation Enquiry Committee.- The outstanding feature of the year under review was the publication of the Report of the Indian Colonisation Enquiry Committee on 2-7-1934. The Committee was appointed to make a preliminary investigation in South Africa in connection with the agreement reached at the Round Table Conference in 1932 between the Government of India and the Union Government to explore the possibility of a colonisation scheme for Indians, both from India and South Africa. The Committee recommended that further investigation as to the possibilities of colonisation might be advantageously made by a Joint Commission (representing the Government of India and the Union Government) in respect of three countries, namely, British North Borneo, British New Guinea and British Guiana. The Committee also considered the extent to which South African Indians might be expected to participate in a colonisation scheme.

The South African Indian Congress naturally viewed it in the light of its opposition to any scheme of colonisation for South African Indians alone. The Colonial-born and Settler's Indian Association, who it will be remembered refused to co-operate with the Committee from the outset, expressed no views on the Report; but "Indian Opinion", the Association's organ, was generally critical.

Industrial Legislation Commission.- In November 1934 the South African Indian Agent, presented a memorandum to the Industrial Legislation Commission. The memorandum stressed the inequality of opportunity which the Indian community suffered in trade and industry, and urged that the upliftment of the community as envisaged in the Cape Town Agreement must depend upon its being allowed free and natural scope in the economic field. Representations were made regarding (1) the effect of the operation of the Wage, the Industrial Conciliation and the Apprenticeship Acts, (2) the adequacy of present wage rates for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers and the desirability of fixing a minimum wage for such workers, and (3) the disparity between

\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for the year ending 31st December 1934. - Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi.-1935. -Price Re.1 or 1s.9d. - pp.19.

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wage levels of skilled and semi-skilled workers. The memorandum also showed that Congress did not object to wage regulation in principle provided that it was not operated to the disadvantage of Indians. The Commission has not yet reported.

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission.- The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission appointed in October 1932 in pursuance of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1932, to enquire into the occupation of proclaimed land by non-Europeans in the Transvaal has published parts I and II of its report.

Assisted Emigration.- The total number of emigrants who availed themselves of the Scheme of Assisted Emigration to India during the year was 880 as compared with 1,493 in 1933. To some extent the decrease may reflect improvement in trade and living conditions, for it is noticeable that the figures rose appreciably in the years 1930-32 when the general economic depression may be said to have been at its height. By far the largest category of emigrants consists of agricultural labourers returning to Madras and Bengal.

(The Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa for 1933 was reviewed at pages 83-88 of our September 1934 report). +

Indians in Malaya, 1934:

Report of the Agent of the Government  
of India.\* +

Indian Population in Malaya. - Estimating the Indian population in Malaya, the annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1934, points out that the total Indian population amounted to 624,009 according to the census taken on 1st April 1931, and that subsequent influx and efflux of Indians by sea, land and air up to the end of December 1934 showed an increase of 13,333 under North Indians and a decrease of 66,927 under South Indians. The decrease under South Indians is due to the heavy repatriation of labourers from 1931 to 1933 on account of the slump in the rubber trade. The excess of births over deaths since the time of the last census may be put at 24,900. The total Indian population in Malaya at the end of 1934 may ~~hence~~ thus be estimated approximately at 595,300 against 515,000 at the end of 1933. The increase in population was due mainly to the gradual revival of trade and return of confidence and the consequent rush of labourers, traders and others to this country from India.

\* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1934.- Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi.- 1935. Price Re.1-4-0 or 2s. - pp.37

Voluntary Assisted Emigration.- The negotiations between the Malayan Governments and the Government of India for the resumption of assisted emigration of non-recruited unskilled labour from South India to Malaya were concluded early in the year and assisted emigration was resumed in May 1934. (vide pages 66-68 of our May 1934 report for details). Assisted emigration was regulated by a "quota" system. Managers of estates requiring additional labour were asked to apply to the local Labour Department stating the existing strength of the labour force, rates of wages paid and other conditions of employment, and for each such estate a "quota" was fixed not exceeding 15 per cent of the strength of the labour force on the estate at the end of December 1933, the quota being raised only in special cases. 43,402 persons (31,762 adults, 6,734 minors and 4,906 children) were assisted to emigrate during the year.

Recruitment.- Recruitment of labourers by kanganies was restricted to tea and oil palm estates which are of recent growth in Malaya and which have had no recruiting connection with India. The number of persons recruited was 2,067 (1,372 adults, 421 minors and 274 children).

By the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 39,598 adults and 2,983 minors arrived in Malaya during the year paying their own passages, the figures for 1933 being 18,129 and 1,357 respectively. There has been a remarkable increase in the influx of deck passengers who paid their own passages in spite of the large number of assisted passages provided. The statistics of labourers and non-labourers amongst independent deck passengers compiled by the Labour Department show that ~~x~~ of the total arrivals 23,183 adults and 1,731 minors were presumed labourers. By the Messageries Maritimes vessels 1,578, as compared with 969 in 1933, arrived from South India into Malaya.

Departures.- Repatriation of able-bodied labourers was practically stopped from the middle of 1933 as work was easily available owing to the improvement in trade. During 1934, 1,409 adults, 362 minors and 188 infants were repatriated as compared with 7,047 adults, 1,497 minors and 794 infants during 1933.

The number of deck passengers who left Malaya for South India paying their own passages by the British India Steam Navigation Company's boats during the year was 23,556 adults, 1,238 minors and 1,315 infants as compared with 21,017 adults, 1,229 minors and 1,154 infants during 1933. Of the departures in 1934, 8,196 adults and 527 minors were presumed labourers.

Strength of Labour Force.- The bulk of Indian population in Malaya (about 70 per cent.) is of the labouring class. The position so far as Indian labourers are concerned is summarised below:-

|                        | <u>31st Dec.</u><br><u>1933.</u> | <u>31st Dec.</u><br><u>1934.</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Straits Settlements    | 32,878                           | 36,623                           |
| Federated Malay States | 115,364                          | 140,660                          |
| United Malay States    | 39,347                           | 52,369                           |
| Total                  | <u>187,589</u>                   | <u>229,652</u>                   |

Wages.- Details regarding the standard rates of wages prevalent during 1933 were given at pages 72-73 of our November 1934 report. By the middle of 1933, on account of the improvement in trade conditions, the economic position of the labourers slowly began to improve. The International Rubber Quota Scheme was introduced with effect from 1st June 1934 and this and the consequent increase in the price of rubber naturally stimulated production. The increase in the price and in the production of rubber created a demand for labour and as the supply in the beginning was not equal to the demand, the competition for labour grew acute, with the result that wages increased automatically. The Controller of Labour circularised all employers of labour that quotas for assisted immigration would not ordinarily be allowed to such of the rubber estates as would not pay 35 cents to men and 28 cents to women for morning tapping work and such wages for afternoon work as would bring the average daily wages to not less than the standard rates of 40 cents and 32 cents respectively. These rates — 40 and 32 cents for the customary day — have become general in most areas.

Indebtedness.- For all urgent requirements the South Indian estate labourer can get cash advances from his estate and ordinarily there is no reason why he should fall into debt; but his unthrifty habits and the reckless way he spends money on marriage and other ceremonies following his old customs in India drive him to the necessity of borrowing. The commonest form of raising small loans is by pledging jewellery at the pawn shops. The heavy indebtedness of labourers to the Chinese pawn brokers, especially during the worst of the slump, drew the attention of the employers and eventually of the planters' Association of Malaya which appointed a committee to go into the matter. The Association also made representation to the Government pointing out that the charges of the pawn brokers were unnecessarily high and suggested that the law in the F.M.S. be amended so as to bring it more into line with the law of England. It is hoped that the Government will take early action.

Workmen's Compensation.- Workmen's Compensation legislation providing for payment of compensation for personal injuries and deaths resulting from accidents arising out of and in the course of certain classes of employment came into force in the F.M.S. and the Straits Settlements on 1st October 1933. Similar legislation was enacted in the Unfederated States of Kedah and Johore and brought into force on 30th June 1934 and 1st January 1935 respectively.

Legislation.- Labour legislation for Trengganu, the not easily accessible and not much developed State outside the Federation, was passed as Enactment No. 8 of 1932 (A.H.) and brought into force from 15th February 1934. Workmen's Compensation legislation similar to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Enactments, was passed during the year in the States of Johore and Kedah as enactment No. 15 of 1934 in the former and No.1 of 1935 (A.H.) in the latter. The most important item of legislation in the year was the Moneylenders' Bill which has been passed into law recently as Straits Settlements Ordinance No.6 of 1935. The principal features of this ordinance are that moneylenders have to take out licences by paying an annual fee of £ 60 or £ 5 per mensem for part of a year, keep regular account books, give borrowers copies of the documents specifying the amount lent, rate of interest (not exceeding 48 per cent. per annum) and other conditions on which money is lent, furnish on payment of small sums to cover expenses extracts of transactions from accounts when demanded by borrowers or their agents and to do certain other acts that are considered reasonable to protect the public. No such legislation is reported to be contemplated at present in the F.M.S., but there is ~~similar~~ already in the F.M.S. Statute Books the Usurious Loans Enactment, 1919.

Political Status of Indians.- Indians have, in common with other communities, no political or municipal franchise. The non-officials in the Legislative, Federal and State Councils and other public bodies such as the Harbour Boards, Municipalities, Sanitary Boards, etc., are nominated by Government.

(The annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for 1933 is reviewed at pages 70-76 of our November 1934 report).